

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: TNC#8 - "MOUTH"

CONNECT IN with one another

When did you last feel like nobody was listening to you? Describe how that felt for you.

[Help for leaders: It is incredibly frustrating. Help people to feel this frustration so that they feel the full weight of the Gospel promise that we're looking at in the next section - we have been chosen to be mouthpieces of the word of God!]

CONNECT UP with God

- **Read Genesis 1:1-3 & Hebrews 1:3**. Which do you find it harder to believe? That God *spoke* and created the world, or that God still *speaks* to sustain the world today?
- **Read Hebrews 3:7, 4:7 & 10:15**. Which do you find it harder to believe? That God *spoke* through the Scripture-writers (3:7) or that he still *speaks* through Scripture today (4:7&10:15)?
- **Read Acts 9:15**. Which do you find it harder to believe? That God called the Apostle Paul to speak his words to the world around him, or that he calls you to do the same today?
- Let's read a passage together about the Apostle Paul speaking for God. As we read, try to note the different ways in which he spoke for him. **Read Acts 16:11-40**.
- In what ways does the mouth of Paul speak the Word of God in that passage?
[Help for leaders: He speaks the Gospel so that people are saved (v11-15). He speaks authoritative commands so that demons leave and sick people are healed (v16-18). He speaks words of worship that shake the earth and transform a city (v19-26). He speaks words of command to unbelievers that make them recognise that God has sent him and they ought to obey him (v27-34). He speaks words to government that defend the oppressed and bring about political change (v35-40).
- So here's the big question: Do you believe that God wants to use your own mouth in the same way that he used the mouth of Paul?
- The following verses might help you: **Acts 14:15** [Paul was a man like us] **1 Corinthians 11:1** [who urges us to copy Jesus, just like him] **Mark 16:14-20** [because Jesus wants us to] **John 14:12** [and promises to back up our words whenever we do]
- Don't let this remain an intellectual discussion. Stand up and use your mouths right now. Pray for those who are sick and in need of healing, scared and in need of courage, confused and in need of guidance, or poor and in need of provision.

CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you

If our plans for the rest of the week are just the same-old, same-old then we've no need of courage. But if our plans for the rest of the week are to go and speak the words of God to people then we most certainly do!

Read Acts 4:29-31. Pray for one another to receive boldness as you are each filled with the Holy Spirit. Then commission one another as you end your time together, sending one another out into the world as spokesmen and spokeswomen for God.