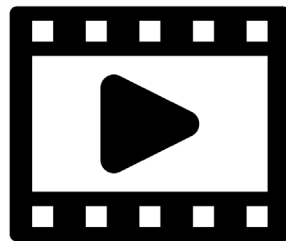


STUDY 2

MIX YOUR FRIENDS

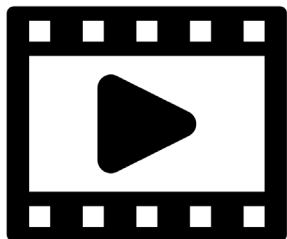
The influence of a bunch of trustworthy friends who know Jesus pops up in Scripture quite often. In fact, it seems this is the way the gospel is passed on. People aren't just persuaded of the gospel by evidence, but by how much they trust the people who are passing it on. Sam Chan - a full-time evangelist for City Bible Forum - explores the idea in the following video clip. Visit mpc.org.au/friendsforlife and watch the video titled '*Unbelievable*'.



Unbelievable

MAKING YOUR FRIENDS THEIR FRIENDS

If lots of people we trust believe something, then it becomes more plausible to us. We'll be more willing to give it a hearing. An unbelievable event might become plausible. It's no guarantee you'll end up convinced, of course. But it might just be enough for you to decide to investigate it for yourself.



Make Your Friends Their Friends

Because of this, Sam Chan suggests that we should be harnessing the power of community as we invite people to follow Jesus with us. Instead of going solo, we should introduce our friends to trustworthy people who also believe in Jesus. In short, we make our friends their friends, so that it will make sense for them to give the gospel a listen. **Watch** the video of Sam Chan and answer the questions below (www.mpc.org.au/friendsforlife).

4. What benefits can you imagine there might be if a bunch of your friends from church became genuine friends with your non-believing friends?

“While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew’s house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples.”

Matthew 9:10

5. What about the idea of mixing your friendship groups are you (a) most excited by and (b) least comfortable with?



Mixing Friends

Mixing friendship groups is actually a pretty normal thing to do. **Some** members of our church family have been enjoying getting together diverse bunches of their friends for ages. Conversely, some of us came to follow Jesus by getting to know a bunch of believers. Watch the video titled **Mixing Friends** to hear their stories (mpc.org.au/friendsforlife).

6. Take a moment each to plan out one simple, achievable idea that seems like a natural way to bring your universes together.

What would you do together?

Who would you invite?

When would you do it?

Would you like the group to check in with how you're going with it?

START SIMPLY BY SIMPLY STARTING

The power of mixing our friendship groups comes when our non-Christian friends get to know other Christians. But it's not going to work if no-one knows your Christian friends are Christians! Our friends are more likely to give the gospel a hearing if they know more people who openly believe it.

Sometimes it can feel like it's awkward to let our faith perspective be known. But does it need to be? Tim Keller from New York's Redeemer Presbyterian Church has a great bunch of tips for how to do this simply and naturally. **Watch** the video at mpc.org.au/friendsforlife.

7. Did any of Tim's tips or thoughts stand out to you as particularly helpful?



Making Our Faith Known

8. Which do you think you'd be keen to implement within your friendships?

9. Did you have a sense (before watching this video) that **you** believing the gospel makes Jesus more plausible for the people who know you?

We hope this time has encouraged you to consider:

- How knowing lots of people who believe something makes it more believable. Including the good news about Jesus that we want our friends to know.
- How making your friends their friends naturally increases the number of Christians your non-Christian friends know.
- How starting simply can make something we're nervous about (talking about our faith) a natural and normal experience.

We're hoping these will equip you to live a lifestyle that's all about Jesus and his gospel, rather than forcing nervous and awkward conversations because you feel guilty about not sharing Jesus.

*Spend some time now **praying** for your friends who don't know Jesus. Ask God that they would become good friends with Christians who have integrity, and that this may make the gospel more believable to them. Pray also that we'd simply and naturally live as people of faith in all our relationships.*