

**LIFE GROUP GUIDE**  
**IDENTiTY Joseph #7: "BIGGER THAN YOU"**

**Tips for Leaders**

Often, towards the end of these Guides we encourage you to sing together as a Life Group. These times can be brilliant, and they can be awkward. Mostly likely they're somewhere in between. Over the next few weeks, to help you make the most of this time as a Life Group, we're going to share some tips about how you can make the most of these times. Here are four to get you started:

1. Don't take yourself too seriously, take God seriously. The Bible says we should make a joyful noise (Ps. 95, 98, 100), nowhere does it say that it has to be tuneful or beautiful!
2. Most people have never been taught to sing properly and, whilst no one needs formal training to worship in a Life Group, some tips can go a long way in helping.
3. Stand to sing. Take some deep breaths together. Stretch if you have been hunched up all day/since you arrived. Like exercise, people need to warm up voices before singing. Nothing will stop you hitting those high notes well like a scrunched-up diaphragm and cold vocal chords.
4. Lead confidently, if you're reticent, then don't be surprised if everyone else is. Even if you delegate this part of the meeting to someone else, you still need to help stir everyone.

**CONNECT IN with one another**

- On a scale of 1-10, how excited are you about the football World Cup starting this month? How far do you think England will make it in the competition? [Leaders note: Some of the people in your group will hate football and will enjoy the chance to say so. Others will be very excited. These two questions are more than just an icebreaker, though. World Cup matches offer a brilliant opportunity to gather together as a Life Group for an informal social while including lots of non-church friends in the fun. We're hosting big screen events at both Everyday Wimbledon and Everyday Southfields (more details here: [www.everyday.org.uk/events](http://www.everyday.org.uk/events)). Could it be an opportunity for your group to do what Matthew the tax collector did in Matthew 9:9-13?]

**CONNECT UP with God**

- Phil encouraged us in his message last Sunday to "see Jesus in the whole of the Bible". He read out the following quotation from the theologian Sinclair Ferguson:  
*“Jesus is the true and better Adam who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is imputed to us. Jesus is the true and better Abel who, though innocently slain, has blood now that cries out, not for our condemnation, but for acquittal.  
Jesus is the true and better Abraham who answered the call of God to leave all the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void not knowing whither he went to create a new people of God.  
Jesus is the true and better Isaac who was not just offered up by his father on the mount but was truly sacrificed for us. And when God said to Abraham, “Now I know you love me because you did not withhold your son, your only son whom you love from me,” now we can look at God taking his son up the mountain and sacrificing him and say, “Now we know that you love us because you did not withhold your son, your only son, whom you love from us.”  
Jesus is the true and better Jacob who wrestled and took the blow of justice we deserved, so we, like Jacob, only receive the wounds of grace to wake us up and discipline us.  
Jesus is the true and better Joseph who, at the right hand of the king, forgives those who betrayed and sold him and uses his new power to save them.  
Jesus is the true and better Moses who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant.  
Jesus is the true and better Rock of Moses who, struck with the rod of God's justice, now gives us water in the desert.  
Jesus is the true and better Job, the truly innocent sufferer, who then intercedes for and saves his stupid friends.  
Jesus is the true and better David whose victory becomes his people's victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves.  
Jesus is the true and better Esther who didn't just risk leaving an earthly palace but lost the ultimate and heavenly one, who didn't just risk his life, but gave his life to save his people.*

*Jesus is the true and better Jonah who was cast out into the storm so that we could be brought in. Jesus is the real Passover Lamb, innocent, perfect, helpless, slain so the angel of death will pass over us.*

*He's the true temple, the true prophet, the true priest, the true king, the true sacrifice, the true lamb, the true light, the true bread. The Bible's really not about you – it's about him."*

- What do you make of this whole concept? Are there any other examples can you think of?
- Read Luke 24:13-32. What do you think this experience must have been like for Cleopas and his friend? [Leaders note: You might like to make a bit of time to explore the narrative of this passage together. NB things like their disappointment in v23.] Have you ever experienced a feeling like Cleopas and his friend mention in v32? How did Phil's message on Sunday stir your own faith?
- We're going to do something a little bit different from usual today. We are going to read four chapters together, and we'd like you to "buzz" every time you see a prophecy about the life, ministry and saving work of Jesus in the four chapters. Various people read Genesis 42-45. [Leaders note: You can make this fun, like a gameshow, but amidst all the fun there's a really serious message. Jesus is there in even the most obscure parts of the Bible and you are training the people in your Life Group to see him there. It will deepen their love for Jesus and their faith for him if you can train them to see him in passages like this one. Clearly, the more you are able to see Jesus yourself, the more you'll be able to help them, so it may be worth re-listening to Phil's sermon with a pen in hand to jot down ideas and verses, especially those regarding repentance, justice, mercy, substitutionary atonement and faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. You'll also find help in Phil's book "Straight to the Heart of Genesis".]
- Spend some time now worshipping Jesus for who he is, what he has done, and what he means to us today. [Leaders note: You might like to give prayers of thanks here, or perhaps prepare a few worship songs to sing together.]

#### **CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you**

- You have already begun talking about using the World Cup as an opportunity to gather together for a social event, including lots of your friends who might be exploring faith. The more your friends mix with your church friends, the more they will see Jesus in you and not just assume that you simply happen to be a really nice person. Spend some time finalising your plans as you end your meeting. If you don't like football, finalise alternative plans instead!