

Whatever happened to follow-up?

Over the years, countless people have benefited from the *Two ways to live* and *Personal Follow-up* training courses. *Two ways to live* grounded Christians in the outline and story of the gospel, and encouraged them to share that with others. *Personal Follow-up* then encouraged those Christians to minister to newcomers and new Christians, and to learn to use the *Just for Starters* studies as an example of this ministry.

Recently we undertook to revise the *Personal Follow-up* course, and as we did so we realised that we were cramming two baskets into a single egg (so to speak). One goal of the original course was simply to train someone to use the *Just for Starters* studies as effectively as possible; the other goal was to teach the principles and practice of personal follow-up—how to form an ongoing relationship of encouragement with a new Christian, to help them become established in the faith. The more we worked on the new version of the course, the more it became apparent that the way forward was to split it into two separate training resources:

- one which trained people how to use *Just for Starters*;
- and one which tackled the broader subject of personal ministry and encouragement, whether of new Christians or others.

And so we've created two new courses: one to achieve our first aim, called *Preparing Just for Starters*, and one to achieve the second, called *Six Steps to Encouragement*.

Six steps to where?

Six Steps to Encouragement is a six-week course with a simple theme—God's word changes us, and through us it can change others too. It works from the biblical conviction that every Christian is one of God's fellow workers. From this conviction, it teaches participants the practical and theoretical skills of speaking God's word to one another. With examples and case studies, it teaches how rich the gift of God's word is in encouraging one another.

As a result of going through the *Six Steps to Encouragement* course, a participant might then decide to train in specific areas which will be useful for their growth, and the available ways to serve at their church. If they wanted to think about leading a Bible study, they might do *Growth Groups*. In preparation for a dialogue dinner, they might do *So Many Questions*. In preparation for a dialogue dinner, they might do *So Many Questions*. And if they wanted to do the *Just for Starters* studies with a

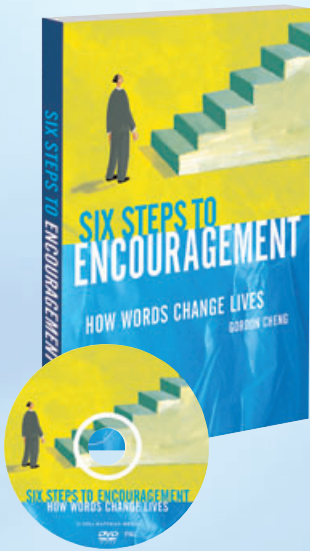
new Christian, they might do the *Preparing Just for Starters* course.

The beauty of the new *Preparing Just for Starters* course is that it is a self-paced, self-study course. You don't require a group to train with (although you could easily meet with a few others to do the studies). The two accompanying audio CDs have ten short talks which take you through the studies, the part they play in follow-up, and the aims of the study at hand.

Remember: Two plus six

Think of the *Six Steps to Encouragement* course as a foundational training course, alongside *Two ways to live*, in the understanding and training of a Christian. Through *Two ways to live*, a Christian understands the gospel and how to speak God's word to non-Christians. Through *Six Steps to Encouragement*, they understand how to speak God's word to Christians.





Six Steps to Encouragement

HOW WORDS CHANGE LIVES

How it works: the course runs over six weeks and is ideal for use in Bible study groups. There is a Participant's Manual, Leader's Notes and a Training DVD/video.

There are three strands to the course:

Theory

Through Bible study you will be reminded of how powerful God's word is: how it transforms our lives, and how that same word can transform others through us.

Practical

A number of different examples and case studies are examined, such as:

- welcoming newcomers
- listening well
- giving advice and encouragement
- rebuking
- dealing with long-term suffering
- taking initiative in ministry

Homework

Each week, group members meet with one other person to read through a part of Ephesians, discuss what was learnt, and pray. The studies include a sheet to fill in each week, containing the passage, a space to write key points, and prayer points. This is a great way of putting what is learnt into practice each week.

Key benefits:

- Ideal for Bible study groups.
- Establishes the biblical foundation for encouragement—that is, God's word changes us; through us it can change others too.
- Training DVD/video gives case studies, practical examples and training, and allows flexibility in study.



Preparing Just for Starters

How it works: *Preparing Just for Starters* is a self-study, self-paced course. It uses the following framework:

1. Pray.
2. Work through the study yourself.
3. Using the two audio CDs that come with the workbook, listen to the talk by Tony Payne for the study, making notes as you go.
4. Decide the *main points* that you want to communicate through this study.
5. Work out what other things you want to achieve during your meeting with your new Christian friend.
6. Prepare your discussion copy of the *Just For Starters* study.

Key benefits:

- Can be done by an individual at their own pace.
- Includes the full text of the *Just for Starters* studies.
- The ten short talks by Tony Payne provide valuable insights into each of the passages studied and helpful training in the goals and aims of each study. This makes it ideal not only for those who are new to *Just for Starters*, but also as revision for those who have used the studies before.
- By the end of *Preparing Just for Starters* you are ready to meet one-to-one to follow-up a new Christian.