

Who are we telling

**Two-hour workshop based on page 8 of *The Story of Light* handbook.**

(Timings =1 hour 45mins so 15 mins leeway)

**Welcome, introduction & SoL Prayer 10 mins**

**Our context (church and individual)**

We do not tell our story in a vacuum. As churches, we are set in communities, with neighbours, and often, people who come onto our premises regularly to swim, dance, sing, learn, play, eat cake and enjoy company.

**ICEBREAKER 1: Whole group – collect verbs that reflect the activities that happen in this building.  
5 mins (end with the poem on page 28 of the handbook)**

As individuals, we belong to a variety of networks – families, friendships, work and leisure interests, clubs and societies.

**ICEBREAKER 2: In groups of 2 or 3 – share a link in your networks that people might not know about. 5 mins**

If we are to tell our story effectively we need to think and pray about those who share our buildings and our lives. Here are some questions to help:

Questions for Churches: 10 mins group, 15 mins plenary session (3x5), 5 mins overview

**Group 1** Where are we already fruitful? Can we develop or deepen?

**Group 2** Where are we serving but not telling? How can we create opportunities to share?

**Group 3** What are the needs of our neighbours? Can we help, in partnership with others?

**Whole group discussion – in light of overview, which of the following questions are most important for us?  
(Alternatively, it might be a different question). 5 mins**

**This will lead us into new group discussion, either on same question or a variety of questions. 10 mins group, 5 mins per question plenary. Then look at missed questions in plenary. (6x5=30)**

How can we help our members hear and tell their stories?

Are there things we are doing that we should stop?

How do people outside of this local church perceive us?

Do we pray for our users/neighbours? If so, do they know it?

What kind of things could we do to enable those without faith to come to faith in Jesus?

How can we help every member of this church understand and see themselves as a witness?

**In groups of 2 or 3, 15 mins quiet conversation about:**

Questions for individuals:

Do people who know me know I belong to church?

Who have I shared words of faith with recently?

Who do I spend time with, with whom I could share?

Who is facing difficulties about which I have relevant experience I could share?

Who am I helping, and do they know I pray for them too?

**Finishing with 5 mins prayer in groups of 2 or 3, and all finish with the SoL prayer & page 34 of the handbook.**