

# ADVICE FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS

## How to make the most of Share Hope

### THE FRIENDS / NEXT STEPS RESOURCE

As you work through the Friends / Next Steps resource in your 1<sup>st</sup> week back in Small Groups, here are some things to consider:

#### **Intro**

Help people see this activity isn't about telling everyone exactly what to do or how to do it, but providing a few possible starting points to Share Hope

#### **Who are the Non-Christians in your life?**

Give people time to think about this for themselves but also allow time to share, either in pairs or all together. This might be hard or confronting for some people if they realise they have very little contact with non-Christian people. Try to be encouraging: it's good to be aware of this and to use the next few months to invest in building or growing some relationships.

(Good examples might even be the Salt Staff: they work with Christians, studied with Christians, have lots of Christian friends, & it's easy to slide into just investing in relationships they already have at church. But to be intentional Geoff joined a Martial Arts School which has opened up non-Christian relationships, Andy has been deliberate about growing friendships with some of the Dads at Callum's school, Tim makes his mates from soccer a priority so he keeps engaging with non-Christians)

#### **Who could you introduce them to?**

Again, allow time to complete alone then discuss with someone. It might come up that it feels awkward to have different worlds collide, but it's actually something that happens all the time! We could probably all name someone who was once a friend of a friend, and is now our friend!

#### **Conversations**

Looking at the big circle with layers might seem overwhelming but it's really just thinking through what you are already talking about with your non-Christian contacts. It might help to even write a couple of names near topics that you talk about with them, or add extra topics.

Again, there may be people in your group who find they only / mostly have interest based conversation. This isn't about making anyone feel bad about where they're at currently, but working out what our starting point is so we can build from there.

#### **The Next Step**

it would be good for people to talk in pairs about what they see as the natural next step in sharing hope with a few of their contacts. If they've only ever had conversations about one shared interest, it may be to have a few more interest based conversations to build the relationship. Others may already be having values or worldviews conversations but might need help thinking of particular questions to ask to open up further conversations. Alternatively, for others it might be more relational next steps like introducing them to someone else from church.

If it doesn't come up, make sure you talk about the value of asking questions and listening, not just trying to always talk or share your own ideas. Make sure this first next step is easy and achievable: there will be lots of time to re-evaluate and add new next steps!

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE MISSION 'CHECK-IN' TIME THROUGHOUT THE TERM:

We want this time to be encouraging and supportive! If someone has had a 'next step' moment' celebrate that! Rejoice and Praise God!

People may have questions that come up that would be good to discuss as a group or in pairs. There might be some people in your group who more naturally think of good answers to questions, or good lines of conversation to pursue, and it's great for them to have input and model to other group members.

We don't want to lose sight of what God is doing in all this though, so make sure these times aren't all just people focused. Acknowledge that there are spiritual battles going on and leave plenty of time to pray to the God who saves.

- **Keris (& the Salt Mission Team)**