

# Sausages and Stories



Five stand alone small group sessions exploring topical news stories and connecting them with stories from the Bible





**Unlock**, by various names, has been around since 1972, trying to help (mainly) urban Christians to understand and share their faith appropriately. Our life experience matters; our stories; our joys and sorrows. The Bible has plenty to say, more than we'll ever know, about our lives, if we know how to read it and apply it...if we know how to **UNLOCK** it!

The session outlined in this pack applies the learning cycle on page 3, **starting by using a 'prompt'** to draw out group member's stories. It is up to you which prompt you use (from those suggested on page 5) or to find one of your own to connect with your group. Give everyone time to tell their story and listen carefully as they do. What are the themes and issues arising in the stories? Try to remember so that you can remind people later if necessary.

The next stage is to **find part of the Bible** that comes to mind having listened to the stories. As this session is designed for those that have some Bible knowledge, we suggest you ask the group rather than doing this yourself, perhaps reminding them of any stories that get forgotten. If you want to adapt this session to use with a non-church group you will need to be ready to provide some Bible links if they are unable to do so. Then ask the group to explore **connections**, similarities or differences.

Finally there is a **reflective activity**, giving people an opportunity to reflect on the session and any action they might want to take as a result. The reflective activity creates space in which discussion and reflection can continue in an unforced way.

How well the group know and trust one another will effect the type of story that they share, often the newer the group, the more light hearted the stories are likely to be.

# The Unlock Learning Cycle

## **Unlocking real life stories of urban people**

Start with the group telling stories from their real life experience.

## **Leading to more experience**

What we learn now is learnt for life and changes us. We also learn to keep reflecting!

## **Releasing life changing skills and confidence**

Change happens as a result of linking real life experience with the Bible. This change often leads to action among others.

## **Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ**

The real life stories are connected to and compared with similar situations in the Bible.



## Introduction

Unlock uses an approach to engaging with the Bible that is different to traditional Bible studies (see page 3). Unlock's approach starts from the stories and experiences of group members, whereas a more traditional approach starts from the Biblical text. Unlock's approach has been found to work well with small groups of urban, oral learners from outside of the church. We have many free resources on the Unlock website designed for use with such groups. Because the topical material in this resource will date quickly, it is offered more as inspiration to others to design their own materials along the same lines, rather than as a ready to use package.

Unlock usually works with people outside of church who may be interested in finding out a bit more about faith but perhaps are not attracted to the formal methods of learning often associated with church. Our work is based on a reflective learning cycle and is a tried and tested way of introducing people to the Bible in a non-threatening way. Many churches have activities that draw in members of their surrounding community but then struggle with how to move on from those relationships into exploring faith, especially in urban environments where anything formal might be treated with suspicion.

These sessions were developed for use with a small group of people who were attending a community breakfast run by a church in Nechells in Birmingham in 2010. They were developed by Unlock local project workers in partnership with a local church leader.

These short sessions were designed to be used with a group of people who are not familiar with the Bible. Other similar resources are available to download free from [www.unlock-urban.org](http://www.unlock-urban.org) or from the

office based in Sheffield. However it is our experience that each group's circumstances are so unique, that it may be best to develop your own materials using themes that you know your group will connect with, and reflective activities that are inspired by their own interests.

May God inspire you!

**Bible Text** in these materials is taken from the Good News Bible (British Usage Edition), published by the Bible Societies and Collins, American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976; used by permission.

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## Unlock Session Planning and Content Outline

**Course / Event name:** Workshops for Bloomsbury Mission Project Breakfast Club, Nechells, Birmingham, 2010

**Authors / Facilitators:** Pete and Sam Taylor (Unlock Birmingham 2009—2010) and the Rev'd Peter Little

**Session Name:** *Sausages and Stories*

*These sessions can be used in any order.*

**Aims:** Participants will have the opportunity to tell their own stories in relation to a range of contemporary topical issues. Participants will have the opportunity to share Scriptures that they are reminded of by the personal stories told. Participants will be given the opportunity to reflect on the connections between their stories and the Scriptures and to develop ideas of any plans to change their own thinking or behaviour in the light of their reflection.

Participants will be invited to take part in a reflective exercise to represent their experience, and their reflections on it, in relation to the Bible story they have discussed.

**Outcomes:** Participants will be more able to engage in a reflective theological cycle starting from their own story or the story of others in the group.

Participants will be more able to refer to the connections made with Scripture and intended changed approach in a similar situation in the future.

Participants will be able to reflect on their own experiences and topical issues in relation to scripture.

### Session Content

#### Unlocking Real Life Experience

**Media:** Each session suggests a news story from either a newspaper or the internet. These can be used, or some more current story can be chosen that has the same theme as the one suggested.

**Own story:** Think of experiences of your own which pick up the theme of each session.

**Questions:** See individual sessions.

#### Revealing the Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

**Bible:** Brick testament images, Luke 2: 41-52, Psalm 46, Habakkuk 1:1-3, Habakkuk 2:4, plus any other Scriptures which come to mind in light of the stories told?

#### Releasing Life Changing Skills and Confidence

What connections do participants see between the Scripture and their own experience?

#### Reflective Activities

Discussion of leadership and bullying, a maze activity, collage, making a memory card.





# Bully Brown?

## Introduction

Look at the newspaper article on page 8

## Unlocking Real Life Stories of Urban People

Do you remember the news story on page 8? What do you think?

*Does this bring to mind any experiences you have had?*

- Have you ever felt like you have been bullied?
- How did it feel?
- Have you ever felt like you were bullying someone else?
- Have you ever been accused of something you haven't done?

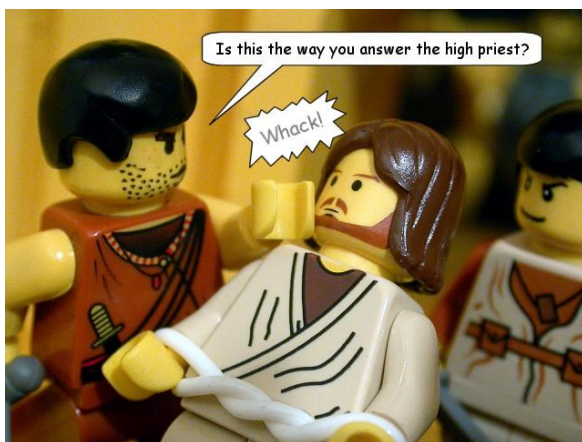


## Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

*Do these stories you have shared bring to mind any passage of scripture? We used pictures from the brick testament (see below).*

What do you think of the pictures?

Can you relate to them? Are there any links or connections that you want to make between your own stories and these pictures?



<http://www.thebricktestament.com/>

## Releasing Life Changing Skills and Confidence

Reflective Activity - Take the pictures below and talk about which of them are good leaders or bad leaders. Do you think any of them are bullies? Why?



- What do you want to remember from this session?
- Is there anything you want to change in your life because of what we've learnt?
- Is there something you intend to do after the things we have thought about?

## Downing Street aide 'barged' by PM 2010

28th of February

A senior No 10 aide described in a tape-recorded interview how he was physically pushed aside by an angry Gordon Brown, it has been disclosed.

Stewart Wood, an Oxford don and senior foreign policy adviser to the Prime Minister, said that he had been left feeling "pretty shocked" by what had happened.

He said that No 10 staff used to apologise for the way Mr Brown behaved saying "Oh that's just Gordon".

However, Mr Wood had increasingly come to see his conduct as an issue, saying "how you deal as an individual with human beings is actually a core part of the job".

A version of the incident in which Mr Wood was brushed aside was recounted last week in a new book by the political journalist Andrew Rawnsley, *The End of the Party*.

Mr Brown has strongly denied shoving or hitting people.

However, Mr Wood gave his own account of what happened in a tape-recorded interview with the author Suzie Mackenzie, who is writing an authorised biography of Mr Brown, which has been obtained by *The Mail on Sunday*.

"I was standing at the top of the stairs at No 10. There was a reception for EU ambassadors and I was waiting with a one-pager (one page-briefing note) to show him before he went in, to say these are the three people you need to speak to," he told her.

"And... and he was in a really bad mood. He walked up the stairs. And I leant forward and he went 'Outta my way' and he did that (the paper said that he raised an arm in a strong, sweeping gesture imitating Mr Brown's action), 'outta my way'. And then just walked in and then did it, smile on his face."

In a statement, Mr Wood said: "As I recall, he was in a hurry that day, and barged past me on his way in to the room, but he didn't shove me. It did annoy me at the time, but it was an isolated incident. And the many acts of generosity and kindness that he has shown me in my years working with him mean a lot to me."

<http://www.birminghammail.net/news/national-news/2010/02/28/downing-street-aide-barged-by-pm-97319-25929216/>





# Good News



## Introduction

Place newspaper article from page 11 on the table

What do you think of what has happened?

## Unlocking Real Life Stories of Urban People

*Does this story bring to mind any experiences you have had?*

- Have you ever lost someone or something that was really important to you?
- How did that feel?
- Have you ever hidden something precious and then forgotten where you put it?
- Were you reunited with who or what you had lost? How did you feel?

## Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

*Do these stories you have shared bring to mind any Bible stories?*

### Luke 2: 41-52

#### The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival.

When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; they thought that he was with the group, so they travelled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "My son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you." He answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand his answer.

So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and people.

- What do you think of this story?
- Who do you relate to in the story, and why?



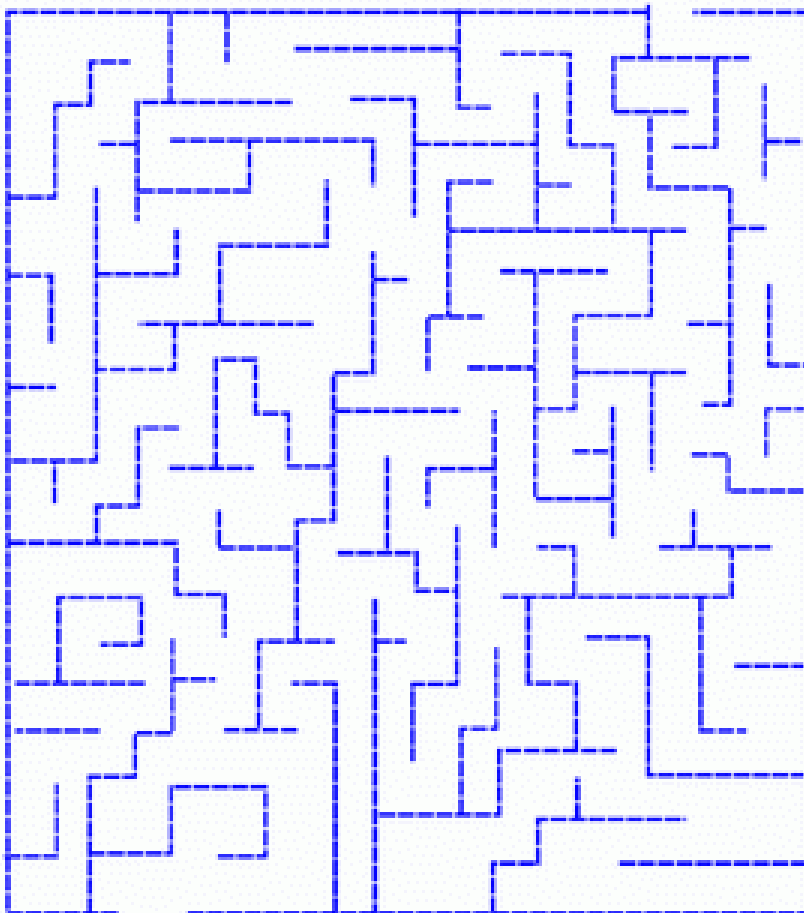
## Releasing Life Changing Skills and Confidence

Reflective Activity - Can you complete the maze to help the dog find his bone? (see below). Or, divide the group into two. One team chalk a maze on the floor\*, or on an outdoor yard\*, for the other team to find their way through. Swap over if there is time. (*\*Ensure you have permission to do this beforehand!*)

Are there any links or connections that you want to make between your stories and the Bible stories that have been mentioned?

- What do you want to remember from this session?
- Is there anything you want to change in your life because of what we've learnt?
- Is there something you intend to do after the things we have thought about?

*Little Timmy can smell a bone nearby. Find it for him.*



Puzzle from <http://kidsfront.com/maze-printable/6.html>

## MUM'S JOY AS SON IS FREED BY £100K RANSOM

Overjoyed mum Akila Naqqash with a picture of Sahil, five, after his release

THE mother of a five-year-old British boy kidnapped in Pakistan wept tears of joy at his release yesterday amid claims that a £100,000 ransom had been paid.

Four gunmen snatched Sahil Saeed from his grandmother's house in -Jhelum, in the Punjab, on March 3.



He was dumped at 4.10am British time, when he was found wandering in a field 20 miles away.

Sahil's mother Akila Naqqash, 31, had stayed at home in Oldham when he flew to Pakistan with his father Raja, 32.

Yesterday she spoke to her son by telephone and said she was "gobsmacked" that Sahil chatted away as though nothing had happened, asking after his sisters.

"He is a five-year-old who has been captured for 13 days," she said. "I was worried about the way he was going to speak but the first thing he said was, 'Mummy, mummy, I've bought some new toys'. He was talking as normal. He hasn't mentioned anything about what happened. We are overjoyed, over the moon. I couldn't believe it. I am really happy and lost for words."

Pakistani law minister Rana Sanallah said an "international gang of kidnapers" was responsible, adding that the £100,000 was paid "not in Britain or Pakistan, but in another country".

The family had said there was "no way" they could afford any such payment. "A ransom has been paid," Mr Sanallah said. "But it is too early to say who arranged this and how."

Last week Greater Manchester Police sources told how Sahil's father had returned to Britain to seek their expert help. The force's assistant chief constable Dave Thompson said yesterday that Sahil was with family and Pakistani police, and his father was likely to fly to Pakistan immediately to bring him home.

He said: "Sahil is well, considering the terrible ordeal he will have been through." Mr Thompson also confirmed they would not be making imminent arrests in the UK, although there could be arrests in other parts of Europe. "Things are -moving very quickly," he added.

Jane Sheridan, head-teacher at Sahil's school, Rushcroft Primary, said: "We are delighted he has been released safe and well. Along with his family, we eagerly await Sahil's return to -Oldham where he has been missed by his friends and teachers."

After Sahil was taken several men, including a taxi driver, were arrested while four Pakistani police officers were suspended for not initially responding to the family's emergency call. But it is believed officers no longer have any suspects in custody.

# When Your World is Shaken

## Introduction

Place newspaper cuttings/pictures from page 14 on the table. What do you think about what happened in Haiti?

Link to Haiti earthquake report:-

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010\\_Haiti\\_earthquake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake)



## Unlocking Real Life Stories of Urban People

*Does this bring to mind any experiences you have had?*

- Has your world ever been turned upside down, how did that feel?
- What things really shook you?
- What helped you piece things back together?

## Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

*Do these stories you have shared bring to mind any Bible stories?*

## Psalm 46

God is our shelter and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains fall into the ocean depths.

- What do you think of these words?
- How do you relate to it?

Are there any links or connections that you want to make between your stories and the words above, or any other Bible text that has been mentioned?





Releasing Life Changing Skills and Confidence  
Reflective Activity - Use paper cuttings to make a collage poster which shows what the group thinks about the issues they have discussed



Are there any links or connections that you want to make between your stories and the Bible passages that have been mentioned?


- What do you want to remember from this session?
- Is there anything you want to change in your life because of what we've learnt?
- Is there something you intend to do after the things we have thought about?

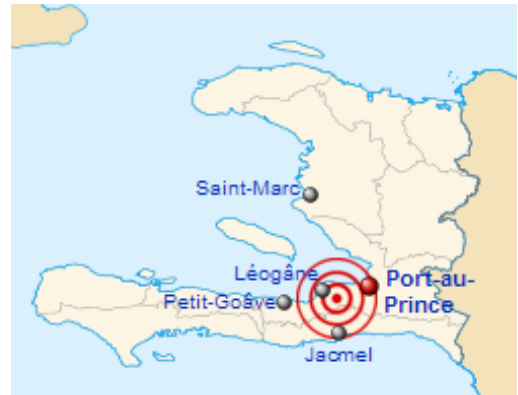


## 2010 Haiti earthquake

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia

Quake epicentre and major cities affected

Date	16:53:10, 12 January 2010 (−05:00) (2010-01-12T16:53:10−05:00) 21:53:10, 12 January 2010 (UTC) (2010-01-12T21:53:10Z)
Magnitude	7.0 <i>M<sub>w</sub></i>
Depth	13 km (8.1 miles)
Epicenter location	 <a href="#">18°27′25″N 72°31′59″W</a> / <a href="#">18.457°N 72.533°W</a> / <a href="#">18.457; -72.533</a>
Countries or regions affected	<a href="#">Haiti</a>
Max. intensity	<a href="#">MM</a> <sup>X</sup> <sup>[1]</sup>
Tsunami	Yes (localised) <sup>[2]</sup>
Casualties	92,000 <sup>[3]</sup> - 230,000 <sup>[4]</sup> deaths ( <a href="#">6th deadliest earthquake</a> )



The **2010 Haiti earthquake** ([Haitian Creole](#): *Tranblemanntè 2010 nan peyi Ayiti*) was a [catastrophic magnitude 7.0 \*M<sub>w</sub>\* earthquake](#), with an [epicentre](#) near the town of [Léogâne](#), approximately 25 km (16 miles) west of [Port-au-Prince](#), [Haiti's](#) capital. The earthquake occurred at 16:53 local time (21:53 [UTC](#)) on Tuesday, 12 January 2010.<sup>[5][6]</sup> By 24 January, at least 52 [aftershocks](#) measuring 4.5 or greater had been recorded.<sup>[7]</sup> An estimated three million people were affected by the quake;<sup>[8]</sup> the Haitian Government reported that an estimated 230,000 people had died, 300,000 had been injured and 1,000,000 made homeless.<sup>[9][10]</sup> They also estimated that 250,000 [residences](#) and 30,000 [commercial buildings](#) had collapsed or were severely damaged.<sup>[11]</sup>

The earthquake caused major damage in Port-au-Prince, [Jacmel](#) and other settlements in the region. Many notable landmark buildings were significantly damaged or destroyed, including the [Presidential Palace](#), the [National Assembly](#) building, the [Port-au-Prince Cathedral](#), and the main jail. Among those killed were [Archbishop of Port-au-Prince Joseph Serge Miot](#),<sup>[12]</sup> and opposition leader [Micha Gaillard](#).<sup>[13][14]</sup> The headquarters of the [United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti](#) (MINUSTAH), located in the capital, collapsed, killing many, including the Mission's Chief, [Hédi Annabi](#).<sup>[15][16]</sup>

Many countries responded to appeals for [humanitarian aid](#), pledging funds and dispatching rescue and medical teams, engineers and support personnel. Communication systems, air, land, and sea transport facilities, hospitals, and electrical networks had been damaged by the earthquake, which hampered rescue and aid efforts; confusion over who was in charge, air traffic congestion, and problems with prioritisation of flights further complicated early relief work. Port-au-Prince's morgues were quickly overwhelmed with many tens of thousands of bodies having to be buried in [mass graves](#).<sup>[17]</sup> As rescues tailed off, supplies, medical care and sanitation became priorities. Delays in aid distribution led to angry appeals from aid workers and survivors, and looting and sporadic violence were observed.

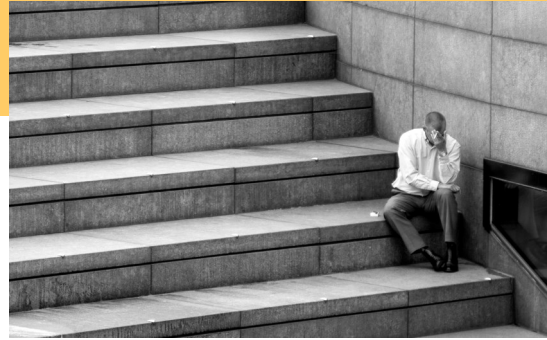
On 22 January the [United Nations](#) noted that the emergency phase of the relief operation was drawing to a close, and on the following day the Haitian government officially called off the search for survivors.



# Hope When all Hope is Gone!

## Introduction

Show the article on page 17 (or something similar that's appropriate to the local area)  
Do you remember this?



## Unlocking Real Life Stories of Urban People

*Does this bring to mind any experiences you have had?*

- Have you ever felt that a situation was hopeless, what did you do?
- Have you ever given up hope only to be surprised by something?

## Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

*Do these stories you have shared bring to mind any Bible story?*

### Habakkuk 1:1-3

#### Habakkuk Complains of Injustice

O LORD, how long must I call for help before you listen, before you save us from violence? Why do you make me see such trouble? How can you endure to look on such wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are all round me, and there is fighting and quarrelling everywhere.

- What do you think of these words?
- Can you relate to them?

Here Habakkuk is asking God to bring an end to injustice. In chapter 2 verse 4 God responds with – “live faithfully in the face of it.” What do you think of that?



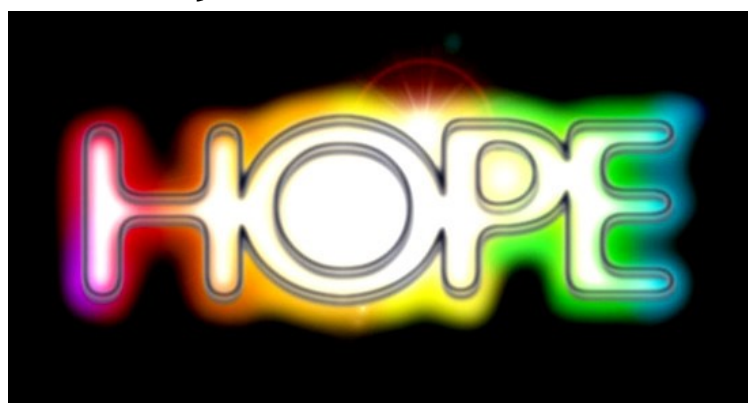
## Releasing Life Changing Skills and Confidence

**Reflective Activity** - Make a card for you to keep. On one side, draw or stick pictures to remind you of a time when you felt helpless; on the back place this text.

Those who are righteous will live because they are faithful to God.  
Habakkuk 2:4

Are there any links or connections that you want to make between your stories and the Bible words that have been mentioned?

- What do you want to remember from this session?



- Is there anything you want to change in your life because of what we've learnt?



- Is there something you intend to do after the things we have thought about?





## Haitian man 'found alive after four weeks in rubble'

A rice seller has been found buried alive four weeks after the devastating Haitian earthquake hit, it has been reported.



A man pulled alive from the rubble of a building in Haiti's capital. Evan Muncie, 28, was pulled out of the wreckage of a market in Port-au-Prince and may have been trapped under there since January 12.

The man was suffering from severe dehydration, malnutrition and open wounds on both feet, doctors told CNN.

He was found by people attempting to clear the marketplace and taken to a field hospital run by the University of Miami.

Dr Mike Connelly said: "He was emaciated. He hadn't had anything in quite some time."

The survivor told the doctor that someone was bringing him water, but he was said to be confused and still under the impression he was under the rubble.

"Initially, I'm sure he had his senses with him, so maybe he was able to find some kind of resources", Dr Connelly added.

The magnitude 7.0 tremor which struck Haiti in mid-January killed more than 200,000 people and left more than one million people in need of aid.

<http://www.metro.co.uk/news/812415-haitian-man-found-alive-after-four-weeks-in-rubble>



# Good Samaritan

## Introduction

Place news sheet on table (see article on page 21)

Have you seen stories like this in the paper/on the TV?

What do you make of it?

Unlocking  
Real Life  
Stories of  
Urban People  
*Does this  
bring to mind  
any  
experiences  
you have had?*



- Have you ever witnessed someone being attacked, bullied or assaulted?
- What did you want to do?
- What did you actually do? Why?



**Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ**  
*Do these stories you have shared bring to mind any Bible story?*

**Luke 10 25 -37**

**The Parable of the Good Samaritan**

A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?" The man answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' "

"You are right," Jesus replied; "do this and you will live."

But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?"

Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by, on the other side. In the same way a Levite also came along, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by, on the other side. But a Samaritan who was travelling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity.

He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he told the innkeeper, 'and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.' "

And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?" The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him."

Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

- What do you think of the passage?
- Can you relate to it?
- In what ways?



## Releasing Life Changing Skills and Confidence

*Are there any links or connections that you want to make between your stories and the Bible passages that have been mentioned?*

### Reflective Activity

- Is there anything you could do today for someone else?
- What do you want to remember from this session?
- Is there anything you want to change in your life because of what we've learnt?
- Is there something you intend to do after the things we have thought about?







Teenage gang force three boys to lick their boots in humiliating train ride

RAILWAY police are hunting a gang of thugs who told three teenagers: "Lick our boots" during a 30-minute terror journey into Birmingham.

Officers said the boys - two 16-year-olds and another aged 17 - were also threatened with violence and suffered a "humiliating and degrading" ordeal at the hands of the gang.

British Transport Police today released CCTV images of eight people, including a girl, they want to trace in connection with the incident.

It happened when the louts boarded the New Street-bound train at Blake Street Station, near Sutton Coldfield.

Det Con Tim Friend, from British Transport Police, described the ordeal as "degrading bullying" and appealed for help to find the culprits.

"A group of between eight and ten Asian males and females bullied the lads for the whole of the 30-minute journey," he said.

"They were told 'kiss our feet' and anyone who said no was threatened with violence. It was pretty unpleasant."

A British Transport Police spokesman said: "We are seeking to identify the individuals pictured who we would like to speak to in connection with a robbery on a train service between Blake Street and New Street stations.

"Three young males were subjected to a protracted ordeal of bullying before having property stolen under threat of further violence."

The victims were heading into the city for a concert on board a train that left Lichfield City station at 5.50pm on November 9 last year.

Police said the ordeal lasted until the train arrived at New Street.

The frightened lads were eventually robbed of their mobile phones, cash, train tickets and one had a concert ticket stolen.

Their assailants were seen giggling and joking with each other as they left the train.

The victims raised the alarm shortly after the train arrived in Birmingham, telling police the torment left them feeling "humiliated and degraded".

Police checked CCTV footage from the station and Pallasades shopping centre to catch the culprits.

Detectives are now appealing to Birmingham Mail readers to help identify a group of people they want to speak to in connection with the incident after their own investigations drew a blank.

<http://www.birminghammail.net/news/birmingham-news/2010/02/25/teenage-gang-force-three-boys-to-lick-their-boots-in-humiliating-train-ride-97319-25912559/>