

# So—what's the theology and educational theory behind Unlock's approach?!



## Unlocking real life stories of urban people.

Everyone is a creation of God, a unique individual. Being human means we are involved in a complex set of relationships. An individual faith that does not affect daily life and relationships is a pale image of what the Lord Jesus requires of us.

Jesus accepted people, and listened to the real issues of those who approached him. In the same way, Unlock encourages people to talk about their own experiences. People think and speak in concrete ways—involving emotion, and describing things that happened at a specific time and place.

Unlocking people's real stories of everyday life brings into the open the genuine concerns in people's lives, and they learn from each other as important issues are shared.

Action goes on to create more stories, and the process continues . . .

## Revealing Good news of the Down to Earth Christ.

The majority of the Bible is not theological textbook, but a collection of stories about people facing up to the demands of life.

Jesus did not 'preach at' people, or attempt to fill them up with new facts. He responded to them, with all their questions and needs, taking them seriously as whole people. He used stories of everyday life—sheep, fish, bread, wine—and used relevant symbols.

We give space for Bible stories to engage with people's real life stories (contextual theology).

We do not try to impose the Good News on their lives, but help them bring their hopes and ambitions, their joys and their fears, into the light of God's truth. People reflect on the Good News, as God, thought his Spirit is with them.

## Releasing life changing skills and confidence.

Our involvement in the lives of the people to whom God sends us is part of the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus. 'Social Action' is not just something that gives us the right to talk about Jesus. It is part of the way we proclaim the Good News and can lead to freedom for prisoners and release from oppression. Our understanding of Good News includes the fact of collective and structural sinfulness, in our society, as in any other. People are as much sinned against as they are sinful.

Jesus opposed both religious and political structural sinfulness in his day, and we are obliged to oppose it in ours. To proclaim the Good News we need to take the incarnation and earthly ministry of Jesus as seriously as we take the last days of his life, the cross and the resurrection.

The consequence of Unlocking stories and revealing Christ is that lives are changed!