

Training #1

Typically, information doesn't lead to transformation alone — and if we only share without learning the right practice of listening well, we will win debates but not friends that ultimately wins souls. We are consciously creating space to help people be ready for the real world when a real person is standing in front of them. They need to feel the tension, stumble a bit, and practice recovering. That's where role-play becomes the difference-maker.

Below are interactive role-playing concepts + real-time practice structures designed specifically for your two goals this week: relationship (ASK) and testimony (ME)... we will get to ABOUT JESUS in the coming weeks.

ASK – engaging through inquiry, discovery-based relationship building through sincere interest.

ME – learning how to tell our story in clear ways.

ABOUT JESUS – building our competency & ability to share Jesus lovingly.

Part 1: “ASK me about JESUS”

Building Relationship

The Name Game: 5-10 minutes

- Pair people up (2 only)
- Each person shares:
 - Name...
 - One random fact
- Switch partners 2–3 times (rotate after 1 minute)
- Test yourselves to see what you recall & as many names + facts as possible

“Booty God, booty” – Jon Acuff

Reinforce: remembering details = valuing people (Remembering Roman)

Role Playing Scenarios & Practice:

Upfront Tools:

Debrief Questions (After Each Round)

Keep it simple and honest:

For Speaker:

- Where did you feel awkward?
- When did it feel natural?

For Seeker:

- When did you feel most heard?
- When did it feel forced?

For Observer:

- What built trust?
- What broke trust?

Key Coaching Reminders to Reinforce Throughout

- Silence is not failure
- Curiosity is success!
- You don't need to "land the plane"
- Conversations > conversions
- GOD is already at work (He really is the one doing the work)

Role Play #1 - The Curious Stranger

Goal: Practice being interested, not interesting.

Seeker Prompt:

- "So... what is this whole 'Ask Me About Jesus' thing?"
- Keep it light, but open

Speaker Challenge:

- Ask 3–5 genuine questions before sharing anything about yourself
- Use their name at least twice
- Don't "pivot to preaching" but keep it about the person

Observer Looks For:

- Did they interrupt?
- Did questions feel natural or scripted?
- Did they actually listen (reference something said)?
- Affirm one thing, give constructive feedback on another.

Role Play #2 - The Distracted Talker

Goal: Practice listening instead of preparing your next line.

Seeker Prompt:

- Talk a lot & dominate the conversation!
- Jump between topics (work stress, relationships, random opinions)
- Slightly avoid direct faith talk...

Speaker Challenge:

- Identify one underlying theme (stress, loneliness, control, disappointment)
- Ask a question that goes deeper:
- “That sounds like a lot—what’s been weighing on you most lately?”

Observer Looks For:

- Did the speaker chase topics or find depth?
- Did they surface something beneath the surface?

Role Play #3 - The Guarded Person

Goal: Practice permission + manners

Seeker Prompt:

- Short answers
- Slightly closed off
- Unsure if they want to engage

Speaker Challenge:

- Use soft entry language:
- “Would you be open to me asking...”
- “Can I ask one more question?”
- Respect boundaries without awkwardness

Observer Looks For:

- Did they push too hard?
- Did they create safety?

Role Play #4 - The Skeptical Response

Goal: Stay grounded when testimony isn't immediately accepted

Seeker Prompt:

- "I'm glad that worked for you, but I don't think I believe that stuff."

Speaker Challenge:

- Don't argue
- Respond with curiosity:
 - "That makes sense—can I ask what's shaped that for you?"

This reinforces: testimony opens doors, not closes arguments

Role Play #5 - The Hurt-by-Church Person

Goal: Use testimony with empathy

Seeker Prompt:

- "Honestly, I've had bad experiences with church people."

Speaker Challenge:

- Don't defend Christianity broadly
- Respond personally:
 - "I'm really sorry that happened... that hasn't always reflected my experience, but I get why that would be hard."

Then (if appropriate):

- Share a piece of your story related to healing, grace, or trust

Observer Looks For:

- Did they validate before sharing?
- Did they avoid being defensive?

Combined Practice Round (Realistic Flow)

Role Play #6 - Full Conversation Simulation

Goal: Blend ASK + ME naturally

Scenario:

Pop-up coffee conversation from start → faith mention → response

Rules:

- Start casual (non-spiritual)
- Let faith come up naturally
- Use:
 - Questions (ASK)
 - Then brief testimony (ME)

Twist Cards (optional):

Give seekers a hidden motive:

- “You’re curious but cautious”
- “You’re lonely”
- “You’re intellectually skeptical”
- “You’ve been hurt before”

This trains discernment without overthinking

This Weeks Challenge:

- “What’s the one question you want to get better at asking & answering this week?”
- “What part of your story do you need to better clarify?”

Part 2: “Ask... ME about JESUS”

How to effectively share our testimonies...

Personal Testimony Outline: “The 3 C’s in 3 Minutes”

Why this works:

- Crisis: feels relatable, not dramatic or forced
- Conversion: is honest, not overly polished
- Catalyst: shows real impact, not clichés

Coaching Tip:

- Share the real details of your real story
- Avoid exaggeration. Honest and authentic is what people are looking for.
- Keep it conversational (not “presentation mode”)

Example:

“I’d say for most of my life, things looked fine on the outside—but internally, there was this constant pressure to prove myself. I was chasing approval, and just trying to feel like I was enough. And honestly, the more I achieved, the more I realized it wasn’t fixing what was going on inside. There was this moment where I hit a wall—I remember thinking, ‘Why do I still feel empty if everything is supposedly going right?’ That’s what really started my search.

For me, faith wasn’t something I was naturally leaning toward. But through a combination of conversations, and questions I had I couldn’t shake it, and then seeing something different in people who followed Jesus, I started exploring it more seriously. I didn’t have all the answers, but I got to a point where I realized I didn’t need to have everything figured out to take a step. It wasn’t just intellectual—it became personal. I chose to trust Jesus, not because everything suddenly made perfect sense, but because I was convinced enough to take a step of faith towards Him.

And honestly, that decision has changed my life in ways I didn’t expect. It didn’t make everything easy, but it gave me something deeper and more significant in life — peace where there used to be anxiety, purpose beyond any achievement, and a sense that I’m known and loved without having to earn it. I still have questions, I still am growing and learning, but I’m not the same person I was. And that’s why this matters to me—it’s not just something I believe, it’s something I’ve experienced.”

Now it's your turn!

Role Play: Your 3-Minute 3 C Story

Goal: Practice “elevator pitch” testimony

Structure to Teach:

- Before Jesus (relatable tension)
- Encounter (what changed)
- After (specific difference)

Speaker Challenge:

- 2–3 minutes max
- Be descriptive, not preachy
- No churchy jargon

Seeker Prompt:

- Listen and respond naturally:
- “That’s interesting... but I’ve never felt that.”
- “I grew up differently”

Observer Looks For:

- Was it relatable?
- Was it too long or confusing?
- Did it sound like a real story or a sermon?

This Weeks Challenge:

- Write out your story with these 3 points of emphasis, recite, repeat it, get it to 3 minutes or less.