



# Mission Academy Live: Why?

As followers of Jesus, Jesus calls us to share the good news of what he has done, what he is doing, and what he is going to do to all creation (Mark 16:15). We get to play our part in showing and sharing the love of God in every environment we find ourselves (Acts 1:8), to see people come to know Jesus.

As youth agencies and churches united together under HOPE Together, we are serious about empowering young people to share their faith. Through 10 innovative, video-based sessions, Mission Academy Live encourages young people to be intentional in mission, and importantly to be obedient to the call and command of Christ to 'Go'. This contemporary video series empowers young people to go and make disciples, together, mobilising a new generation of young Christians to reach out to their peers in today's context.

# Context

Informing Mission Academy Live is our research, providing the current perception of Jesus, Christians, and evangelism amongst young people today. This research has shown us that;

## Young people are closer to Jesus than you think:

- 21% of the young people aged 11-18 who were asked self-identify as followers of Jesus<sup>1</sup>
- 13% self-report praying and reading the Bible weekly, and going to church monthly (this may refer to church services undertaken within schools, as well as informal activities in church, rather than the conventional church setting)

## Young people have a great opportunity to reach out:

- 33% of young people have not made up their minds on belief in God
- 28% consider themselves Christian, but are not active
- 45% of young people still do not yet know an active Christian

## There is openness to Jesus and the Christian faith:

- 56% of young people, when talked to about Jesus, feel comfortable
- Through talking about Jesus with Christians, 1 in 6 (16%) want to know more about Jesus

Mission Academy Live responds to the real need to equip young people with a renewed confidence and boldness to go and make disciples. May we empower young people for peer to peer evangelism, to talk about Jesus and demonstrate his love, as a natural part of daily life.

<sup>1 &#</sup>x27;Perceptions of Jesus, Christians and Evangelism amongst young people today'; survey conducted by ComRes of 2,000 young people in England aged 11-18. Research published Autumn 2017

# MA Live Small Groups

In the first 18 months after Mission Academy Live was launched, more than 500 small groups were established consisting of young people aged 11-18 and a leader. MA Live Small Groups may be existing groups (be that small groups, Bible studies or discipleship groups) or newly formed groups and will likely meet monthly, fortnightly or weekly. Working through 10 video-based sessions, these groups offer ongoing peer to peer challenges with a primary focus for young people to reach six of their friends. At the heart of these MA Live Small Groups is discipleship, accountability, and prayer. A youth worker, volunteer or church leader facilitates MA Live Small Groups providing the platform for youth-led peer to peer support.

#### Throughout the year on Mission Academy Live, young people explore:

Why Evangelism? - This session explores our call to evangelism and what this means. What is the 'good news' we must share, and why do we share it?

**Peer to Peer** – This session introduces the importance of what it means to be a great friend, listening and engaging well and committing to ongoing and long-term, faith-sharing relationships.

**Prayer** – This session talks about the importance of prayer in evangelism, starting with praying for our friends to know Jesus through to using prayer as a way of sharing faith.

**Power** – In this session we explore the role of the Holy Spirit in evangelism and how God creates opportunities for us to share our faith.

**Gospel** – In this session we explore God's story of forgiveness and salvation and how we are able to share this gospel message. **Testimony** – This session helps the young people to explore their own story and helps them articulate and share the impact that following Jesus makes in their lives.

**Evangelism Style** – This session helps young people to know and understand their evangelism style, as well as that of their peers, celebrating our differences as we share God's love.

**Words** – In this session we look at apologetics, the importance of Scripture, and what to do when faced with tough questions.

Actions – This session looks at how we can show our faith through our actions, and the opportunities for evangelism within social action and a justice agenda.

**Decision** – In this session we look at how to offer our friends the opportunity to follow Jesus and some practical steps to help do this.

# **Video Sessions**

Each Mission Academy Live video session includes these elements:

#### Review

For a strong sense of accountability, each session (except for the first) starts with a time to review evangelism activity since the last session, praying and learning together.

#### Intro

A brief introduction to the session and questions to get things started.

### **Talking Heads**

A collage of short clips of people being asked a specific question on the streets. This will act as an introduction to the session and as a prompt for discussion.

### Two teaching slots

Two short teaching slots with guest speakers. The first introduces the session's theme, and the second provides further teaching to allow deeper discussion and reflection.

### **Discussion starters**

After each teaching session, young people use simple questions and prompts as a guide for discussion.

### Testimony

Video testimony provided by the young people generates further discussion and inspires practical action in response.

#### Challenge

Every session culminates in the need for a practical response that focuses on practical peer to peer evangelism particularly focusing on reaching their six chosen friends.



Whether you are a young person or youth leader for more information and to book your place, please visit:

www.hopetogether.org.uk/malive

HOPE Youth exists to see young people live a lifestyle that means making Jesus known is a natural part of everyday life. Mission Academy Live provides a context for young people to have a go at sharing Jesus, trying new ideas, and engaging reflectively on their experiences. We dream of seeing transformation take place in our villages, towns and cities, empowering Christian youth culture in our nation as young people take an ongoing stand for Jesus.

> Mission Academy Live is a peer to peer tool by HOPE Youth. This is a partnership including:





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