



*The* **ROOFTOP**

Joining Jesus in *His* Mission

# Joining JESUS

## Facilitator's Guide



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# WELCOME

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Welcome to the **Joining Jesus Facilitator's Guide** from The Rooftop.

This has been created to provide all the information that you will require to lead The Rooftop three-step disciple-making process effectively and equip the church to **Join Jesus in His Mission** in your community.

Please read through and become familiar with this guide before you begin to prepare for The Rooftop.

You should also download/obtain and become familiar with the **Joining Jesus Disciples' Journal**. This will be used by the 'small team' that you will be leading and contains the teaching materials and worksheets that accompany each step of the process.

## A MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

**We are living at a strategic time in history, a time of unprecedented upheaval and change!**

A significant feature of this changing world is that increasing numbers of people are no longer attending church in the ways that their parents and grandparents did in previous generations. This presents a significant challenge, because for generations, the primary strategy of the church has been built upon an expectation that 'the people will come'.

Many in the church are speaking of this 'huge and growing decrease in those attending church' as a crisis and consider that the fall in attendance is the crisis!

*But that is not the crisis!*

The real crisis is that the vast majority of people who are attending church are not sharing the gospel and making disciples among people who aren't attending church, people who are 'beyond the walls'.

This reality should not cause us to panic, rather than seeing it as a crisis, we should view it as a great **opportunity**.

**This time of unprecedented change is the moment** to begin a movement that will release a new wave of Christians who will share their lives, communicate the gospel and make disciples among people who are beyond the walls of the church.

As the team that you will be leading is inspired and equipped to 'Join Jesus in His Mission', this will be part of the emergence of a **new culture of faith sharing and disciple-making** that will spread across the world, a movement that, we pray, will see 1,000,000 disciples made in 100 countries.

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# Introduction to THE ROOFTOP VISION

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**As you will be leading a team through The Rooftop Process, we thought it may be useful for you to be aware of how and why The Rooftop began.**

Since becoming a Christian from a 'never-churched' background, Rev Dennis Pethers, the Founder of The Rooftop has longed to see a **global awakening** that will result in the church becoming what Jesus always intended. The church that Jesus is building is not a place or an institution, but a movement of disciples, all over the world. It is a global community of followers who are united behind Jesus and His mission *'to seek and to save what was lost'* (Luke 19:10) by making disciples who make disciples among all the people of the world.

Tragically, so many churches seem to have forgotten the urgency of the mission of Jesus, and the passion of God for those who are beyond the walls. They have become focused primarily on what happens inside the walls!

The Rooftop is a ministry that is preparing for, and longing to see the church experience a **global awakening** that will result in a movement of disciples making disciples among those that are beyond the walls of the church.

## WHY 'THE ROOFTOP?'

The Rooftop ministry takes its name from the account of Peter on The Rooftop in Acts chapter 10.

In the first nine chapters of Acts, the gospel had been shared almost exclusively with people from a 'Jewish faith background'. These people were familiar with Jewish traditions, believed in the scriptures and had been brought up with an understanding of God.

God's passion is for the whole world and all people. He wanted Peter to take the gospel outside the walls, to the Gentiles, those who were not familiar with the traditions and who did not have a clear understanding of God.

**FOR PETER TO BE WILLING TO DO THIS HE NEEDED TO CHANGE!**

When Peter had an encounter with God on the rooftop, he began, for the first time, to see things from God's perspective and be willing to do what was in line with God's will rather than what he had been familiar with for all of his life.

**He had to understand that God's passion is for those who were 'outside' of the walls.**

As a result of his encounter with God on the rooftop, Peter went outside of the walls and communicated the gospel to the people outside. This was the beginning of a global disciple-making movement.

The Rooftop ministry provides a unique and unprecedented opportunity for Christians to have an Encounter with God. A **MOMENT**, that will enable them, like Peter on the rooftop to see lost people from God's perspective and then, with a new passion, to join Jesus in His mission – a **MOVEMENT**

The Rooftop is seeking to make 1,000,000 disciples in 100 countries by providing a unique and global opportunity for:

## 1. Christians to gain God's passion for the lost

God's passion for the lost is clearly seen in the following verses from Scripture:

Luke 15:7 *"I tell you that in the same way there will be more **rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent".*

Luke 15:10 *"In the same way, I tell you, there is **rejoicing** in the presence of the angels of God **over one sinner who repents.**"*

Luke 15:23-24 *"Bring the fattened calf and kill it. **Let's have a feast and celebrate.** For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."* So they began to celebrate.

The hearts of many Christians and churches do not beat with a deep passion for the lost, they have become focused on themselves and lost sight of the mission of Jesus who came to 'seek and to save what was lost' (Luke 19:10)

It is imperative that a paradigm shift takes place in the church across the world today, and that the eyes and hearts of Christians are opened to be filled with compassion for the lost and to see God's heart that is broken. This will be the beginning of many Christians joining in with the mission that Jesus asks us to join Him in.

## 2. The church to unite behind the mission of Jesus

Jesus desire is for the church to be united so that His mission will be fulfilled. This is clearly seen in the following verses from Scripture:

John 17:20-21 *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that **all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**"*

Matthew 16:18 *"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build **my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it".*

Many churches and denominations have become estranged from others and have constructed walls between themselves. This division is in complete contrast to what Jesus intended and prayed for. It also has a very detrimental effect on the mission of Jesus being completed because the division and conflict that often exists does not help people beyond the walls to see who Jesus is.

It is imperative that churches come together and focus on Jesus and His mission, walls can then

come down and bridges be built that enable 'the church' to join Jesus in His mission.

The Apostle Paul underlines the importance of unity in his letter to the church at Ephesus:

*'As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.'*

Ephesians 4:1-6

### 3. Christians to be willing to be equipped to 'Join Jesus in His Mission'

Many Christians are not willing to be equipped to join Jesus in His mission because they have not been looking at the world from God's perspective. They have become very familiar with being 'in church' and often see the those outside of the church as people to be avoided rather than engaged with.

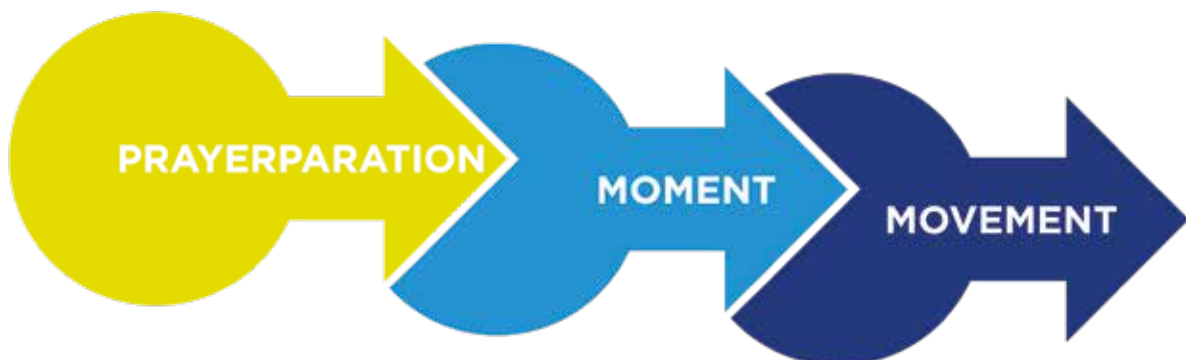
It is vital that the church remembers its purpose:

*'Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:16-20

Based on Peter's experience on The Rooftop, we have created:

## THE ROOFTOP PROCESS



To lead a church through this process we have created a number of resources in addition to this Facilitators Manual as follows:

## JOINING JESUS DISCIPLES' JOURNAL

The primary equipping resource is the '**Joining Jesus Disciples' Manual**'. This contains all of that is required to lead a team through The Rooftop process and inspire/equip Christians to *Join Jesus in His Mission*.

Each person that is willing to join Jesus in His mission should receive a copy of the **Joining Jesus Disciples' Journal**

It is also vital for you as the facilitator to become familiar with this manual – to view and download the Joining Jesus Disciples' Journal,

visit [therooftop.org/resources](http://therooftop.org/resources)



## TEACHING VIDEOS

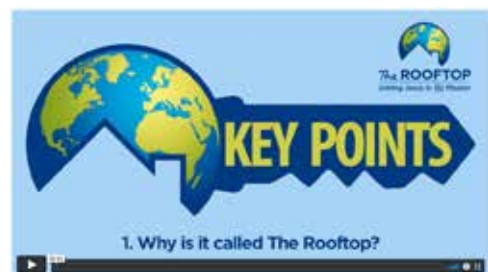
Most of the teaching sessions are accompanied by video clips. These can be viewed and downloaded at: [therooftop.org/resources](http://therooftop.org/resources)



## THE ROOFTOP 'KEY POINTS' VIDEOS

In addition to the video clips that accompany the teaching sessions we have produced a set of brief videos that we have entitled '**The Rooftop Key Points**'. Each of these video clips provides a simple explanation to the most common questions that people ask about The Rooftop.

These videos can be viewed/downloaded at [therooftop.org/keypoints](http://therooftop.org/keypoints) and can be used:



1. To enable you as a facilitator to gain a better understanding of The Rooftop quickly and effectively.
2. As part of your introduction to The Rooftop. You may use one, some or all of these clips together or interspersed throughout the process, to help participants to gain a better understanding.
3. To raise awareness of The Rooftop to those who are interested. These may be in the local expression of church where you lead or among other parts of the church in the town/city.



## FURTHER EQUIPPING RESOURCES

In addition to the **Joining Jesus Disciples Journal**, we have created further equipping resources that you may find it helpful to introduce as part of your ongoing equipping. These are:



These can be viewed and downloaded at the website [therooftop.org](http://therooftop.org)

All of the equipping resources produced by The Rooftop are focused on helping Christians to become disciples who make disciples.

## A PROCESS NOT A PROGRAM

It is easy to look at the resources that have been produced and conclude that Joining Jesus is a 'teaching program'. This is not the best way to approach this material. The change that is required in many Christians if they are to 'join Jesus in His mission' is revolutionary. This is not likely to be accomplished by simply working through the material one-week-at-a-time.

Rather than asking 'how do we do this material?' it is more helpful to ask 'how can these materials help us to be effective as we 'Join Jesus in His Mission?' This will mean that:

1. Each of the 'sessions' may not be completed in one meeting.
2. Time will be allowed for the group to talk and pray deeply regarding the things that they are learning. It is not required that the group studies the material each time they meet. There is great value in having some times together where the group is able to share what they are experiencing and pray for/with each other.
3. It is not easy to 'time-table' this process and fit it neatly into the church calendar.



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# FACILITATED LEARNING

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## 1. A LEARNING COMMUNITY

### Individuals

*"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me".*

Matthew 16:24

Jesus was very clear in his teaching! WHOEVER would be His disciple would follow Him and participate in His Mission. For a global disciple-making movement to happen it is vital that as many Christians as possible are inspired and equipped to make disciples who make disciples.

While it is true that Jesus expects every individual disciple to join Him in His mission, it is interesting to note that He always equipped His disciples 'in community'. They learned as a group of twelve, were sent out in pairs and often sent out as part of a larger group of 70 or 72.

Learning in community was the approach that Jesus took and it remains to be the most effective way for true learning to take place. This is because in almost every case, individuals will not take the steps necessary to learn how to do something if they feel isolated, unsupported and are not accountable to others.

To this end, The Rooftop teaching centres around individuals learning by becoming part of small teams.

### Joining Jesus 'Small Teams'

To equip Christians to become disciples who will make disciples, Joining Jesus 'Small Teams' will be formed and led by Facilitators. We use this term because the focus of a 'Small Team' is that each member will be 'learning as a disciple' and the group leaders will be 'facilitating learning'.

Below are some suggested guidelines for Joining Jesus 'Small Teams'. These guidelines do not need to be strictly adhered to but provide a helpful picture of how group will function most effectively.

1. The team will be led by 2 facilitators if possible.
2. The team will not exceed 10 people.
3. The team will not be focused on itself but on those who are outside the walls of the church
4. The team will exist to equip members to become more effective disciples who make disciples.
5. The team will engage in joint activities where, together, they seek to engage with the local community and expand the Kingdom.
6. Joining Jesus Small teams may all be from the same local church.
7. Joining Jesus Small teams may be formed from across the church in a city.

At the very core of each Joining Jesus team are two very important principles:

- 1. Support** – most Christians find that it is very difficult to engage with lost people. To help them not to give up it is critical that they have others that they can be honest with and share how they are getting on as they seek to engage in faith conversations with friends and neighbours.
- 2. Accountability** – many Christians have the best of intentions to engage with the lost but when it comes to it they just don't do it. This is often because there is nobody else who knows their intentions and can simply ask them 'How did you get on?' Being accountable to each other in this way will help many Christians to do what they had intended.

By being supportive and holding each other accountable it is far more likely that Christians will engage with people beyond the walls. Consequently 'Supportive Accountability' must be the heartbeat of every 'Joining Jesus' team

## 2. 'LEARNING THROUGH ENGAGEMENT'

There is rightly a lot of emphasis placed on the importance of teaching as a key aspect of discipleship. However, it is clear from the ministry of Jesus that teaching is not merely the passing on of information. Jesus was not only concerned that His disciples had been taught correct things, He also ensured that they **put them into practice**. To put it another way, it is not so much a question of *'did I teach?'* as *'have they learned?'*

Jesus used a simple-to-follow but enormously effective method to make disciples who would make disciples. His method was:

### TELL ME

As Jesus 'taught' his disciples how to join Him in His Mission he spent time 'telling' them a number of important things. He knew that it was vital that he spent time 'telling' but he also knew that the disciples would not learn how to be and make disciples just by listening to what he said. True learning requires that what they had been told was put into practice.

### SHOW ME

As well as 'telling', Jesus also spent a great deal of time 'showing' the disciples how to engage in His Mission. He knew that if they were going to be willing and able to do what He had been telling them, they would need to see how it could be done. The disciples were constantly with Jesus in public places and they watched as he spoke to individuals and to crowds, they saw him as he healed the sick and drove out demons. As they watched him, they were learning by what they witnessed him doing. Being shown how is a key part of learning!

### LET ME

As important as telling and showing are to the learning experience, the most effective part of learning is 'doing'. Jesus 'let' his disciples put into practice what they had heard him say and seen him do. He sent them to 'do' and then, when they came back to share what had happened, he used what they had experienced to encourage/challenge/correct and then sent them again to 'do' so that they would learn how to be and make disciples.

The method that Jesus used is sadly almost completely absent in the method of teaching that most Christians have been accustomed to. There are two major differences:

1. Most 'teaching' for Christians takes place 'in private' behind the walls of the church as opposed to in the 'public places' where the mission of Jesus was always focused.
2. Christians are frequently 'told' but seldom 'shown how' or given the opportunity to 'do' mission in the context of supportive accountability.  
As such:
  - typically, small groups engage in bible study but there is little requirement or expectation that what they have 'learned' will be put into practice.
  - many small group studies are similar to large group studies except that there are fewer people. This is unfortunate because the dynamic of a small group provides an environment for 'learning together' rather than 'listening' to a teacher.

The learning that takes place through the Joining Jesus process is based upon the facilitated learning method that was used by Jesus, as follows:

## Worksheets

Central to the teaching/learning approach of The Rooftop resources are worksheets. Each worksheet is a blend of teaching, discussion, action and sharing that has been designed to help group members to learn how to 'Join Jesus in His Mission'.

These elements are explained more fully below. *(Please see page 14 for an example worksheet.)*



### VIDEO

The short video clips (no more than seven minutes in length) provide teaching that encourages discussion and participation within the group.



### DISCUSS

The Discussion element of the small group time is very important. If members of the team are going to become disciples that join Jesus in His mission it is vital that they are able to talk with each other about their honest views/fears/experiences in regard to following Jesus.

As most people forget much of what they hear very quickly we have included a space on the worksheet for the team members to write down the things that have impacted them as they watched/listened to the teaching on the video.

By writing these things and then discussing them, the team will begin to learn from one another as they 'ask' deeper questions and share out of their experience.

To help the team go deeper in discussion we have included some additional points/ questions for discussion. These may or may not all be required! You are free to raise other questions for discussion. Please allow participants to raise questions as well.



## DO

As outlined above, in Jesus' approach, 'doing' is critical to learning. An old Chinese proverb says:

***'I hear—I forget, I see—I remember, I do—I understand'***

The 'Do' section on the worksheet is therefore essential if the participants are to learn how to join in with the mission of Jesus. Please encourage every person to write down something specific that they will do as a result of what they have been learning during the time together.



## DOWNLOAD

When each person has written down what they will do it is important that they can share this with the others in the team, we call this 'Download'. In most cases Christians meet together for worship/teaching but are expected to share Jesus with others 'on their own'.

These feelings of isolation cause many to be totally inactive in faith sharing. Being able to talk honestly about the joys and disappointments of faith sharing is a vital ingredient of helping one another to join Jesus in His mission. This can be achieved in a small team!

As such the 'Download' time is a critical aspect of these times together.

## Where, When and How?

The Joining Jesus team will meet in a variety of different ways and locations which are appropriate for 'telling, showing how, and letting do' can take place.

As you consider a venue(s) for the small team to meet it is helpful to create an informal atmosphere that will encourage sharing and discussion. If possible, use a venue with comfortable seating where members can see each other, not all facing the front. This is not a 'class' it is a group of people who are learning how to join Jesus in His mission.

When people begin to share openly and honestly with one another then time becomes less of an issue and it becomes more difficult to 'stay with the worksheet'. This is fine! Please do not feel that you have to stop people sharing in order to complete the worksheets. It is more important that the group learns!

REMEMBER – MOST LEARNING WILL TAKE PLACE AS THE TEAM 'PUT IT INTO PRACTICE'. Always allow time for the team to share what they have been doing to join Jesus in His mission when they gather.

## A SAMPLE RUNNING ORDER

The following running order is just an example of how a Joining Jesus session may run. Please bear in mind what has been said above and also note that most of the time is allocated to discussion and sharing/praying.

Time	Detail
00.00	Welcome and introduction
00.05	Update from team members on what has been happening since the last time together
00.15	Video clip 1
00.20	Discussion
00.35	Video clip 2
00.40	Discussion
00.55	Time for participants to complete the 'do' section of the sheet
01.00	Download – <i>share with others what has been written and pray/ encourage/hold accountable</i>
01.30	Close

## SESSION FIVE: ATTITUDE



*Use this space to write down the things that impacted you most from the video clip*



### DISCUSS

Take some time to share and discuss the things that you have written in the box above.

#### Now discuss the following questions:

- » As you asked God to give you a fresh vision of His heart for the lost on the rooftop, what happened?
- » How do you feel about engaging with people who have different views and pursue a different lifestyle to you? Which words best explain how you feel?



*Use this space to write down the things that impacted you most from the video clip*



### DISCUSS

Take some time to share and discuss the things that you have written in the box above.

#### Now discuss the following questions:

- » Imagine you worked for a company that followed the employment policy of the vineyard owner, HONESTLY share how you would feel if this happened to you. How would you feel about the people that did less but got the same reward? How would you feel about the owner of the company who acted in this way?
- » In what ways can these same feelings affect the ways that we, as Christians, may view lost people?



*Write down what you are going to do help you to begin to see lost people as Jesus sees them. Be specific:*



### DOWNLOAD

Share the thing that you intend to do and then pray into each other's situations.

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# NOTES

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