### MAKES YOU WONDER

### THE BASIC SKILL OF

### COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL

### IS TO SHARE FOUR STORIES

### What we do in MYW:

**1. MY STORY** The story of **how God is in me** -my own experience of the Risen Christ and the difference he makes in my life.

**2. YOUR STORY** The story that **God is with you too**  - the many ways that God has shown his character and love to everyone in Creation, his acceptance and patience of them, even when you are unaware of it.

**3. OUR STORY**. The story of **God’s People,** the very fallible church - who are we and how did we get to be this way? How did we get our Bible? In our culture we may now take for granted a lot of things that came from the influence of Christianity in past centuries.

**4. THE STORY** The story that **God is like Jesus** - the Life that demonstrated that Jesus is Saviour and Lord, inviting all people to follow Him, and some hard questions that need to be answered.

All four stories are needed, and it doesn’t much matter where you start so long as you don’t stop

there. There are at least ten exercises in each of these four series of *Makes You Wonder*. Below is a summary of each of the series, and the goals of each exercise.

**You can find more about this on http://makesyouwonder.yolasite.com**

* There is a **sample exercise** from each series.
* Links to **blog sites** where you can feedback your experiences and suggestions, or read up on others’.
* Many of these exercises have multiple options and are **adaptable if you wish**.

### FREE DOWNLOADS

1. **How to arrange and lead a *MYW* exercise or workshop*.***
2. ***The Wonder Workshop -* exercises which can be run with non-Christians.**
3. ***Training The Trainer -* how to arrange and lead this workshop.**
4. ***Further Resources* for all series below.**

### MY STORY - exercises on being simply your Christian self

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How can we grow more authentic ? What is my own faith that I can share? How can we be more hospitable ? What are the beautiful gifts we offer when we share our own faith story? How can we do this with respect and gentleness?

1. **MMMotivations**

To become aware of our motives and to widen and deepen them.

1. **God is in Me**

To tell the story of my personal experience of Christ, and to uncover its power to engage the heart of others.

1. **Begin**

To describe clearly and simply the practicality of starting out as a follower of Christ.

1. **Belong**

To raise our awareness of what to expect as a person makes their first entry to a church or small group and how to be sensitive and supportive.

1. **Decide**

To help someone to decide for Christ, being sensitive and supportive.

1. **Prayer Partners and Life Groups**

To give practical expression to the need to pray for others. Five Seconds, Life Groups, Prayer Triplets

1. **Find Parables, Pauses and Pictures**

To help people use their imagination in story-sharing.

BIBLE STUDY: To appreciate how diverse are the works of Jesus.

1. **The Gifts We Offer**

To overcome the cringe factor.

1. **Keep Your Faith Alive**

To highlight the ways that our faith can keep its vitality.

1. **Invest**

To explore some ways to begin and continue communication.

### **YOUR STORY - e**xercises to help a friend to see the spiritual stuff

Where can we see God at work in others’ lives? How can we interpret that to help them to see how BIG God is? What is happening around them that bears the fingerprints of God?

1. **God is with You**

To show how, in people's life-story, there are signs of God's presence and His grace.

1. **Mapping My Life**

To look back across our years to uncover a pattern of meaning.

1. **Hearing You**

To open up many entry points in people’s everyday lives in which one may bear witness.

1. **The Smell of God**

To identify, out of people’s “great moments”, of the qualities of God’s presence in their lives.

1. **Imago**

To discover the conflicted nature of human beings, out of the newspaper.

1. **Stand Still**

An exercise in “coming to attention”.

1. **Epiphanies**

To show that there are higher-order events happening to many people, kept private for some reason.

1. **The Parent Trap**

To free people of one of the main pressures in entering upon our own spiritual path, the memory and modelling of parent-figures and education.

1. **Nitpick**

To arouse thanksgiving, and awareness of the good things to increase attention and positive thoughts.

1. **Meditations**

To become aware of different kinds of help for us on our journey.

To provide a physical ceremony to conclude

To re-sensitize ourselves to the folly of taking a spirituality that is a substitute for the real thing.

To illustrate physically the way that the human spirit responds to God’s Spirit, through the resonance of one instrument at a distance from another.

Write a letter to yourself about what God may be saying to you today

### **OUR STORY – this series not yet completed. Early 2013 we hope.**

What has Christianity done for this culture, so easily taken for granted? What is ‘church’ and where does it come from? What are its sources? What is its current shape? What is ‘spirituality’? This topic is in two sections.

**A Where’s Church Coming From?**

1. It Takes a Village
2. The Family Tree
3. How we got the Bible.
4. Streams of Spirituality
5. Global Christianity

**B What’s Christianity Ever Done For Us?**

1. Education
2. Law and Ethics
3. Science
4. Health and Welfare
5. the Arts

### **4.THE STORY**

### **- e**xercises to communicate Jesus in fresh ways.



What makes Jesus so special? What are the two main models used by Jesus and the apostles to present this gospel ? How can we respond when people ask the really tough questions of suffering, of lack of proof, of hypocrisy in the church, and the cost of discipleship? What sorts of evidence support the gospel story?

1. **God is Like Jesus**

To tell the fascinating story of Jesus and show that everyone is invited and accountable to Him.

1. **Turn the Page**

To notice how Jesus and the Apostles expressed the gospel, in the light of the background of the people being addressed , and compare with current practice.

1. **Lamb of God**

To describe the New Testament doctrine of Atonement by framing its four major themes.

1. **Nutshell**

To provide some portable simple tools for describing the gospel.

1. **Problems of Suffering**

To share good news amongst evil and suffering.

1. **Problems of Truth**

To share the good news for scepticism; to show how well founded is Jesus' claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life.

1. **Problems with Christians**

To share the good news for hypocrites; to show the deep need in humanity for the Holy Spirit to save and sanctify.

1. **Problems about the Cost**

To understand the emotion and value factors in giving and receiving forgiveness.

1. **Y points – destiny, reality, beauty, morality, history.**

To name strong evidence that we can raise to cause someone to reconsider the truth of Christianity.

1. **Fear of the Fire**

To increase our courage for the process of spiritual change with God in our life.

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