

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: TNC#12 - "FEET"

CONNECT IN with one another

Who in the world do you admire most? Why?

[This isn't just a conversation starter. The people we admire say a huge amount about us. This question essentially asks people 'Who are you following? In what ways do you want to be more like them'. This tees up your Bible study.]

CONNECT UP with God

- We are going to read a Bible passage in which the Apostle Paul describes the kind of person that we ought to admire and want to follow. How is this the same and how is this different from the people we just described? **Read Acts 20:17-38.**
- Split your group into five pairs (or into five individuals if your group is small). Give each of them a passage and five minutes to read it slowly and to reflect back to the group how Paul challenges them in that area:
 - **Honesty** (verses 17-21)
 - **Passion** (verses 22-24)
 - **Courage** (verses 25-31)
 - **Sacrifice** (verses 32-35)
 - **Love** (verses 36-38)
- At the end of 5-10 minutes, ask each pair or individual to feed back what particularly challenged them in the verses they were given. Draw out as much as you can from them, because it's far more powerful for them to feed back their own insights into Christian character than it is for you to spoonfeed them with insights of your own.
- As your Life Group Leaders, we want to demonstrate this same godly character towards you. So be honest with us: how can we become more like Paul in these five areas?
[Help for leaders: Yes, we really are asking you to be this vulnerable with people that you lead! Firstly, you'll find that your courage is massively rewarded, because we all have areas in which we need to grow and it's often those we lead who have the greatest insight into where and how. Resist the urge to defend yourself. Get a notepad and write down everything they say in order to pray over it later. If praying over something, you sense that it is unfair, you can ignore it, but you will be surprised how much God does in your heart if you are humble enough to listen, write it down and pray about later with an open mind. Secondly, though, you are being a leader here. You are leading the way in punching through the painfulness of this question in order to help the rest of the group to follow in your footsteps in the final question, which is...]
- Thank you so much – that's loads for me to think and pray about! Now the same question for yourself: How do you feel you need to become much more like Paul in these 5 areas?
- Now move into a time of **worship**, of **confession of sin** and of **praying for one another**.

CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you

Whether we realise it or not, we issue an invitation every day to the unbelievers around us, inviting them to follow in our footsteps. Pray that this week you will follow in the footsteps of Paul as he followed Jesus, and that unbelievers will want to follow you too.