

## CHAPTER 1: The Struggle

### Opening Question & Prayer (5 minutes)

The REACH Series is all about helping you share Jesus with others. But if we are honest, sharing Jesus with someone else can be intimidating. So, let's begin with the end in mind by considering how great it would be if a friend or family member gave his or her life to Christ.

1. How would you complete this sentence? . . .

I would be so excited if \_\_\_\_\_ came to put their faith in Jesus.

Before we get started on discussing Chapter 1, let's pray that God would draw the people we care about to trust and love Jesus.

### Setting the Stage (15 minutes)

If you're like most Christians, you would love to see your friends come to trust in Jesus, but you remain hesitant to speak with them about Jesus. Sometimes we are kept from sharing because of thoughts like, "Who am I to tell others about Jesus?" or "Telling others about Jesus must only be for those with the gift of evangelism."

2. What thoughts hold you back from sharing the gospel?
3. What is something you could remember about God that could help you overcome your hesitancy?

It's not just Christians who feel uncomfortable sharing their faith—non-Christians are often just as uncomfortable on the receiving end! That's why it can be so helpful to put ourselves into the shoes of others. If we do, we'll care not only about our words but also how we engage with others.

4. Consider people who have tried to share their faith with you. What about their approach was off-putting, and what about their approach made you lean in for more?

### Considering Scripture (10 minutes)

Read John 4:1-25 about Jesus' interaction with the Woman at the Well.

5. Jesus didn't approach every person in the same way. How did Jesus personally address the woman's concern, circumstances, and questions?

6. Earlier, you identified someone you hoped would come to love Jesus. What do you know about their life that might be a doorway to further (or first-time) conversation about Jesus?

Interacting with the Chapter (15 minutes)

**Watch Chapter 1, Lesson 5 Video (3:03 minutes)**

The aim of this series is to help you share Jesus in the context of *everyday* relationships. So let's talk about how good relationships and evangelism go together.

7. Have you ever gotten nervous sharing Jesus with others? If you view sharing Jesus more like a friendly, ongoing conversation and less like a one-time presentation, how might that change any anxiety you feel?
8. If good friends naturally discuss things they are excited about, how can becoming a better friend with those who don't know Jesus lead to better conversations about Jesus?
9. What would it look like to be a better friend with those around you who do not know Jesus?

Prayer and Preparation (5 minutes)

Sometimes evangelism begins by making a little extra effort to connect with others around you. Here are some ideas. See if you can add to them.

- Text a friend today whom you haven't caught up with in a while. Just say something like, "You came to mind today. Hope you're doing well!" You could even add, "Can we grab coffee sometime in the next week or so? I'd love to catch up."
- Check in with a co-worker down the hall. You could say something like, "Hey, I overheard you went on a trip last weekend? How'd that go?" Or maybe, "That project you're working on is a tough one. How's it going?"
- Take the time to chat with a neighbor on your daily walk, and learn their name, so you can greet them by name next time. If they have a dog, get to know the dog's name as well. That will help them warm up to you.

10. Who can you connect with today?

Finally, let's thank God for letting us join Him in reaching out to others. Also, let's pray that He would open people's hearts so they come to love Jesus.

**To be ready for your next discussion,  
ask group members to watch the Chapter 2 videos.**