



Unlock is an ecumenical Christian organisation that has been working since 1972 to help urban churches of any denomination to respond to the challenges in their areas.

We are especially concerned with helping people in urban 'text-shy' or 'oral learning' cultures to explore their faith.

We don't have a one size fits all approach, or tell you what's best for your own situation.



**Traditional Tabloid Culture.**

Spoken not written stories

Not many books

Maybe catalogues or TV guide...

PMT cards game



## Traditional Method of Bible Study

Start with a text..... “There once was a man”



Analyse text & ..... *The good Samaritan*  
work out principles     *helped his neighbour...*



Apply to life     .....     *We must help others.*

This style provides a framework within which information is learnt for retrieval when it is needed. This requires a way of thinking & communicating which is based on book learning. It is not the appropriate method for a vast number of people.



## So what do you do?

Unlock works in 'non-book' cultures and what we want people to engage with is – a book! Not only that, it is a big fat book, usually with no pictures, and loads of text, often in language that is strange to most of us!



## The Unlock Method

### **Unlocking Life Experience**

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!

### **Revealing the Down to Earth Christ**

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

### **Releasing Life Changing Skills**

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



# Unlocking Life Experience

With prompts...

I don't believe it

Questions

Has anyone ever said something to you that offended you or took your breath away?

Pictures

TV



Revealing the Down to Earth Christ

*Listen to the stories AND be prepared...*

I don't believe it

?

Unwanted Gift

The wise men following the star.

Celebration

The wedding at Cana.

*But when an Unlock worker this in December the group spoke about debt, worry, expense so they listened to the story of the lost coin.*

X Factor

Jesus anointed by a Sinful Woman



## Releasing Life Changing Skills

### Connect

Unwanted Gift

What are the connections between the Scriptures and your own experience?

What are the similarities or differences?

Is there anything you might do differently now in a similar situation ?





## Releasing Life Changing Skills

### Actively Reflect

I don't believe it:-

Plait three strands together to represent the situation being sorted out.

Unwanted Gift:-

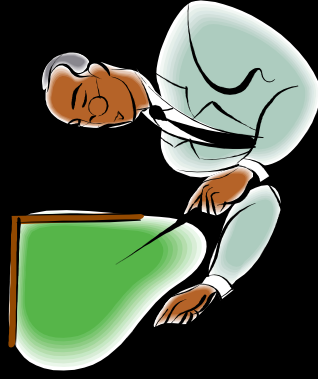
Placing drawings, pictures or models into a gift bag or box to represent unexpected gifts from God.

X Factor:-

Make a valentines card from God!



Learning that is . . . .



Content Led



Learner Led



Project Led



# Learner Led

Local

Relationship

Trust

Safe  
Venue

Patient

Listen

Expect  
change

Flexible

Allow group  
to set  
agenda



## Cooking the Book:

*Have you ever made something that you are proud of?*  
Re-upholstering a 3 piece suite and carving book ends.

### *How did you feel?*

Kinda too big on the inside, like there wasn't enough room for how pleased I was and I might burst.

Pictorial account of the creation story.

*When God made all those things and when he made each of us, He thought it was good, He probably had the same feelings you did when you were pleased with what you made*

There was a moments silence, one of those holy feeling pauses, then, reverently

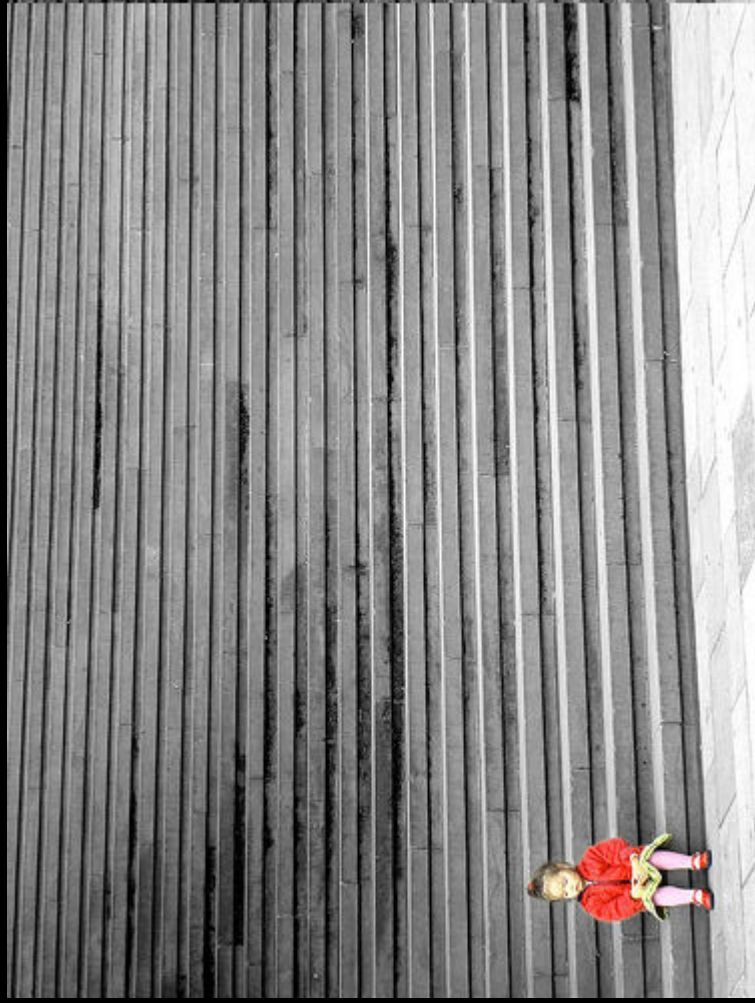
That's boss, that is. God thinks I'm alright.



# Gatekeepers & Protecting Relationships



# Jo & the lost child!



## Unlocking Your Context

If this approach is something that you want to explore further visit the Unlock website [www.unlock-urban.org.uk](http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk), or contact the Unlock National Office:-

Unlock  
Handsworth Parish Centre  
Handsworth Road,  
Handsworth,  
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Tel: 01142939060  
[office@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:office@unlock-urban.org.uk)



**And for those who really like books!**

**Some Initial Recommended Reading**

Once Upon a Group – Kindred & Kindred

Learning for Life – Yvonne Craig

The Urban Christian – Raymond Bakke

Beyond the Good Samaritan – Ann Morisy

Journeying Out – Ann Morisy

Let's Do Theology – Laurie Green

Pedagogy of the Oppressed – Paulo Freire

