

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
Good News Shoes #10: “New Shoes”

CONNECT UP and IN: give God an opportunity to speak to you through his Word and discuss the implications of what God says to you as a Life Group

- Ask somebody to read out **2 Peter 3:3-13** really slowly.
- Now ask somebody else in the group to go back over those verses slowly and to explain clearly in their own words what Peter is saying to us here. [*Leaders note: This is what the Bible urges us to do in Nehemiah 8:8 – making Scripture clear and giving the meaning so that people fully understand. In what ways do people laugh at the idea of Jesus’ Second Coming? In what ways do they “deliberately forget” that God created the world, that he destroyed it in Noah’s Flood, and that an even greater Judgment Day is coming? You may need to help people to grasp that Peter’s talk of destruction is all about Jesus clearing away this present sinful world in order to make way for the “rebirth” of the new world that is to come (Matthew 19:28, Acts 3:21, Isaiah 65:17 & 66:22). This destruction isn’t an end in itself, but a preparation for God to dwell on earth among his people.*]
- Be honest. How much do you actually meditate on the fact that Jesus is coming back soon? How much do you live your life as if the world we live in were going to carry on forever?
- Re-read and answer v11: “Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?” [*Leaders note: This is the key question for this week’s Life Group gathering. Take time to explore together what difference it ought to make to your lives to know that Jesus is coming back from heaven soon to usher in the age to come.*]
- The last message in our Good News Shoes series is all about putting on the New Shoes of faith. Ask people to look up the following verses to explore what that means:
 - We recognise that the Kingdom of God came to earth through Jesus’ First Coming and now dwells inside us (Matthew 12:28, Luke 17:21), but that God’s Kingdom will only come in all its fullness when Jesus comes back a second time (Matthew 6:10, John 18:36).
 - We experience God’s coming Kingdom personally through our friendship with God (Hebrews 6:5), and wherever we go we proclaim through our words and our actions that God’s Kingdom is coming in all its fullness very soon (Matthew 10:7-8, Revelation 11:15).
- So, let’s reflect one more time on Peter’s question in v11. “Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?” How should these truths affect our daily lives?
- Move into a time of confessing your worldliness as a group, i.e. living as if this age is the real deal. Ask the Lord to change your hearts, to help you live each day in the light of eternity.
- Let this prayer time lead you into worship. Praise Jesus that he is coming back soon. As part of this time of sung worship, pray for God’s Kingdom to come in each of your lives.

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

- Jesus is coming back. We don’t know how many Christmases we have left to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to our friends, family, neighbours and work colleagues.
- Pray very practically about your invitations to our Carol Services (Sunday 16th December) and to our Alpha Course (Thursday evening 10th January).
- Be encouraged by v9: “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”