



# FRUITFULNESS ON THE FRONTLINE.

## SESSION TRANSCRIPTS



# SESSION 1: THE BIG PICTURE

My name is Mark Greene and I used to work in advertising so you can trust every word you hear from me. Now for ten years, advertising was my frontline, my daily mission field and over those years I saw God do wondrous things. I saw Him answer prayer on prayer. I saw Him miraculously heal my boss's secretary. I saw Him draw people to Himself – and more than one. I saw Him impact the very work itself. I saw Him protect me and guide me, teach me about service and humility, mature me through spectacular character failure through career disappointment and through romantic catastrophe...

The point is not that I used to work in advertising so you can trust every word I say. The point is, God worked in advertising and you can trust every word He says – whatever your frontline.

This series is about exploring what it might mean for you to be God's person on your frontline, in the places where you probably already meet people who don't know Jesus. What does it mean to be His person as you do the things you do; the shopping, the job, the volunteering, waiting at bus stops, walking the dog, pumping iron, or building the eighth wonder of the world out of Lego with the grandkids.

And how can you help each other make it count for the King and His Kingdom?

Now, interestingly I've found that most Christians don't really believe that the ordinary things they do every day have anything much to do with God's purposes in time and eternity...

But the reality is that God can and does work through His people in a myriad of ways. And they are fruitful for Him in a myriad of ways out on their daily frontlines among the people they naturally meet, doing the things they normally do.

Let me tell you a true story about a man called Peter. Afterwards you might want to pause the film and discuss: in what ways you think Peter's been fruitful for God?

Peter retired after living for twenty five years in the same town and he moved to a place where he knew absolutely no-one.. He didn't have an obvious frontline, though there were things he could do, preaching and teaching, counselling; so he prayed to God and asked Him: what do you want me to do?

And God brought Jeremiah 29:7 to mind:

“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.”

Peter wondered, how can I bless the town you have brought me to? So he prayed again.

And the Lord told him to pick up the litter.

It reminded Peter of Jesus washing the disciples' feet in the upper room – cleaning off the dirt. So he went to the local council and asked if he could borrow a litter-picking claw, and they gave him one on permanent loan. And so it was, that on the days that he goes on his walk to, and through, and back from the nature reserve that's close to his home. He prays and he praises God for the world that He's made and he picks up the litter that mars it.. And he says 'hello' to people..

Pretty soon people started to say 'hello' back, and little conversations began. "Why are you doing that?" – "well," he said "because God loved the world he created" – and "are you being paid?" – well of course he wasn't being paid.. "That's a thankless task, you'll get to heaven for that".

"Well," he said, "I do hope to get to heaven but not because I pick up the litter, but because Jesus gave his life for me."

And some people have come to evangelistic meetings at the church. And at Easter, he says hello to the people he normally says hello to and he offers them a gift – a little wooden cross, made, he tells them, from olive wood that comes from Israel where Jesus lived. Something to remind us that at Easter, Jesus died and rose again.

So as he walks, Peter the litter-picker picks up the litter. And even drivers, drivers he doesn't even know, toot their horns and wave at him in respect and in gratitude. And then, on an ordinary day like any other ordinary day, a man in a white van screeches up to him, rolls down the window and leans out and says, "Thanks very much."

I wonder what strikes you about that story? In what ways has Peter been fruitful?

There are lots of ways to be fruitful for God, but often we can't see it. And one of the reasons we can't see it is perhaps because we think that the only things that are really significant to God are having evangelistic conversations and leading someone to Christ.

Now, talking about God's Son is essential but it isn't the only way that we show that we love Him. Indeed, God prompted Peter the litter-picker "to seek the peace and prosperity of the city," that is to seek their shalom, which means their overall wellbeing, their physical wellbeing, their economic wellbeing as well as their spiritual wellbeing.

Similarly, Jesus didn't just come to save people, he came as Colossians makes clear:

"to reconcile all things to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross."

God wants to bring all things back into proper relationship with Him. And how did this begin? By Christ making peace, shalom, through His blood shed on the cross.

Jesus didn't die on the cross only so that people might come to know the Father, he didn't just die for the redemption of souls, he died for the redemption of every part of creation.

So everything we do is important to the redeemer Lord because everything we do has an impact on His creation, and on those created in His image. And he wants to see everything transformed.

Yes, one day the kingdom will come in its fullness but for now we work in God's strength to make our bit of His world as much like the kingdom as we can; through all the little things we do day by day. We pray, don't we: Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Your will be done in my town as in heaven, in my home, in my supermarket, in my workplace, in my team, in this task...

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on my frontline as in heaven. That's the big picture.

Sometimes though, we need a simple framework to remind us of the big picture and to help us imagine



how we might be fruitful where we are.

So through this series we're going to explore six expressions of fruitfulness, six ways in which we might express our love for God, in our daily lives on the frontline.

### **Modelling Godly Character**

So taking Peter the litter-picker as our example, well Peter modelled godly character, being obedient to God, being joyful and faithful in the task.

So we ask ourselves how might I exhibit the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... on my frontline?

On my frontline, with that hugely irritating noisy neighbour, that galactically incompetent boss, or that vein-burstingly irritating child?

### **Making Good Work**

Peter also did good work – he cleaned up the park.

Making good work to the glory of God... that's also being fruitful.

And we all have tasks to do whether we're paid for doing them or we aren't paid for doing them. Dishes to wash, shirts to iron, shelves to stack, deals to do, people to serve, streets to make cleaner, and they are all important to God. What difference might it make if we committed our daily tasks to Him, asked Him for help...consciously did them for His glory?

### **Ministering Grace and Love**

Peter ministered grace and love reaching out to strangers to bless them...That's fruit.

There are lots of ways to express grace and love... It could be forgiving someone who insulted you or giving someone a wise piece of advice, looking out for a colleague, caring about the check-out person. Just acting with selfless love.

### **Moulding Culture**

When you contribute to moulding culture for the better, that's being fruitful. Changing the way things are done in your family, or in your sports team, or in your office so that they better reflect God's ways, His kingdom culture, just as Peter changed the culture of the walking community in the park and lifted the spirits of at least one white van-man.

### **Being a Mouthpiece of Truth and Justice**

And there's being a mouthpiece of truth and justice, courageously sticking up for someone with the local council, or at work, or in the classroom. Justice is something God wants done...

### **Being a Messenger of the Gospel**

And yes, being a messenger of the Gospel, and Peter told others about why he does what he does, told people about his own relationship with Jesus and invited them to find out more.



So we too, we look out for opportunities to communicate the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus, or to bring a biblical perspective to the conversation, or to just tell others the difference Jesus has made, is making in our ordinary life...

And all these Ms work together...

Godly character creates better soil for godly testimony.

Working hard to make other people's lives better confirms that the Gospel is about joy in this life as well as joy in the next.

Serving others selflessly makes the message of a selfless Servant-King much more compelling.

Taking a risk to stand up against injustice makes the claim that God cares about injustice much more persuasive...

Our lives in Christ reinforce our words about Christ, and our words help others to see that it is Jesus who has transformed our lives and it is Jesus who can transform theirs.

Well, you may have noticed that that comes to 6Ms...M&M&M&M&M&M.

Of course, these kinds of models can become oppressive. "Now I don't just get to feel guilty about evangelism and my woeful failure to crowbar a Gospel presentation into a casual conversation about the weather, now, I've got to be a 6M disciple. Oh Lord..."

No. NO.

These Ms aren't another set of holy to-dos to add to your already too long a list of boxes to tick, these are lenses to help us spot how God might already have worked in us.

And they are snapshots of what kingdom living might look like, snapshots to help us see what God might do in and through us on our frontlines. They are there to spark our imagination and spur our prayers.

What has God been doing in and through you?

Probably more than you think.

What might God do in and through you?

Probably more than you can imagine.

So, we seek God's face to help us see the way forward. We run to him and offer ourselves wholly: "Work through me Lord, moment by moment... none of this can I do without you... none of this will bear fruit without you."

So the Lord be with you in it all whatever you do, wherever your frontline.



# SESSION 2: MODELLING GODLY CHARACTER

Occasionally I go to coffee shops. There's something about the warm hubbub of a good coffee shop that makes for great conversations.

As for the coffee itself, well, the coffee is pretty good every time, but my experience of being served, well that varies enormously.

Some baristas make you feel like you're part of a production line: just another gullet to fill and another wallet to empty.

Other baristas make you feel like they are actually pleased to see you, "Welcome." And they are always like that even though sometimes they too must have had a really bad night's sleep, or had to stand waiting for the bus in the rain for half an hour, or be worried about their mum or maybe just have had a couple of really cranky customers complaining about the chocolate on their cappuccinos. No, they're really always pleased to see you. They don't just want to wish you a nice day, they want to make your day nicer.

Character shines through in everything we do.

Character does shine through in everything we do.

Still, when we think about modelling godly character on our frontlines it isn't just about being nice, it's not just about hovering through life with some serene beatific grin on our faces.

Jesus wasn't always nice and things were rarely easy.

Indeed, modelling godly character requires more than niceness just as real love is more than niceness – love requires courage, determination, discernment.

Modelling godly character is the fruit of the work of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives; in tough times and in easy times.

It is Him working in us as we allow Him to produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

That's a pretty daunting list isn't it? I wonder how would you mark yourself on a list like that at the end of an average day?

Let me tell you a true story.

Louise worked for an absolute ogre. She was PA to probably the most unreasonable boss in Buckinghamshire. He was bad-tempered, he was changeable, he was indifferent to other people. And she worked for him for three years. She prayed for strength, she prayed that he would change but he didn't, and she often felt like a failure. In the end, she just couldn't take it any longer and she left – feeling like she'd let God down.

Three weeks later the woman who replaced called her up and said, "He is impossible, I've been here three weeks and I'm already thinking about leaving. How did you do it? I talked to other people and they said you were fantastic, you were patient, you were gracious, you were always upbeat despite his



impossible ways. How did you do it?

How did she do it?

Well, of course the first thing is that Louise didn't really think she'd done anything at all. Often we don't, we don't think we've done anything at all but then someone tells us you were so patient, you were so calm, you were so thoughtful, when everybody around you was completely losing the plot. The truth is that when we became Christians, God changed us.... Paul says: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation. The old has gone behold the new has come."

You know, I take that at face value.

I was a caterpillar and when I was a caterpillar there were only two ways to fly – on a leaf's back or in a bird's beak. But now I am a butterfly and I thank the Lord for giving me wings. I can fly.

We are new creatures with new capacities.

And the Lord doesn't just give us new capacities He gives us new fuel; His gracious Holy Spirit working in us. His gracious Holy Spirit wanting to work in us more and more, wanting not only to point us to Jesus to but make us more like Jesus.

Of course we can't be complacent, we all have such a long way to go, but nor should we be ungrateful. God has made us new and has promised to be at work in us.

So as we seek to model godly character we don't do so in our own strength – we don't try to grit our teeth and summon up some smidgen of love, some atom of patience for that belligerent bad-tempered bully of a centre half in our football team. We go to God.

Now, another thing that Louise realised about her 'failure' on the frontline was that God had been working in and through her all that time, and that others had seen it and been amazed by it. Just because we're struggling, it doesn't mean that God isn't working.

I wonder: where does the rubber hit the road for you on your frontline?

Who are the people, what are the situations where you know you've needed God's spirit to help you? What are the situations where you wish you'd called on Him to help you? Where you wish you could have been just a wee bit different?

Of course, Paul's list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians is not meant to be exhaustive, there are other lists. But for now let me focus on two streams of thought. First selfless love: most of the fruit involve our attitude and behaviour towards other people – love for others, patience and gentleness with others, kindness, goodness, faithfulness to others and yes, self-control because when I am not self-controlled someone else usually gets hurt.

The second strand of thought is a kind of inner assurance, joy and peace. Now I don't think joy means that we have to be highly carbonated, constantly effervescent people. There are plenty of joyous Christian people who aren't extroverts but there is just something about them, isn't there, something luminous, that radiates out, something that makes you pleased to see them walk into a room.

In Galatians Paul summarises it all as freedom. Christ's grace and love frees us from the power of sin and frees us from the hamster wheel of legalism. His love graces us with that deep assurance of God's love which gives us joy and peace and enables us to be other-centred. As the apostle John puts it, "We

love because God first loved us...”

So godly character springs from our new identity in Christ – we are new creatures.

Godly character ripens from the power of His Spirit working in us, in His own quiet and determined way.

Actually, I suspect that most of us will one day be joyously surprised; probably astonished by the ways God has chosen to work through us.

May the Lord shine through you this week.





# SESSION 3: MAKING GOOD WORK

One of the things I've had to do recently is to paint two of my kids' rooms, Vibrant Touch of Teal in one room and Cobalt Blue in the other. You might think them rather bright, I couldn't possibly comment. I'm just incredibly relieved they actually like them.

We all have things to do don't we? But why do they matter to God?

We all have things to do, whether we're employed or unemployed, whether we're students or retired, whether our frontline is our sports club or a charity shop. There are spaces to tidy, calls to make, as well as bricks to lay, goods to sell, machines to fix, reports to write.

Do you think any of this is actually important to God? Do you think any of that could somehow be part of his glorious universe-transforming purposes in time and eternity?

Get real.

But the Bible is crystal clear.

Here's Paul, writing to the Christians in Colosse and in chapter, 3 he says this to slaves:

*"Whatever you do, whatever you do, whatever you do... whatever you do..."*

What precisely has he left out?

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord. Not for human masters, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*

Now the Lord God the King of the universe would hardly ask us to do whatever we do with 'all our heart' unless it were of some significance to him – even if lots of the things we do day by day don't feel very significant to us.

But why is "whatever we do" significant?

Well, Paul gives us a reason in this verse. It's important because we are doing it for God: do whatever you do as working for the Lord. Whether we have a boss or not, whether we are paid or not it is the Lord Christ we are serving, which is a privilege.

How do we do things for someone we love? Enthusiastically, carefully, as well as we can.

And how might we do things for God whom we love?

Enthusiastically, carefully, as well as we can but also worshipfully, gratefully, humbly, prayerfully.

So we do whatever we do for God and for his glory. That's our motivation.

I wonder what's God's purpose in this? Why are these tasks important to Him?



How do all these little things that we do, fit in with His big purposes in time and eternity?

Keith is a decorator in Bolton, he's been self-employed for 25 years, changing rooms, changing houses. For the first ten years of his life I don't suppose Keith would say that he really involved God in his work much at all. He was just doing it to earn the money.

Then, one day he had a car crash – the car completely flipped over. That caused Keith to re-evaluate his relationship with God. From then on he had two aims: to earn money and to give money away to his church and to charities. And it was like that for twelve or thirteen years.

Then one day after a talk in church a light bulb went on in his head and he suddenly realised that when he's decorating he's helping other people lead the lives they need to lead.

He's helping a woman with a sick husband because she simply can't do the decorating.

He's helping an older man who can't do the DIY any more.

He's helping a family with a disabled child make the kind a home that really works for them. He's serving God by serving people. He's not really doing anything very different in the actual work but it totally changed his mindset.

As he said to me:

"I'm not working for money anymore. I'm not working to give money away to the church. I'm doing it for God. That's my service. And it's totally transformed my life."

Work is service to God. Work is a gift God has given us so we can serve other people – whether we're paid or we aren't paid.

You stack shelves with the label facing forwards so the right product is clearly seen – thank you; you empty our rubbish bins – rather tidily – so that we don't become a fast-food restaurant for the local foxes – thank you; you make a computer that's easy to use – thank you, thank you, thank you; you craft a guitar that sounds wondrous – thank you Mr Fender.

Every task we do has the potential to make other peoples' lives a little bit better or a lot better. And that's one of its primary purposes.

And we see the same thing in God's work of creation.

Why does God create Adam on the sixth day and not on the first? Why on day six and not on day one?

Answer: because if God had created Adam on day one it would have been dark and there would have been nowhere to stand.

The point is that by the time God creates Adam, he's got everything ready for him. There is air to breathe, water to drink, delicious nutritious food to eat, animals to look after, purposeful work to be done and the whole place is just gorgeous. What has God done?

God, who is love, has created a context for human flourishing. That was the big project.

God's work brings order, provision, joy, beauty. God's work creates a context for human flourishing just



as Keith's filling and sanding and painting helps to create a context for the flourishing of the people he serves.

You see, changing rooms can indeed be part of God's grand design.

Yes, our work, all work has been affected by the fall, by human rebellion. Yes, it is often not easy:

"By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food." (Genesis 3:17-19.)

The coving falls down, a splodge of Cobalt Blue splashes onto that freshly painted white skirting. There is frustration and waste and disappointment. But that does not mean that human work has lost its original purpose to contribute to human flourishing to the glory of God. It is still part of God's plan for each of us.

Eden was perfect.

And there was work to be done.

Our world is imperfect and there is work to be done.

As we've seen before, Christ died not only to save people but to inaugurate the restoration and renewal of the whole universe, and one of the ways we participate in that is through our daily activities.

Our brush strokes can be part of God's bigger picture.

Of course, you don't need to be a Christian to paint a room beautifully.

Still, as disciples of the carpenter King we seek to consciously, intentionally do whatever we do for Jesus, to ask for His wisdom and His Spirit to help us to do it and to pray that He would use our work to bless others to His glory.

Who knows what He may do through it.

As Psalm 90 says, "May the Lord establish the work of your hands."

God be with you in everything you do this week.



# SESSION 4: MAKING GOOD WORK

I used to go to a wonderful church that was part of the Baptist denomination in a town called Bushey. It was rather imaginatively called Bushey Baptist Church, and there was a businessman there called Peter.

Every now and then on a Sunday, Peter would come up to me and hand over a couple of newspaper articles on business, on media, current affairs, on work - stuff he thought that I would find useful for my job....

I wonder, is handing over a couple of newspaper articles for a friend, ministry? Or is it just a nice thing to do?

Of course, it wasn't a big thing to do, but still it did take him time and effort, he had to cut out the newspaper articles, he had to remember to bring them in and he had to give up some of his fellowship time after church on Sunday to hand them over. And he had a big job and a two teenage daughters and some responsibilities in the church as well, he didn't have to do it.

Grace is like that isn't it?

Grace doesn't have to... but it does. Grace is always on the look-out for opportunities.

Love is like that. Love doesn't have to but love does. Love is always on the alert for possibilities.

Last time we saw that God can work through the tasks we do every day, the things we have to do: the job, the chores, the shopping. We've seen how they fit into God's mission and we've seen how we might do them in a godly way and how indeed they can serve and bless others, contributing to their flourishing.

This session we're going to build on that by exploring what ministering grace and love might look like on your front line.

Now I don't know what comes to mind when you think of 'ministry,' perhaps an evangelistic initiative or some big project, looking after the homeless, working with teenagers, counseling someone or staying up all Saturday night to help clubbers who are rather the worse for wear. All fantastic things to do.

But ministry is not just doing big things, at root, ministry means serving others. Ministry is love in action:

- taking a moment to engage with the checkout person;
- noticing the 'invisible' people, saying good morning to the bus driver or the platform attendant on the tube;
- or getting up early once in a while to say thank you to the people who empty your bins;
- offering to get a sandwich for someone at work who is just too busy to leave their desk.

Remember the story Jesus tells in Matthew 25:

The righteous say to the king, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Ministry is as simple as giving someone a cup of water. The principle is clear, we serve Jesus by doing small things as well as big things for others.



Actually, you've probably had the experience of someone coming up to you and telling you about something you said years ago that was so helpful or telling you about a card you wrote when they were going through a hard time, and actually you have no memory of it at all. You think they've got the wrong person, when did I ever do that? You just did it...and God used it.

It's not always like that, of course. Sometimes we know we're going to have to go out of our way and we do need to consciously ask for God's grace, his empowering presence to help us keep going or even just to get started.

Still, ministering grace and love is at root about generosity. Generous living. It's about taking the focus off ourselves and proactively thinking about how we might help someone. It's about pricking up our ears and opening up our eyes, being on the look-out for opportunities to serve someone. At the school gate for the new parent who looks lost or the colleague who is clearly not doing that well, or the person who's been absent for a while...

So, yes it's about acts of kindness, but love is more than kindness. Love is about wanting and seeking the best for someone else.

And love is expressed in a whole variety of ways: it could involve taking the risk of helping a difficult person see that they are being difficult...it could involve praising a colleague who's your rival in front of the team because actually they did do a good job... it could involve being kind to someone who is habitually unkind to you... loving your enemy... loving the ogre of Buckinghamshire... it could involve... well, here's what Peju did...

When Peju first started turning up at the school gate with her oldest child it was a pretty dispiriting experience: It's often the way isn't it? Everyone else standing around chatting gleefully in cosy little clusters. She felt really lonely but she didn't want to force herself on anyone else, so she prayed to God and she asked him to show her the people that he wanted her to be friends with; and over time he did. Grateful for that grace, she decided that she wanted to be someone who would reach out to the other people standing on their own. She didn't have to but she did. And that's how she came across Ade. Ade who always seemed to be in a rush, Ade who would briskly drop off her son and scuttle away with her little daughter. Ade who always seemed to be on her own. Peju discovered that Ade's husband was overseas working in Rwanda and that she really didn't have much close family around... that must be exhausting. And then she realised that half term was coming, nine straight days without a break. Peju thought: "Someone needs to give her a break."

Now Peju didn't really know Ade that well but still she said: "Give me your kids for a day." And she invited Ade over to spend some time with her and a friend, so she came, they chatted, they cooked, they sent a Western Union Wire Transfer, they relaxed, they laughed and as the day drew on, Peju gave Ade a hand massage. She said, "mums do so much with their hands – peeling potatoes, doing the laundry, wiping bottoms, and they need to recognise their hands are a gift from God, a gift to their children." So as Peju massaged Ade's hands, praying as she did so it was a way to honour all that Ade had ever done with her hands and a way to put life, bring life back into those hands...

Peju didn't have to do any of that. Nor did she have to start a regular discussion group for mums – and not just Christian mums – in her home... grace is like that...it doesn't have to. But it does.

I suspect that there have been times you've given people on your frontline the equivalent of a glass of water, and not really thought much about it. But I wonder whether God might show you some particular way you might extend grace and love: perhaps inviting that misfit of a work colleague for a drink, calling up a person who's been sick to make sure they're OK, offering to weed your neighbour's front garden cos you know they can't do it anymore.



I began with a story about a man who cut out newspaper articles to help me in the work God has given me to do and I began there because it reminds us that we can probably all find ways to support each other on our frontlines. Yes, in prayer but perhaps in some practical way too. One woman and her daughter baked a big batch of her spectacular brownies for her husband's work team when they were going through a crisis. They didn't have to ... grace doesn't have to... love doesn't have to... but it finds a way.

Grace to you this week.

Grace through you this week.

These do look rather good I have to say.



# SESSION 5: MOULDING CULTURE

Both my parents came from Glasgow. My father from Russian, Polish Orthodox Jewish stock and my mother from a northern Irish, Celtic-Pict, Scottish, Communist, Gentile family. Not surprisingly I am completely mixed up. And not surprisingly their union produced a very huggy-huggy, slobber-slobber, kissy-kissy family culture.

Now when it came to visitors, my mum had two rules. If it moves, kiss it. And if it's still moving, feed it.

It was our family culture... the way we did things round our home... And that's one definition of culture – the way we do things round here.

Every family has a culture, every workplace, every team, every church, every home group, every frontline...a way of doing things round here...some of it's good, some of it not so good, some of it downright destructive.

Now my family culture never struck me as unusual until I got to about ten years old and my reserved southern English, Gentile friends would come round. After a while I began to notice their discomfort, how they would pad tentatively through the front door like nervous antelope, their ears cocked, and their eyes scanning the terrain for danger, and then suddenly they'd whoosh up the stairs faster than Usain Bolt out of the blocks – all to escape the enveloping embrace of the kiss-monster.

Now, the culture in my home hadn't arisen accidentally.

My mum's huggy affection for my friends came out of a whole set of values about community, about hospitality, about food and about an adult's relationship with her kid's friends: an adult has a duty of care to someone else's child; it is right and good for an adult to show physical affection to someone else's child in greetings and farewells, and it is absolutely imperative that food is offered and that food is eaten. My mother's behaviour emerged out of a set of beliefs. Our beliefs shape our behaviour, if we think eggs are bad for our heart we don't eat many eggs but when new research tells us that they aren't, well, bring them on, scrambled, wet but not runny with a smidgen of salt and lots of freshly milled black pepper served on crunchy hot toast. Beliefs shape behaviour.

So the question is how might our Christian beliefs, our kingdom values shape our behaviour and shape a culture on our frontlines that is more likely to help people flourish. How can we, as it says in Jeremiah 29:7 not only pray for but seek, the shalom, the peace and prosperity of the frontline God has called us to.

What's good about the way people do things on your frontline? What's worth cheering? And what isn't good? Not only for us but for others? In Romans chapter 12, Paul exhorts the Christians:

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Paul knows it's pretty easy to end up behaving like everyone else – gossiping cos everyone does, being a bit too concerned about the sculpting of your abs cos everyone else is. So we look for ways not only to change our own behaviour but to change the way things are done around us.

Perhaps the culture at your gym is very narcissistic, very self-focused – what can you do to make it less so? Well, maybe you might suggest that the Christmas party includes a raffle in aid of kids overseas who need cleft palate surgery or that the money goes towards a table tennis table for the council's youth club.



Perhaps you dislike the way that everyone in your family fiddles with their phones over meals - messes up conversations. So maybe, like one family, you make everyone pop their mobiles into a basket before the meal like a sheriff in the Wild West confiscating every cowboy's Colt 45 when they ride into town (Bow-ooh-wah-ooh-wow... ie Good, Bad & Ugly theme). Mobiles and Colt 45s can be bad for relationships.

Maybe you dislike the way everyone in the retirement home seems just to sit around watching too much TV so you celebrate everybody's birthday with a multiple choice quiz about their lives so that residents get to know each other, or you put on a family history hour... or ... and relationships deepen. And when a culture becomes more like a kingdom culture, that's fruitfulness.

Culture is the way we do things round here and so it is made up of pretty much everything: the stories we tell, the rituals we have, the rewards that we give, the heroes we admire, the slogans we repeat. There's good news and bad news in that.

The bad news is that because values are expressed in all those ways it can be quite hard to change a culture. The good news is that because values are expressed in all those ways it can be quite easy to find a way to begin to change a culture.

Before I tell you a story you might want to pause the film and discuss some of the positive and negative aspects of the culture of your frontline?

Here's a true story.

Elaine is a head teacher of a primary school in Glasgow.

One day something really quite bad happened. A ten year old boy, a particular ten year old who'd had a long history of being a troublemaker, and we'll call him Alex, had gone ballistic in the school playground, shouting, swearing and screaming. .

A member of staff had gone out to try to defuse the situation, talked to one of the other children and was pretty convinced that actually Alex was to blame. A second member of staff came up and also was convinced that Alex was to blame and then a third, and Alex then lost his temper. And he ran out into the school field. Elaine, the head teacher was informed. And she went out to talk to him.

"It wasn't me miss. It wasn't me. I didn't do it. They wouldn't listen. They just wouldn't listen." Elaine believed him.

They went back into school and talked to the other child involved, who owned up. Then she went to the three members of staff who'd been involved and told them that Alex was innocent and they went and apologised to him and subsequently, the other child involved also apologised to Alex.

I wonder what strikes you about that particular story. Well one thing is that Elaine really, really listened to Alex and she didn't prejudge the situation based on his past behaviour, and a habitual troublemaker learned what it feels like to be treated as if they'd never done anything wrong before, as if the past really is the past. She made sure that justice was done. She showed other people the ways of the King.

What was it about Elaine's school that three members of staff should apologise to a child?

Well, when Elaine arrived at the school, she decided the kind of culture that she wanted to create. She knew that many cultures end up being blame cultures, where people in authority never, ever apologise. She didn't want a blame culture, she wanted a forgiveness culture.





So right from the start she told parents, she told staff, she told the children that she'd make decisions but that she'd also probably make some mistakes. And if they didn't like something she did, then they should come and talk to her about it. And if she agreed, she would apologise and then go do something about it. And that's exactly what she's done.

So, what did Elaine do to mould that culture?

- She'd spotted a negative in her schools culture;
- She believed it could change;
- She identified a kingdom antidote;
- She gave it a try.

Yes, Elaine was the head teacher but you don't have to be in authority to mould the culture you're in. You don't have to be the boss, the parent or the team captain. Anyone can make a difference.

I wonder whether there's something you could try that would make a kingdom difference, make your frontline a better place to be, more like the way Jesus would like it to be.

So wherever you are this week, shalom.



# SESSION 6: MOUTHPIECE FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

Previously in this series we've looked at four ways in which we might be fruitful on our frontlines. There's modelling godly character, making good work, ministering grace and love and moulding the culture around us. And perhaps you have already become more aware of the ways in which God is already working through you and more alert to the opportunities that you have right where you are. I hope too you've got to know the particular challenges and opportunities of the people in your group and that you are finding ways to support one another out there.

And we do need each other's support.

After all, where there is a frontline, there are people, and where there are people... stuff happens – good things, bad things, things that put a spring in your step and a beam on your face... and things that sadden you, anger you, puzzle you ... things that you really need other people's wisdom and prayers to help you with.

This session is about being a mouthpiece for truth and for justice, about being the kind of people who will know when to speak up and how to speak up when something needs to be said...

Let me tell you a true story.

Jeremy had just been made redundant after ten years of excellent work for a leading property company with a magnificent reputation for high ethical standards. His boss, not a Christian, had also been made redundant but he had identified for Jeremy a job in another company that he thought would be just right for Jeremy. Jeremy, however didn't think that that job was right for him. His boss, a mite miffed, asked him "Why not?" Jeremy replied, "Well" he said, "I just don't think it's the job that God has for me right now." Well there's no arguing with that is there?

Curiously, the job that Jeremy did think was right for him was with a company with a distinctly dubious reputation. His Christian friends questioned the wisdom of that – it seemed like a recipe for disaster. Jeremy pursued the opportunity but he did want to make sure that the company knew the kind of person they were getting, so that if ethical issues did arise in the future, they wouldn't be surprised by his response. So yes, he wrote on his C.V the fact that he was a Christian, but also at the interview, he made a point of saying to the owner: "I want you to know that I'm a Christian and so I try to have high ethical, moral and legal standards." Interestingly, the owner made no comment at all, perhaps because he felt that he himself had similar standards or perhaps because he was serenely unaware that either he or his company had anything but saintly reputations.

Of course, Jeremy knew that people and organisations do not change overnight, that good intentions do not always lead to good actions but he was convinced that this was the place that God had for him, even if he knew that it might mean that one day he would have to resign on a point of principle. The first time that he was challenged on a point of principle was on his very first day. People around him told him that he wouldn't be able to budge the boss on this one. But as far as Jeremy was concerned the action that the company wanted to take was not only immoral, was not only unethical, it was actually plain illegal. Well, he stuck to his guns and over time though it definitely didn't change overnight, with courage and determination the boss did budge. Eighteen months later, the challenges keep on rolling on. A couple of weeks ago, he was walking his nine and a half year old daughter to school. She said to him "Dad, you don't seem so happy these days, why is that?". He said to her, "Well, there's a lot of issues at work at the moment and they seem to want me to do some things which I just don't think are



right as a follower of Jesus. And I might have to resign." "Well", she said, "that would be the right thing to do. It's a bit like me at school with my friend Ella. Everybody wants me to ignore her but I won't do it, it's just not fair. And they're giving a really hard time about it..."

I wonder where that nine and a half year old girl learned such fantastic integrity.

It's obvious isn't it that God clearly called Jeremy to that company to bless it, to help it to become a place of truth and justice, a place of truth telling and right dealing. But there's been a cost, a cost to him and to his family. There's been suffering and perhaps more to come. It is often the way isn't it? . Evil is not easily dethroned. And our opposition is not always merely flesh and blood.

Still, if Jeremy's challenge was systemic, daily and over the medium-term, for most of us probably the opportunities to become a champion for truth and justice just pop up as we are going about our daily lives.

What do we do when there's a succulent morsel of gossip whisking its way round our sports club, or when someone in the family is being blamed for something they didn't do? "It wasn't like that Dad... she didn't mean it that way." Or what do we do when the wrong person is getting the blame at work, or when the wrong person is getting the credit?

God hates lies. And God loves truth.

But that doesn't mean it's always easy to stick up for truth, does it?

A parent is whinging on at the school gate about a teacher that she thinks is incompetent and lazy but actually you've never heard anything negative from your daughter, only how everyone likes her, and appreciates the way the homework gets marked really swiftly. Now in a group situation like that it can still be quite hard to say anything.

So I wonder, what might you say? You might say, "Wow, that doesn't sound like her at all... I've found her really approachable... I'm sure she'd be mortified if she thought that you had those concerns. Why don't you go and ask her about it?"

You'll have your own ways, of course, that suit your personality. Personally, I find a swift right hook particularly effective.

But speaking up for truth and justice can, as we saw with Jeremy, be about BIG challenges. It might involve sticking up for your neighbour in a dispute with the local council or sticking up for an elderly parent. It might involve blowing the whistle on a builder who's dangerously flouted safety standards. Or it might involve challenging a work colleague about the hours being charged to a particular client.

Such situations require courage and tact to resolve well.

Of course, even when you know something is wrong, you don't necessarily go in all guns blazing. You'll recall in the Book of Samuel that King David commits adultery with Bathsheba and when his attempts at a cover-up fail, he arranges for the murder of her loyal officer husband Uriah. So, when God sends the prophet Nathan to confront David, wisdom is required. David after all has already had one officer murdered... what's to stop him killing Nathan too?

Now, there might have been a lot of ways for Nathan to try to liberate David from his unconfessed sin. He could have gone straight in and addressed him as a husband, "How would you feel if a man treated one of your wives that way?" Or he might have perhaps been a little bit more subtle: "You know David,



I was having my quiet time today and I found myself reading the Ten Commandments and was once again struck by how liberating they are, particularly the sixth and seventh commandments... Thou shalt not murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery... Anyway, I just thought I'd share that with you... not sure why."

Still, when God does send Nathan to confront David, God isn't doing it to condemn him, He's doing it to liberate him from his guilt, to communicate the consequences of what he has done and to restore their relationship. Indeed, when Nathan speaks up, it opens up a better future for David. The truth sets David free. Of course, Nathan finds a rather clever way to tell David.

Still, we don't always find the right words, do we? We become tongue-tied... and the other person may just be so much sharper than us. There's one person I was never, ever able to win an argument against... I always ended up feeling stupid and embarrassed and misunderstood, just pathetic really. Afterwards I'd think about all the brilliantly incisive things I should have said that would have carried the day. But sometimes our job isn't to win, our job is just to run the flag of truth up the flagpole.

So we stick up for truth and we stick up for justice. In the Bible, the word justice has a broader meaning than just legal rights and wrongs. It embraces right living and fair dealings, so you can be a mouthpiece for right living by speaking biblical wisdom into a situation like Jeremy did, or you can be a mouthpiece for right living and fair dealings by suggesting to your boss that Sachin really deserves a bonus cos he really does. You can be a mouthpiece for right living and fair dealings by suggesting to your bowls club, golf club, football club that they buy Fairtrade coffee or by writing to your MP about the supermarket that they are proposing to build right in the centre of your town.

People might not pay any attention the first time or the second time... or even the third time, but many of us can remember when, for example, pretty much no one recycled anything. And then it was clear glass bottles and then it was clear glass bottles and brown and green glass bottles, and then cans and now we've got plastic bins outside our houses for pretty much everything from aerosols to toenails. Change can take time. But good change is worth persevering for.

I wonder: where is there untruth and injustice on your frontline?

There is a time to speak the truth with grace.

May the Lord give you wisdom to know that time and the courage to speak.



# SESSION 7: MESSENGER OF THE GOSPEL

Have you ever played that travel game where someone says a word and you have to say the first thing that pops into your head.

So someone says: "Cameron."

And you say "Diaz." if you are a lover of films and gorgeous smiles. (What you say if you are into politics depends, I suppose, on who you vote for and how you think things are going.)

Someone says: Carlsberg.

And you say "Probably the best lager in the world."

Someone says Jesus, and you say saviour, lord, friend, brave, kind, shepherd.

Someone says 'evangelism' and you say... Well, what would you say?

Evangelism is a knotty subject for lots of us and it's pretty easy to get caught up in all kinds of negative emotions about it, but whatever your frontline you can be confident of three things:

1. God wants people saved;
2. It's God who saves people – not you, not your eloquence, not your perfectly prepared responses to tough questions. God saves people... and thirdly;
3. You have a role in this – however small.

Yes, as we've seen there are all kinds of ways we demonstrate the difference Jesus makes in our lives but the people on your frontline also need to hear who made the difference to you and who is the only one who can make an eternal difference to them.

How can you be a messenger of the Gospel on your frontline?

Of course, every frontline is different, the dynamics are different, the people are different but you do have some things going for you – you are there, you have time on your side, and as Liverpool fans sing it, you will never walk alone. God is with you.

So instead of worrying too much about all the difficulties, instead of being concerned that you are responsible for the evangelisation of your entire gym, your entire street, the whole of the NHS, the city of Bradford... though who knows how God may work through you. Let's begin by thinking about whether there's a particular person whom God might be wanting you to reach out to – in however small a way.

Maybe someone comes to mind, ask God, you might be surprised... you might be horrified... "Of all the people, on all the frontlines, it had to be her... Oh Lord..."

Still, once you have a sense of who is on God's heart for you, you have a place to begin.



You can pray, you can ask others to pray, you can ask God to help you develop a relationship where you can be open with one another. You can think about what interests them, what particular concerns they might have, or what particular questions they might have, or which of your Christian friends they might really get on with.

You can begin. And having begun you can persevere.

Of course, part of being serious about wanting to see someone come to know Jesus is getting ready to share the good news with them... being prepared, as the apostle Peter puts it, "Be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15)

Notice Peter doesn't say be prepared to answer any and every difficult question someone might lob at you, he just says, "be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." In other words, "Why do you follow Jesus?"

And I don't think Peter meant be ready to drop some pre-packaged formulaic summary of the Gospel into the conversation. I think he meant be prepared to answer the question in a way that's natural for you and appropriate to the person asking you. Jesus, after all, doesn't talk to the uneducated woman at the well in Samaria in the middle of the day in the same way as He talks to the rabbi Nicodemus in Jerusalem in the middle of the night. So be prepared and help one another be prepared.

Still, being a messenger of the Gospel is more than the direct communication of salvation through Christ.

We can be a messenger of the Gospel by bringing Gospel perspectives on the issues people bring up in conversation.

What perspective might we offer, for example, on a sporting injustice, a situation in a soap opera, or an issue in the news?

What wisdom can we offer about the girlfriend they're really not very sure about, the child who is being difficult, or their worry over a parent. People are craving for wisdom for their lives, and God's built a lot of wisdom into you already through your life experience, your bible reading, through teachers and preachers and through the people in your group. People don't have to agree with you - it's just your point of view but a grain of truth is more valuable than a ton of chaff.

Another way we can be a messenger for the Gospel is by testifying to Jesus' impact on our lives.

Richard was working in an office and he'd become a Christian but didn't say anything about it to any of his colleagues. After about six months, a woman came up to him and said: "You know something's really changed about you and I've been trying to work out what it is. And I've finally figured it out: You've become a vegetarian."

That's what you call an opportunity.

Or maybe someone says something like:

"I just do not understand how you can be so calm in your situation. I would've murdered him."

It reminds me of that moment in the West Wing when U.S President Jed Bartlett is talking about the pressure he's under and he says:



“The only thing you can really do in this job is pray. You can try coffee but I find prayer works.”

So there are a variety of ways to speak Gospel truth and therefore a variety of ways to prepare ourselves to do so.

And though you may be praying for a particular person you never quite know when God might open up an opportunity or who that might be with. Here’s a true story:

Anita worked in a pretty big office and as she walked the corridors between departments she’d smile at people she knew and smile at people she didn’t know, as you do.

People would smile back, and occasionally someone would say hello. Renata was one of those unknown colleagues. Week by week, month by month Anita and Renata would pass by smiling at each other and occasionally saying hello. They never stopped to chat because they had work to do and people to meet, whose names they did know.. And so time passed, in little hellos and small smiles.

Then at the end of an ordinary working day Anita was walking to her car and there was Renata coming towards her. And Renata stopped and they began to talk. Renata told Anita that her child was extremely ill with serious eczema and asthma that just wouldn’t go away and she told her also that she wanted to leave her husband. Anita listened and asked her if she could pray for her and if her homegroup could pray for her child. And then she got a Bible out of the box of Bibles that she had in the boot of her car. She gave Renata a Bible.

Then Anita prays, and her homegroup prays.

And actually Renata’s child gets a whole lot better and she doesn’t leave her husband but she grows closer to him, and she grows closer to Christ and then later she joins a church.

Of course, Anita was ready in all kinds of ways, she knew what to ask, she had a box of Bibles in her boot and she had a home group that she could turn to for prayer; but what was the trigger for that remarkable encounter? Well, the trigger was a smile in a corridor. Just a smile in a corridor.

And what of God’s hand in all of this?

Well, God so loved Renata that at her point of despair she just happened to be in the same part of the car park as the person that God had strategically placed in that workplace to serve his purposes... just as, two and half thousand years before, God had strategically placed Queen Esther in the imperial palace to serve his purposes.

God loves the world.

God loves the people on your frontline.

When someone says the word ‘evangelism’, what do you think of?

Parties in heaven. Angels rejoicing. A smile on the Father’s face.

The Lord be with you this week.



# SESSION 8: THE JOURNEY ON

In a fast-moving world, we increasingly expect things to happen fast, faster... now... Press a button, out pops the coffee like a song and it's on your phone in four clicks, have a baby and the only thing preventing you posting the picture of the child within ninety seconds of the birth, on Facebook and on Instagram is the fact that the midwife has not yet weighed the little cherub. We're used to getting things instantly, and that can breed impatience. And when it comes to the Christian life we can burden ourselves with similar expectations: I became a Christian yesterday, how come I am still a little short tempered? You know, I've prayed for my work colleague seven days in a row; how come they haven't become a Christian... Well, fruit takes time to ripen.

As we come to the end of this series, I hope that you've seen fruit on your frontline, hope you've seen ways in which God has worked through you in the past, seen ways in which God is working through you right now. I hope that you've already have some stories to tell of how God has been at work.

But of course, sometimes fruit takes a long time to ripen.

Let me tell you a story.

Claire's been working as an administrator in a doctor's surgery for thirteen years.

But the last six months have been particularly special. As she put it, "It was as if God had entered the building."

One of the doctors who was from a Hindu background had been ill and she offered to pray for him. And he got better. He must have told one of the other doctors because she came along to Claire and asked her to pray for her family, which of course she did. And then she invited five of her colleagues to an Alpha course in her church, and all five came. And all five became Christians. And then the female GP was ill herself and one day she came up to Claire and said, "Would you pray for me?" It was the end of the day and Claire was actually about to leave. "What, now?" said Claire. "Yes now" So she put down her bag in the middle of the office and she prayed for the doctor, right there and then, in front of two other colleagues who were working.

It's a fantastic story, it's a fantastic story but it's really only a bit of the story. Claire, before that extraordinary six months, had been working in that doctor's surgery as an administrator for twelve and a half years and there'd been a lot of good fruit along the way.

Claire had prayed all those years, she'd sought to care for colleagues, she shared how she was growing as a young Christian all those years, she sought to create a good and kind atmosphere in the surgery. She tried to be patient with people who were struggling with pain, with disability, with suffering, with loss. Struggling sometimes just to hear clearly, struggling sometimes to understand some form. And over those years quite a lot had changed for Claire: she got engaged, she got married, she had a son and then she'd got divorced. On the other hand, not much seemed to have changed in her colleagues' relationship with Jesus, though a number of them did comment positively on the changes they'd seen in her through those years, through thick and thin. They'd caught a glimpse of what it might mean to walk with Jesus - through thick and thin. So Claire had done good work, Claire had modelled godly character, she'd extended grace and love and she'd created a context in that doctors surgery of kindness, not just efficiency.





Praise God for all of it. Fantastic fruit. Fantastic fruit.

And then in that last six months a lot of other good fruit – people being healed, people becoming Christians. Why then? As Claire put it: “God had been working in me and through me all those years I just think it was God’s timing.” It was just God’s timing.

God had been in the building throughout those thirteen years, God had been working in and through Claire throughout those thirteen years. God had been working in her colleagues throughout those thirteen years.

Different fruit ripening at different times.

Of course, on our frontlines, we may not get to see how one fruit leads to another – we may move away or the person we’re praying for may move away. We start an initiative but we don’t get to see how it grows. We don’t get to see the end of the story. But God is at work.. We trust him and he chooses. We’re not actually in control of our own fruitfulness are we? It’s not something we can manufacture. We can’t stick ourselves in the spiritual greenhouse, or pop ourselves in a grow bag, or pour on the baby bio, and just hope for a bumper crop.

Jesus does it. He is the vine we are the branches.

We can’t make ourselves loving but we can ask Jesus to help us love. We can’t make other people become Christians but we can ask Jesus to show us how he wants us to contribute, break up the ground, pull up the weeds, plant the seed, water and leave him to do what only he can do – give life. We trust him, and God chooses to trust us.

Let me tell you about the head teacher of a primary school; we’ll call her Judith.

On a very cold February Monday, Judith turned up at work to discover that the heating had broken and several hundred small children were about to arrive.

That’s how her day began.

And her day ended with a very angry child making things very difficult, a troublesome child who’d been troublesome rather too often before. And so, reluctantly, Judith had to exclude him, it’s not something any head likes to do. That was how her day ended. Not the bestest of days on her frontline.

But when she got home, after what was really a rather grim day, after a day when she might well have been justified in having a mega-whinge, or soothing herself with a glass or two of medicinal wine or a huge tub of quadruple chocolate ice cream, something strange happened. As she put it, “I found myself thanking God for trusting me with all that.”

It was for her a completely different way of seeing her frontline. God trusted her with it as God trusted Moses with the Israelites. These were the people God had given her... to love... these were the challenges he was expecting her to handle – with him.

God is trusting us with our frontlines, trusting us to be his people there, trusting us with the people there, trusting us with the challenges, trusting us with the tasks, and we are not alone...

There’s a marvellous moment in the life of Elisha in 2 Kings 6 – the King of Aram has realised that the



reason his surprise attacks on Israel are all failing is not because Israel has planted a spy in his court or a bug in his palace but because God is listening in to his plans and it is God who's telling Elisha and Elisha who is warning the King of Israel. So the King of Aram, recognising that his security systems can't stop God listening in, decides to try to capture Elisha. He fails several times. Finally, he tracks Elisha him down to the city of Dothan and sends his troops to surround the city. Here's what happens:

"When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

I can't promise you horses or chariots of fire but God, the King of the Universe, does promise to be with us, and that makes all the difference in the world.

God surely is at work on your frontline, surely wants to teach you things there, the Lord surely does have a role for you there, surely wants you to be a blessing there.

So as this series come to an end, do think about how, as a group, you might help one another to be fruitful on your frontlines over the long haul.

Perhaps you want to continue to pray each week for someone else's frontline, for them, for a task they've got to do, a change they'd really like to see, a person in particular need, or a particular person's salvation.

Perhaps once every three months or so you might want to go over the Ms as a way of reflecting on what God might have been doing, a kind of Six M.O.T, as a way of encouraging one another, as a moment to give praise and thanks, as well as to pray.

Perhaps you've thought of lots of different things you might do to bless your frontline, but you probably can't do it all – develop deep relationships with everyone, have a gospel-rich conversation with every person you encounter, root out every smidgen of injustice and untruth, and transform the culture into a new Eden, you can't do it all. For freedom Christ has set us free. For purposeful, spirit-led fellowship with Him in His service not for self-driven, guilt-tinged, anxious hyperactivity.

I wonder, what is God stirring in you? It may be to focus on a particular person or a particular issue. Maybe you aren't sure, so maybe, like Peter the litter-picker, you simply want to ask: "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

It might be a tiny thing, a mustard seed so small you can hardly see it... but a mustard seed grows... So

Wherever your frontline,  
    whatever you do,  
        whoever you are with,  
            the Lord be with you.

The Lord be with you.

