

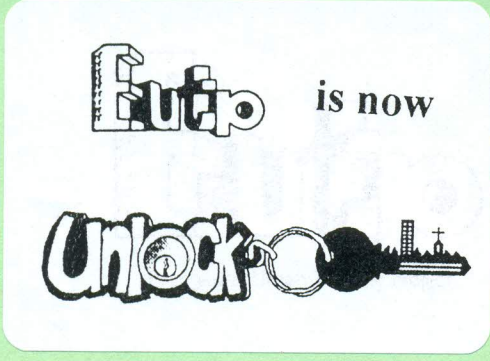
£3-40

Peace in the City



This Lent course looks at some of the events in the last days of Jesus' life, before his death and resurrection. Its aim is to give Christians in urban areas the opportunity to relate some of their own experiences to the Bible text. During the six sessions it gives the opportunity to encourage individuals and groups to recognise their own strengths, and to consider how these might be offered to meet needs that they see in the local community.

Jenny Richardson



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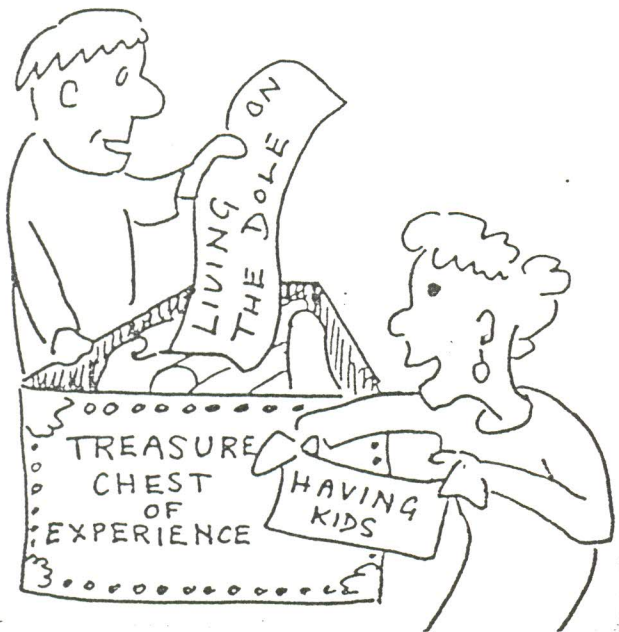
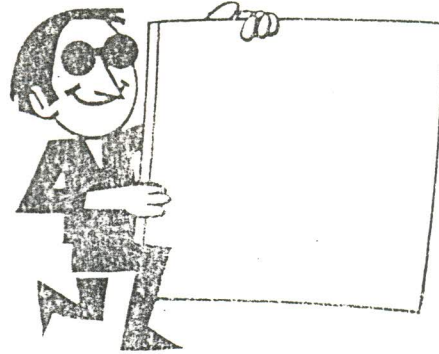
Group leaders notes

This course aims to give people the opportunity to explore some of their own experiences and relate them to the Bible.

As group leader, try to create an atmosphere where people are comfortable and able to share what they think and feel; be positive about contributions that people make, accepting all offers of experience as valid.

A method used in this course is one of "story telling" - the group has a wealth of experience to draw on, and all can learn from the sharing of this.

For more information about Eutp's methods, see "Learning without books" by Jim Hart, available from Eutp.



You will need Good News Bibles for the group, and also large sheets of paper and felt pens.

In addition you will need the following ...

Session 3 - A collection of photos, pictures and press cuttings about your city, in particular the area that your church is in.

Session 4 - A bowl of warm water, soap, flannel and towel.

Extra session - Food to share in the group.



As group leader, this shows you what you're trying to get at in a session.



Key questions for the group are shown like this. Use the question to get the group talking. Add extra questions of your own if you want to



This shows you what you need to say to the group - but use your own words!

You don't need to use every part of every session for your group - fit the course to the people.

We hope you enjoy getting to know God's word and each other, as you use this course.


If you've any comments to pass back to Eutp, so we can improve the materials, we'd be very grateful.

Scriptures quoted from the Good News Bible published by The Bible Societies / Harper Collins Publishers Ltd., UK © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992, with permission.

Session 1 - What do we believe about Jesus?


Learning outcomes: by the end of this session, the group members will have had the opportunity to....

- ✓ get to know each other
- ✓ share what they believe about Jesus
- ✓ find out a bit about this Lent course


 As a group leader, if you've got the group members relaxed and talking, you've made a good start for the rest of the course.


1. Introduce yourself as group leader; explain where this group fits into the parish, etc

2.[Optional] Ask the group to divide into pairs, and talk together for 5 minutes about.....

 Why have you come to this course, and what do you hope to get out of it?


3. In the whole group.

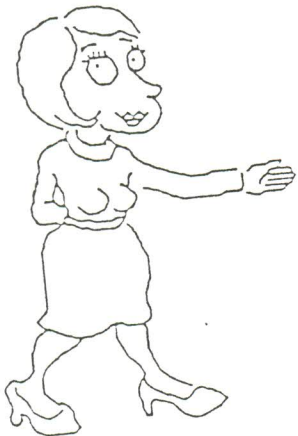
 What would you like from the course?

 "The course will be informal with a chance to say what you think, and talk about your own experiences. This first session is an introduction, getting to know each other and how we'll do things."

Give out the outline of the course, if this hasn't already happened.

4. If it's a new group, give people a chance to introduce themselves to the rest of the group.

5.  How did you come to know about and believe in Jesus?

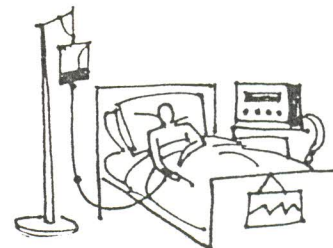


Listen, but do not write up their replies.

Get people to respond to each other.



When the response dries up, write on a large sheet of paper what they've said. eg You will have probably heard from the group things like "My Sunday school teacher told me about Jesus", "When my mum died, I thought a lot about God", "A friend lent me a book" etc



Put these things into groups when you write them up,

eg We came to believe things about Jesus...

From other people (friends, family).....

From official people (teachers, vicars).....

Through an experience (illness, crisis).....

From reading (Bible, other books).....

? In what ways do people come to believe in Jesus ?

6. **?** What do you believe about Jesus?

As they tell you, make sure you are clear about what they mean.

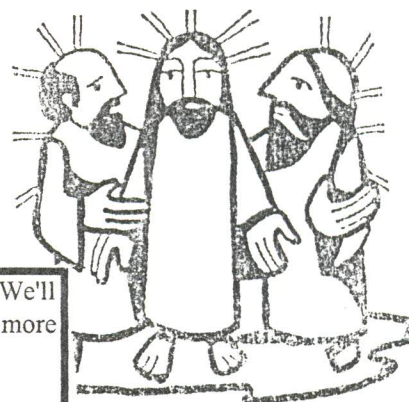
Develop discussion about similarities and differences.

7. Handout 2. Ask for volunteers to read different parts if the group is willing. (Don't push it - read it yourself if necessary.)

? What's the same as, and different from, what you've said you believe.

Optional extra ...

? What did the disciples and others believe about Jesus?



8. **Hand** "This first session has set the scene for the rest of the course. We'll be looking at the final days in Jesus life, and understanding more about him and what it means to be his follower."


9. Prayer together.

You may like to go round the group, each person saying "Thank you Jesus that you are....", completing the sentence with something that has been said about Jesus during the session.


There is a prayer to say together on Handout 6.

Session 2 - The truth is, I'm good at something!

Learning outcomes: by the end of this session, group members will have had the opportunity to....
 ✓ know more about what others in the group think they are good at

 As a group leader, if by the end of the session each person (including you!) is positive about what they and others in the group are good at, you're doing well.

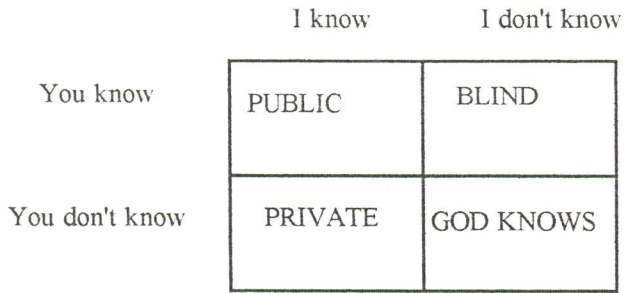
1. Ask the group members to get into pairs, and talk about.....


 What have you done this week that you are most pleased about?


eg getting the ironing done, getting the Council to sort out housing benefit, etc.

Then ask anyone who wants to to tell the whole group (briefly!)

2. Draw this diagram on a large sheet of paper. Explain to the group as you go.....



 "We can think of ourselves as being behind a window - with 4 window panes."

 "Part of each one of us is **public** : the things I know about myself and you know.
 eg colour of my hair.

Part of each one of us is **private**: the things I know about myself and you do not know.
 eg. what I ate for breakfast.

I can choose how much private information I share. (Add examples here of 'private' information that has become 'public' as the group has got to know each other during the course.)

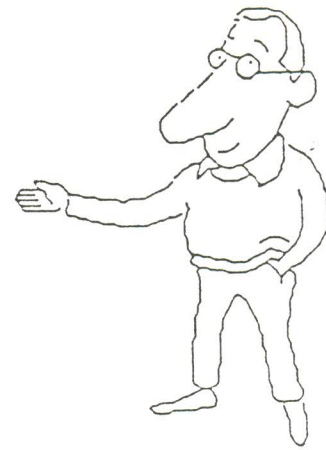
The public part of the window gets bigger as you get to know people.

Part of each one of us, only **God knows** about: When we face a new situation we do not know how we will react, and others do not know. Only God knows. As we go through the course, perhaps facing new things, a little of the 'God knows' window pane may become private or public.

Part of each one of us is **blind**: There are things about me that I don't know, but are obvious to others. The idea of this next part of the course is that we find out a little more about how others see us, what they think we are good at - and a little of the 'blind' part of the window will become 'public'.

It is worth noting, too, that if other people think we are good at something, it shows us that it is something that God has made us able to do."

3. ? How do you get impressions of what people are like?



List these things on a large sheet of paper, for example

- ✓ things we see them doing;
- ✓ things they and others say;
- ✓ the way they dress;
- ✓ the way they 'present' themselves (facial expressions, how they stand..) etc.....

4. The next part of this session has different ways of doing it - choose the way that you think will fit your group best, and which you feel comfortable with.

Above all, aim that each person leaves the session feeling good that others are positive about them.

Method A. (Using a cut up copy of Handout 3 - 2 pages)

Each person in the group in turn picks up a prepared card with a description on it, reads what it says and decides who in the group it should go to. If they get stuck the others in the group can help out. As group leader, try to ensure that everyone receives at least one card - you may choose to keep one or two cards 'up your sleeve' to give out when it is your turn, if you are concerned that someone may be slow to receive a card, or you may like to prepare cards that fit the people in your group.

You could limit the number of cards that each person may be given to 3.

You may like to place cards which cannot be given in the centre of the room.

After all the cards have been handed out, you could use blanks for people to write on things that they would want to say to others, but were not printed.

Pros:

- ☞ The cards act as a prompt to help think about individuals' good points
- ☞ The exercise requires limited reading skills
- ☞ The physical act of moving and giving a card helps to develop group relationships.
- ☞ The person receiving the card has the positive comments in his/her hand.

Cons

- ☞ The comments about people are limited to the statements on the cards.
- ☞ The last person to receive a card may have a negative experience.

Method B. (Using Handout 4 - 2 pages)

Ask each person to think about the other people in the group, and write each person's name once only against one of the statements ie the thing that is their best point. They should ensure that everyone's name is written once.

Then, ask the group to focus on one person at a time, while the others read the positive comment they have written about that person.

Pros:

- ☞ It ensures that each person in the group receives the same amount of positive comments and that no-one is left out.
- ☞ It feels 'safe' for those who prefer to sit and read and write, rather than make a decision and move in front of people.

Cons:

- ☞ It requires a high level of reading skill.
- ☞ The person is 'on their own' making a decision about their impression of others, rather than being helped by the rest of the group.

Method C.

Focus on one person at a time, while others comment on what they feel that person is good at.

Pros:

- ☞ It requires no reading ability.
- ☞ The comments are not 'ready made' and therefore have a genuine quality.

Cons:

- ☞ The group members are 'put on the spot' to think of something to say, without the help of prompt cards / lists.
- ☞ It is a more open exercise, which needs careful handling by the group leader.

In turn, in the group, give each person a chance to make any comments they want to about what has been said about them.



Has anything surprised you?
What are you pleased with?

5. Get into pairs to talk about



How does it feel when people say good things about you?

6. Ask someone to read Luke 19 verses 28-40



What did the crowds say about Jesus?

You may like to compare Jesus reaction with ours, when people say good things.

7. Prayer - offering to God the things we are good at.

8.



"Next week, bring with you any pictures / photos / press cuttings you have of our area, or places in this city that you often go to, or are important to you."

Session 3: Look at the city - what does it need?

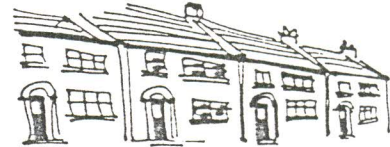
Learning outcomes : by the end of this session, group members will have had the opportunity to:

- ✓ understand more about the Bible's view of "peace"
- ✓ identify aspects of life in their area which show, and which need, the good news of Jesus



As a group leader, if the group have some understanding of "shalom", and have begun to make links between the needs in their area and the things they are good at, you're doing fine!

1. Ask the group to look at pictures of their local area, and pictures of other places in their city that are important in the lives of group members.



Which one place is most important to you and why?



How do you feel about this place?

Talk in pairs, then the whole group.

Note comments on a large sheet of paper.

2. Ask someone to read Matthew 23 verse 37 and someone else to read Luke 19 verses 41-42.



"Jesus loved Jerusalem and wept over it."

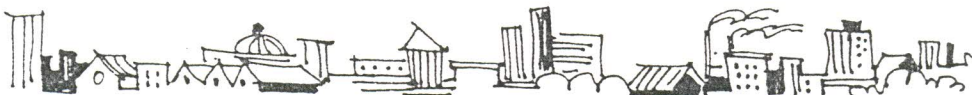
3.

Shalom



"Peace" in the Bible means "Shalom", which is well being, wholeness, for individuals, groups of people and the city - right relationships with God and each other, based on love and justice.

The next part of this session is looking at some examples of "shalom" in the Bible.



4. Ask someone to read Luke 19 verses 45-48.

Divide your group into 4

- ☺ ☺ Jesus
- ☺ ☺ The 'merchants' (money changers)
- ☺ ☺ The chief priest, teachers of the Law and leaders
- ☺ ☺ The disciples and the crowd



From the point of view of your character(s), what would you want to say to the others?

Then, in the whole group, allow the comments and responses to be made from one character to another.

As this happens, draw out from the comments what is good and not good for individuals, for relationships and for the well-being of the society - write in 2 columns (shalom / lack of shalom) on a large sheet of paper as you go.

You may like to repeat the exercise with other Bible passages eg

Luke 8 verses 42b-48 (The woman who touched Jesus'cloak)

Luke 9 verses 46-48 (Who is the greatest?)

Luke 10 verses 25-37 (The Good Samaritan) or other passages

As you use further Bible passages, add the comments to your lists of shalom / lack of shalom.

5. Divide the group into 2.

Give each a large sheet of paper and felt pen, if they are comfortable with this.

Ask one group to list (words or cartoons!) the things that show God's shalom where we live (eg someone caring for an elderly relative), the other to list the things that show the absence of God's shalom(eg kids hanging around on a street corner)

6. Give time for the groups to look at each others lists, ask questions and make comments.



"Don't forget that Jesus wept over Jerusalem"



What can you do to help bring about God's shalom around here?

Help the group to begin to makes links between the things they are good at, and the need in the local community.


7. Prayer for the city. (Your group may like to do this outside?!)



Session 4 - A mucky job

Learning outcomes: by the end of this session, group members will have had the opportunity to:

- ✓ understand more about Jesus' willingness to be a servant
- ✓ consider ways in which they might follow his example

 As a group leader, if people have got the idea that Jesus wants us to be ready to get our hands mucky, you're on track.

1. ? What's one of the muckiest jobs you've ever done?

At the end of each story, highlight why the person did the job, and how they felt about it. Note things on a large sheet of paper, if that's OK with your group.



2. ? Who has ever done a mucky job for you?

} Continue your notes.....


3. ? Has anyone else ever washed you?



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4. Ask someone to read John 13 verses 3-17.



 "It was a hot country, and it was customary for servants to wash the feet of their masters."

? What was it like for the disciples, when Jesus washed their feet?

5.

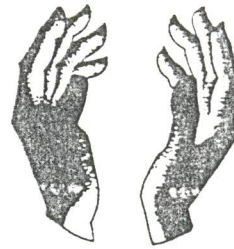


"In our country, we don't usually go around washing our feet in public! However, washing hands is a common experience for us. Washing each others hands can be a symbol of caring for each other."

Provide a bowl of warm water, soap flannel and towel, and encourage the group members to wash the hands of someone else in the group. Do this in a way which is comfortable for your group - perhaps explain what will happen and give people the chance to opt out if they want to; or ask two people earlier whether they would be willing to do it. You may prefer to "have a laugh"; or you may like the handwashing to take place in the context of prayer..... you know your group!



What was it like washing someone?
What was it like being washed?



6.



What are the mucky jobs in our area -
the things that people don't want to do?

Ask the group to think about the needs of the area that were listed last week, and what might be done about them. You may find that you need some help in thinking about this. Who do you know who may be able to give you a bit more information - people who are involved in the life of the local community, either as 'professionals' or as volunteers? Could you invite them to your group at some later date?



What would Jesus do?
What could we do?



7. Prayer, asking for God's wisdom in making decisions about what the group might be able to do in its local area.

Session 5 - So what do we do?

Learning outcomes: by the end of this session, group members will have had the opportunity to...

- ✓ think about how others see Jesus
- ✓ decide what further action might be taken by their group



As group leader, if your group during the course has begun to think about the needs of those outside the church, you've done OK. If there's some positive, practical action too - GREAT!

1.



"Think about times you've been in a crowded place: football matches, shopping in the market, political marches, Christian marches, etc.



What's it like being in a big crowd?

2. Ask someone to read Luke 23 verses 13-25 (or you may like to read it dramatically, with individuals taking the parts of Pilate, and the storyteller, and 2 or 3 being the crowd)



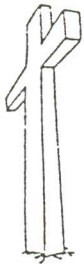
Divide your group into 4

- 😊😊 Jesus
- 😊😊 Barabbas
- 😊😊 Pilate
- 😊😊 The crowd



From the point of view of your character(s), what would you want to say to the others?

Then, in the whole group, allow responses to be made from one character to the other.



What did the crowd think of Jesus?
Why?

3.
?

 What do people round here think of Jesus?
 How can we show our neighbours who Jesus is?

4. Remind the group (in words or with things written and drawn on large sheets of paper)

- ✓ the things that individuals are good at
- ✓ the things in the local area that need God's peace ("Shalom")
- ✓ the things we've said about being a servant like Jesus

- ?

 - What can we do as individuals?
 - What can we do in this group?
 - What could we do with the rest of the church?
 - What is God saying to us?



Resources available from Eutp, to help you in the next step(s) are:

☞ Eutp workshop materials "Know your gospel", "Know your church", "Know your area", available from Eutp, address on front page of this course.

☞ An Eutp Local Urban Trainer, who could be invited to your church and/or group to help you explore the next steps; contact Jenny Richardson at address given.

Other resources may be available within your own denomination:

☞ Church of England, contact your diocesan Link Officer for Faith in the City for help; the identification of needs within your parish may be the first step towards a project funded by the Church Urban Fund.

☞ Methodist, contact Mission Alongside the Poor programme, Methodist Church Home Mission Division, 1 Central Buildings, Westminster, London SW1H 9NH

☞ Baptist, contact Baptist Urban Group, c/o 425 Lower Broughton Road, Salford M7 9EX



As group leader, aim to make a decision simply to take one step forward, for example ...

- ✓ talk to church leaders
- ✓ find out what others in the church think
- ✓ use Eutp materials in a house group
- ✓ invite someone to talk to you about their experience of the needs of the local community
- ✓ or

5. Prayer - for the decisions made, the ideas that are forming.

If it is the last time this group will meet, encourage group members to pray for each other eg silently each person prays for the person on their right.

Extra session - Let's stick together

You may like to use this session before session 5, or you could use it as part of your Maundy Thursday event.

Learning outcomes: by the end of this session, group members will have had the opportunity to...

- ✓ recognise the strengths of the group they are part of
- ✓ understand more about the importance of not letting others down



As group leader, you can use this session to help build your group if it has a life that goes beyond the end of this Lent course, or you could use the meal as a 'farewell party' if the group is to end.

The week before this session, you need to decide with your group the best way to share food.

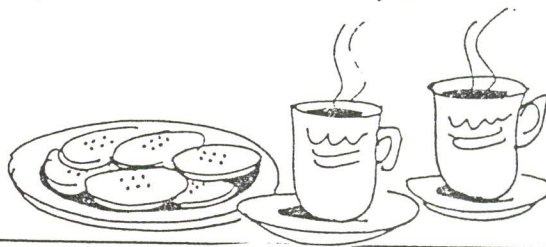
- ✓ an evening group may choose to meet earlier and have an evening meal together
- ✓ or they may like to bring a snack for supper
- ✓ a morning or afternoon group may like to share lunch / dinner (whatever you call it!)
- ✓ perhaps someone would like to go to the chippy for the whole group?



1.

What's good about being part of this group?
What's good about being part of my family?

2. Possibly share food at this point (or at the best time to suit the group). If you're brave try some watercress dipped in salt water for the bitter herbs, or make some bread without yeast.



3.



When did you and your family / friends last celebrate together with a special meal?

Draw out that social times together, meals together, are an important part of our lives. (This discussion could happen over the meal)



4.



"The Passover was important to the Jews...."

On the evening before the Israelites fled from slavery in Egypt, they slaughtered a lamb in each family grouping, and used some of the blood to mark the doorposts of their houses as a sign for God to "pass over" them. While they roasted and ate their lambs, God moved through the land of Egypt, killing the first born children and animals ... the Egyptians in the morning, were only too glad to see the back of the Israelites, and so freedom was granted."

As you explain the next part, you might like to pass round "bitter herbs" and "unleavened bread" so group members can taste as well as listen .. or even a glass of wine?



"The Israelites remembered this event in a traditional family meal, with customs passed down to children and grandchildren ..."

- ✧ Opening prayer - the blessing of the cup (the first of 4 cups to be passed round during the ceremony).
- ✧ Bitter herbs - each person takes some herbs and dips them in salt water, as a reminder of the suffering in Egypt.
- ✧ Unleavened bread - the head of the family takes one of 3 flat cakes of bread, breaks it and puts some aside - remembering the quick exit from Egypt, no time to use yeast and let the bread rise.
- ✧ Telling the story of the first Passover (usually in response to the kids asking "Why...?!!")
- ✧ Singing psalms.
- ✧ All wash their hands, ready for the meal itself (probably the point at which Jesus washed the disciples feet).
- ✧ Say grace and bread is broken
- ✧ Festive meal of roast lamb - reminding of God's protection for his people."



5. Ask someone to read Luke 22 verses 7-23



How would you have felt if you'd been one of the disciples?



What do we do that supports this group?

What do we do that lets this group down?



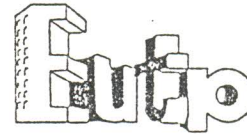
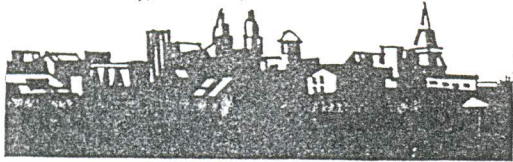
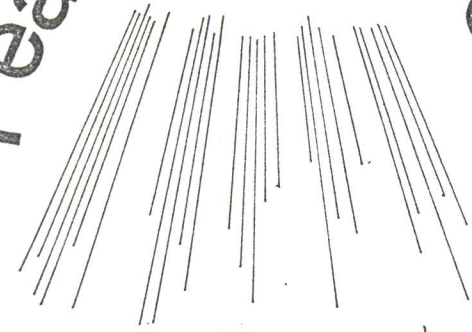
What good things in our group could help bring 'shalom' around here?

6. Prayer, to suit the group - thanking God for this group, our families; prayer for those who still need to flee from persecution; "How, Lord, can we share the good things in this group, with those around us?"

7. You may feel that in your context it would be right to share communion together.



Peace in the City



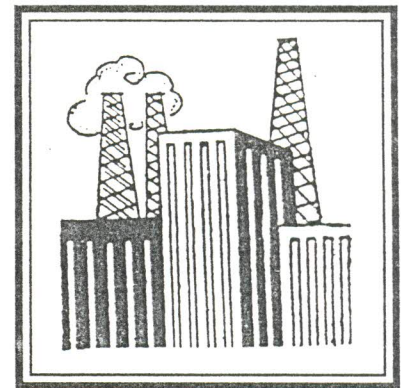
Evangelical Urban Training Project

This Lent course looks at some of the events in the last days of Jesus' life, before his death and resurrection.

It will help you link things in your own life, and things that happen where you live, with Jesus' life.

- Session 1 What do we believe about Jesus?
What will the course be like?
- Session 2 What do other people think I am good at?
- Session 3 What do we mean by 'Peace in the city'?
- Session 4 Are we willing to take on mucky jobs?
- Session 5 How do people see Jesus?
How can we help them see Him?
- Extra session What is good about being part of this group?

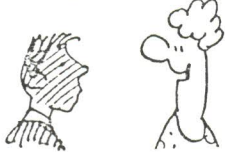
(This may take place as part of your church Maundy Thursday celebration)



For session 3 you will need to bring pictures, photos and newspaper cuttings about your part of the city - start getting them together NOW!



Your group will meet on.....



at.....

Your group leader is

Address / telephone no.....

"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty." [1]

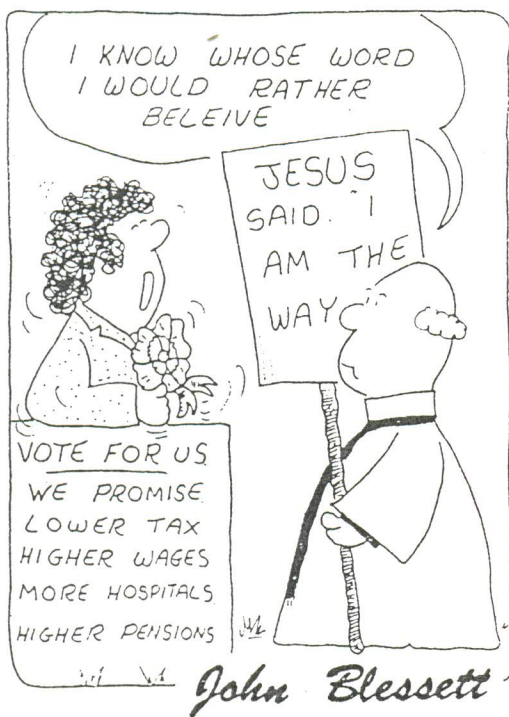


"I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for his sheep." [2]

Jesus spoke to the Pharisees again. "I am the light of the world," he said. "Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." [3]

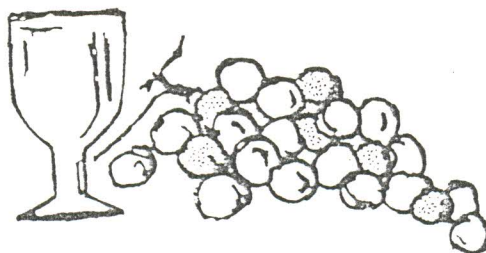
"I am the gate. Whoever comes in by me will be saved; he will come in and go out and find pasture." [4]

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me." [5]



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" [6]

"I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me." [7]



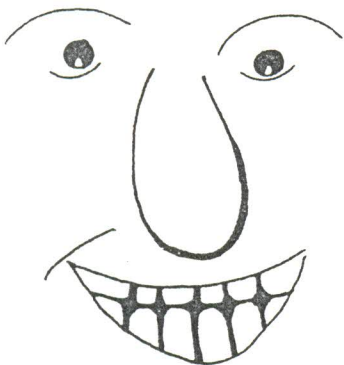
- [1] John 6 verse 35
- [2] John 10 verse 11
- [3] John 8 verse 12
- [4] John 10 verse 9
- [5] John 14 verse 6
- [6] John 11 verses 25, 26
- [7] John 15 verses 1,5

Good at listening	Good at reading the Bible in church
Likely to visit you if you are sick	Will go home and pray about something
People talk to him/her about problems	Good with teenagers
Good with babies and small children	Good with older children
Good with old people	Good at tidying up after a meeting
Good at chatting with their neighbours	Invites new people to church
Helps out at community events	Takes action with the council if needed
Likely to stick to their point in a discussion	Likely to get up and do the washing up
Usually makes the cup of tea	Has a home you feel comfortable in

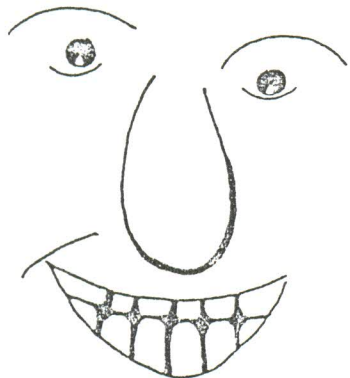
Good at sorting out the building repairs	Talks easily about Jesus
Talks good common sense	Likely to give you a hug
Good company in a pub	Kind to animals
Good at organising things	Good at things like sewing and knitting
Good at looking after plants	Who you'd like to visit you, if you were sick
Good at singing	Good at music
Always got a kind word	Likely to get the group to pray together

Who fits?

Good at listening	
Likely to visit you if you are sick	
People talk to him / her about problems	
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Likely to get up and do the washing up	
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Who you like to visit you, if you were sick	
Good at music	
Likely to get the group to pray together	





"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times have I wanted to put my arms round all your people. just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. but you would not let me!"
Matthew 23 verse 37



He came closer to the city, and when he saw it, he wept over it, saying "If only you knew today what is needed for peace! But you cannot see it."
Luke 19 verses 41, 42



Lord Jesus

**Thank you for all the people in our lives who
have helped us -**

**To learn about you
and to believe in you.**

Please help us to help others to find out

Who you are.

Amen

You may like to use this
space to put a photo of
someone special to you.

