



## Tell Show Be Discussion Guide

**Tell Show Be** ([www.tellshowbe.com](http://www.tellshowbe.com)) was created by KORE. The script and concept were designed by Joanne Cox, Pete Philips (secretary of the Faith and Order Committee), and Mark Stennett (a Methodist presbyter in Lincoln). Language translations were provided by members of the Methodist Church's Connexional Team.

*Tell Show Be* is an animation designed to help explore the theme of evangelism. It has been produced in five languages (English, Welsh, Mandarin, Portuguese and Spanish), and is available as a free download at [www.tellshowbe.com](http://www.tellshowbe.com). In 2011, the animation won the Best Use of New Media in Evangelism at the Christians in New Media Awards.

This guide will help you lead a discussion in a small group setting about the animation itself, some of its theological content, and to discuss how to put the principle that evangelism is about telling somebody, showing somebody, being somebody – into practice in your day to day lives.

Don't feel that you have to ask and/or answer every question – pick the questions that are appropriate to your group and context, or add your own!

### You will need

Before you start, you will need:

- a computer (The file format of the animation is a computer file, rather than a DVD format. So you will need a computer that is either connected to the internet, or able to play MP4 format files. Most computers have this capability.)
- internet access, if you are going to watch the video online (streaming)
- a way of showing the animation onto your computer or USB memory stick, if you are going to download the video before showing it
- speakers.
- copies of the Tell Show Be script (Note: there are two versions, one with and one without accompanying notes.)
- a digital projector and a screen/plain wall, although this will depend on where you are meeting
- an extension lead (maybe)
- pens and paper.

### The session

- **Watch** the animation.
- **Think** - what words, images and phrases struck you (positively or negatively) on this (first) viewing? Share this with the group.
- **Watch** the animation again. This time notice the different elements that other people picked up on.
- **Read** the script. (Give it out at this point, but make sure it is the version without the accompanying notes.)
- **Think** – what words, images and phrases strike you (positively or negatively) now you can see the script? Share this with the group.
- **Discuss** the copy of the script with the accompanying notes. These offer brief comments on the theological rationale behind some of the phrases. You don't have to answer all the questions – find the questions that are most appropriate to your group. You may also want to print off all the questions for people to take away and think about in their own time.
- Which parts do you notice differently now you can see the script with the accompanying notes?
- How would you define 'evangelism'?
- Are you sitting comfortably? How does thinking/doing/talking about evangelism make you feel?
- Why might evangelism be an important part of a life spent following Jesus?
- The Methodist Church understands that "all can be saved". In what ways do you agree? And in what circumstances do you find it more difficult to believe this?
- What do you expect to happen in evangelism (good or bad)?

- Whose benefit is evangelism for?
- What makes evangelism 'good news'? What makes evangelism bad news?
- What is your experience of 'doing' evangelism? How do you share your faith?
- How did you discover the Christian faith?
- In your opinion/experience, what is the most effective method of evangelism? Why?
- Is there a difference between an evangelist, and being a Christian who shares their faith? Why?
- The video says "you don't need a qualification, and there's no exam to pass". What skills/gifts do you think you need to 'do' evangelism?
- "A uniform is not required." Who are the people that you expect to be evangelists and to talk about their faith?
- "You don't need to know all the answers." What questions are you afraid that people will ask you? How would you respond to them?
- "It's about passing on a message." What message is evangelism about?
- "Here's the good news: love, compassion, forgiveness, hope, Jesus." Are these words enough? What would you add? Which would you leave out?
- 'It's his story, it's your story, it's our story.' Who is evangelism about? Is it about God? You? The Church? Someone else?
- "What already is and what is yet to come." In what ways is evangelism relevant for the past, present and future?
- Is the kingdom of God 'one size fits all'? Why/Why not?
- "No small print." What 'small print' have Christians tried to make Christianity about? Were they right? Why/why not?
- "It spreads easily." In what ways is this true? And in what ways and contexts is sharing the gospel more difficult?
- "It's not complicated." What is the heart of evangelism for you?
- "You'll find it in the ordinary, extra-ordinary and the unexpected." Where have you been astounded or surprised by grace?
- "[It] echoes in your generosity." What is generous about evangelism?
- "Strangers, they notice the difference." How might strangers notice the difference?
- "There's no formula, no perfect way to do it." How do you react to this? How might this help you?
- **Decide** on answers to the following three challenges:
  - "Tell somebody" Who are you going to be in conversation with this week about your faith? And what are you going to tell them?
  - "Show somebody." Who are you going to show about your faith this week? How are you going to show them?
  - "Be somebody." Where are you going to demonstrate your faith this week? How are you going to 'be' in order to help people 'notice the difference'?
- **Watch** the animation again. Now that you have discussed it, what parts strike you on this viewing?
- **Think** about what difference it makes for this to have been produced in different languages. Why do you think the Methodist Church decided to do this?
- **Pray** together for each other, and for the people and situations described in the "Tell somebody. Show somebody. Be somebody" section above.

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### After the session

**Encourage** each other during the week about the things that you have discussed. Perhaps ask each other how it went the next time you meet. What surprised you? How did you feel about telling somebody, showing somebody and being somebody?

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### Further tools

A faith-sharing course designed to help Methodist people gain confidence in evangelism and natural faith sharing can be found at [www.methodist.org.uk/talkingofgod](http://www.methodist.org.uk/talkingofgod).

Look at the deepening discipleship web pages ([www.methodist.org.uk/deepeningdiscipleship](http://www.methodist.org.uk/deepeningdiscipleship)) for more evangelism, nurturing and discipleship resources.