

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
Good News Shoes #3: "Running Shoes"

Tips for Leaders

There are loads of Bible passages to refer to below. Don't feel you have to go through them all. Feel free to focus on the one or two that will most help your Life Group. When asking questions of any Bible passage it is often helpful to frame them around three themes:

- Observation: What does this passage say?
- Interpretation: What does this passage mean? (don't forget the original readers!)
- Application: What should we do in response?

Try to deploy all three types of questions in your Life Group as you get into the passages below.

CONNECT UP: give God an opportunity to speak to you through his Word

- Please read 2 Corinthians 4:1-6. Do these verses have any resemblance to Paul's experience on the Road to Damascus? [*Leaders' note: you can read this part of Paul's story in Acts 9:1-19.*] How does this help us understand what God's role is in our evangelism?
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. How do these verses help us understand our current circumstances? Particularly when we are having a hard time sharing our faith with our friends? [*Leaders' note: v7 God uses us even in our weaknesses; v8-9 God is with us through all circumstances; v10-12 God specialises in turning around impossible situations, and our lives mirror both the death and resurrection of Jesus; v13-15 again, God is with us; v16-18 we cannot see all of what God is doing in the lives of our friends and family, so don't just go with what we can see on the surface.*]
- Please read the two parables listed below. What lessons do each of them hold for us as we seek to share our faith with others?
 - Mark 4:1-20 – The Parable of the Sower. [*Leaders' note: There are many different reactions to the good news about Jesus. The same sun which melts the ice can harden the clay.*]
 - Mark 4:26-29 – The Parable of the Growing Seed. [*Leaders' note: God brings the growth, he is at work. cf 1 Cor 3:6.*]
- Please read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. What three reasons does Paul give us in these verses for why we should share our faith? [*Leaders' note: v14-15 Christ love compels us, he has changed us and this is something we should share; v16-19 God can change anyone, we are new creations; v20-21 God sends us as his ambassadors, what a commission!*]

CONNECT IN: discuss the implications of what God says to you as a Life Group

- Spend time recognising the strengths of each individual member of your Life Group. You can either do this verbally... or get everyone to write their name at the top of a bit of paper, pass the papers around the group asking everyone to write the strengths they see in that individual. Reflect together on how you can use those strengths to help share Jesus with those you share your life with.

CONNECT OUT: discuss the implications for your interactions with the world around you

- Which of Andy's next steps are you going to try over the next few weeks?
 - **Coach-5k** – pray for a change of heart and for opportunities.
 - **5k** – make talking about Jesus part of your routine.
 - **10k** – find out what you're good at and play to your strengths.
 - **Half-Marathon** – know who you're talking to.
 - **Marathon** – do it with others.
 - **Ultra-Marathon** – train hard.