

Unlock's method

These notes assume that a group leader has some basic experience and understanding of working with groups.

A good small book with over 70 drawings (many humorous) is Once upon a group, by Michael and Maggie Kindred, Price £5 plus £1 P&P, from 4M Publications, 20 Dover Street, Southwell, Notts NG25 0EZ

The usual method of Bible study

Most Bible studies begin with text, moving on to analysis of the text, and deduction of general principles. This provides a logical framework, and the person stores the information (in his/her mind, in note form or on disc) for use when needed. It requires a way of thinking and communicating which is based on book and lecture (linear) methods of learning. This is not appropriate for a growing number of people.



Unlock's method of Bible study (used in this pack)

Unlocking real life stories of urban people

Starting from a cartoon picture, people share their real life experiences.



Releasing life changing skills and confidence

Change happens as a result of linking real life experiences with the Bible.

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

They compare their real life stories with similar situations in the story of those who met Jesus in the video. (The pack also includes Bible passages on individual pages, for optional use with a group.)

....leading to more experiences, and the process continues ...

*Do you want more sessions? Then **Do It Yourself!**
What are the issues in the group? Encourage them to share their experiences of what's important to them
Think together ...
Are there any scenes from the video that link with the stories?
Are there any other Bible stories that come to mind?*



Some hints for the group leaders!

This pack is based on stories—people's own stories and the story of the people meeting Jesus.

Be positive about everyone's contribution! There are no right and wrong answers when it comes to stories. If you've got some Bible knowledge, use it to help the group when it's useful—it's an added extra, not the starting point!

You will need to decide as a group leader where you draw the line and say "No, you can't say that about this Bible passage." Our experience has been that taking risks and being positive about whatever people say brings new energy to passages you may have looked at many of times before, as the Biblical story engages with people's experiences.

Unlocking real life stories of urban people

This part is to encourage people to share their everyday life experiences. It is not expecting "spiritual" answers, and there is no right and wrong. Begin by giving out the picture for the session, and use the questions on the leaders page to take you through a process:

Ask "What do you see?" The idea of this part is to make sure the group has some common understanding about what the picture is—or at least people know if they are seeing something differently from others.

Ask "What is this picture about?" Some suggested questions are given in the leaders notes for each session, but add your own! The idea is to get under the surface of the picture. Again, there's no right and wrong answers! Continuing to ask "Why?" can often take a group deeper in to looking at the root causes of some situations.

Ask "Does this ring any bells with real life?" The idea of this part is to encourage group members to share some of their own experiences. What they say will depend largely on how long the group has been going, and how much they trust each other—but be ready to be surprised! It could be that someone's shared story will mean that you, or others, will need to offer support

outside the group.

Ask "What links you can see between your stories?"

Placing one story next to another shows solidarity.

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

This part is to give people an opportunity to move from their stories to the story of those who encountered Jesus.

Show the relevant clip from the video of "The Miracle Maker"

Ask

"Can you make any links between your stories and the story on the video?"

"What light does the story of the people who met Jesus give to our own stories?"

"What light do our stories give to the story of the people who met Jesus?"

Don't forget, there are no wrong answers. Be ready to be surprised by the Holy Spirit's revelations to the group—and be ready to learn. A lot of Bible studies are designed to help the group leader get a preset message across. This pack is designed to give the story of Jesus to people who can make sense of it from their own situation.

You may want to refer to the actual Bible text here, but it's not essential. (You can

make copies of the Bible page for each person to have one, or someone could read it to the group.)

Releasing life changing skills and confidence

This part is to encourage change for individuals and groups, and may lead to change among those around them.

"What difference will this make for us?"

It might be something the group can do. It might be a change of attitude (a positive outcome!)

...and this gives more experiences to unlock, and the process continues...

