

# LIFE GROUP GUIDE: TNC#10 - "DNA"

## CONNECT IN with one another

What is God saying to you at the moment? What are you doing in response to that?

[Help for leaders: You may find it best to ask these as two separate questions. These are ground-floor discipleship questions that it's helpful to keep on asking your group members. The answer to these two questions = discipleship.]

## CONNECT UP with God

### ➤ Read Acts 19:1-7.

### ➤ Do you think that these 12 Ephesians were already saved when Paul arrived in Ephesus?

[Help for leaders: Bible scholars debate this. On the one hand Luke calls them "disciples", but on the other they seem pretty ignorant of Gospel fundamentals. For me, they are believers because Paul says "when you believed".]

### ➤ Why is it so significant for us that Paul asks them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

[Help for leaders: If Paul accepts them as believers but feels he needs to ask if they have been filled with the Holy Spirit, then it is clear that Christians aren't automatically filled with the Holy Spirit. There may be something about NT Christianity that we are not experiencing. Naked Christianity means being filled with the Holy Spirit.]

### ➤ Read Acts 19:2. What do you think had stopped them being filled with the Holy Spirit?

[Help for leaders: The answer is *ignorance*. They can't mean that they have never heard of the Holy Spirit (he's mentioned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of the Bible!) but that no one has ever explained to them how to be filled with him.]

### ➤ Those of you who have been filled with the Holy Spirit, how would you have "explained the Holy Spirit" to these Ephesian believers?

### ➤ Read Acts 19:3-4. What else had stopped them being filled with the Holy Spirit?

[Help for leaders: The answer is *a sense of inadequacy*. They had heard John the Baptist's call to repent of their sin, but not the promise of Jesus to wash them completely clean. This is a big issue for many Christians today - perhaps for some of those in your Life Group too. It isn't humility to count ourselves out of the promises of God.]

### ➤ Read Acts 19:5. What was key to the Ephesians finally being filled with the Holy Spirit?

[Help for leaders: They said yes to the command of Jesus to be baptised. Things that hold us back from being filled with the Holy Spirit include *fear* and *lack of thirst* (John 7:37). Obedience in baptism addresses both of these.]

### ➤ Read Acts 19:6. What else was key to their finally being filled with the Holy Spirit?

[Help for leaders: The answer is *Paul helped by laying hands on them and praying*. This cues a move into prayer!]

### ➤ Move into a time of worship in which you welcome the Holy Spirit and ask him to fill you, either for the first time or afresh. Then apply v6 by laying hands on people in prayer.

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

Highlight Acts 19:7. Paul did not consider himself too important to invest his life in discipling about 12 believers. Pray that God will enable each of you to become leaders of a new Life Group. Where group members have vision and faith to do this soon, gather round them and pray for God to release a new Life Group through them.

Highlight Acts 1:8 & 4:29-31. One of the main reasons why God fills us with his Holy Spirit is so that we can witness for him boldly. Pray that he will enable you to do so this week.