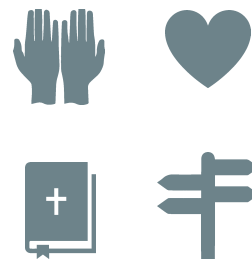


# GOOD NEWS PEOPLE – SMALL GROUP RESOURCES



There's a reason these resources are named 'Good News People' and not 'Good News Person'. The book has been written in a way that does work for individuals to benefit from it on their own, but to maximise its impact it is even more beneficial to read as a small group community. This small group material is your guide and accompaniment as you corporately seek to be an interconnected community of those who live out and bear the good news. It can be used in the context of house groups, a sermon series or other suitable gatherings. Feel free to use as much or as little of the content as suits your group. The material works best if group members have read the relevant chapters of the book beforehand as these frame the content. The corresponding chapters are given in the introduction to each session.

The majority of the activities require no extra props or equipment, but some are enhanced with a simple item, so it is worth reading ahead to see if there is something you need to provide in advance for the group.

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## ✚ How each section works

**Welcome:** After the usually customary hot drink and biscuits, the welcome is a gentle introduction into the subject matter for the meeting. It is hopefully fun and aimed at getting the group talking as they gather.

**Watch:** Each session has at least one video element, including an introductory overview to each session from Gavin and Phil. All of the videos are available online, so can be watched on an internet enabled TV or laptop, or the links can be sent out ahead of the gathering. The links will be found at: [goodnewspeople.church](http://goodnewspeople.church).

**Read:** Each session corresponds to at least one chapter in the book. To get the most out of the material, it is recommended that each group member reads the relevant chapter(s) in the week preceding the meeting, as the session content and discussion questions will focus on the subject matter covered.

**Bible:** There is a key passage or two for each gathering, for the group to read and discuss.

**Discussion:** Having read and watched the relevant content, there are some questions for the group to discuss to help explore the themes and how they apply to their everyday lives.

**Activity:** At the end of most chapters, there is a section with some practical tips. Each session takes a look at some of these, or offers alternatives, and asks whether they might be useful to you, or spark thought into other areas.

**Response:** At the end of each session, there is a time of response, sometimes with a creative reflection, to help group members express how the teaching may apply to their lives.

## SESSION 1

# Good News People: Who are we?

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### Aim

In this session, we will:

- Celebrate how good the good news is and consider how we define it.
- Explore the four key principles of evangelicalism and seek to understand why these are so important.
- Reflect on our own story of being good news people and think about what has influenced us along the way.

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### Before the session

Read – *Good News People* chapters 1 and 2.

You will need pens and paper.



### Welcome

#### Who are you?

One of the key themes of this session is our identity. To begin thinking about this, group members are going to answer some questions about themselves to get to know each other better. You will need a box of chocolates or sweets with a range of different colours. Quality Street or Roses will work well but other brands are fine also! Pass the box around and ask participants to pick out a treat without looking. Depending on the colour, choose a question they have to answer:

- **Green:** What three things would make your perfect weekend?
- **Red:** What is your best and worst childhood memory?
- **Yellow:** Are you a morning or evening person? How does this impact your life?
- **Blue:** If you could relive any year of your life, which would it be and why?
- **Orange:** If you could swap lives with anyone for a week, who would you choose?

- **Purple:** Talk about a time when you felt deeply loved.
- **Pink:** Tell us about a book or a movie that moved you to the core.

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## Watch

Good News People – Who are we?

[eauk.it/gnp-ep-1](http://eauk.it/gnp-ep-1)

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## Bible

Read Mark 1:14-15 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

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## Discussion

In the book, Gavin and Phil share that the good news is an announcement, a story and a person. They write:

...when we consider the gospel, there is another tension to be held. It is both astonishingly simple, and profoundly complex. It is so easy to understand that a young child can respond and marvel and so complex that they can grow up and spend a lifetime appreciating its depths.

The late pastor and writer Tim Keller describes it in these terms, 'The gospel has been described as a pool in which a toddler can wade and yet an elephant can swim. It is both simple enough to tell to a child and profound enough for the greatest minds to explore.'

- How would you describe the gospel?

In the two passages, several key ideas come through:

- Jesus is King.
- His death and resurrection defeated death and sin, meaning salvation is possible.
- Repentance and faith are needed.
- God has saved us through sheer grace.
- Which of these themes resonate most strongly with you?
- Are there any that on reflection you have underappreciated in your understanding of the gospel?

Moving on, we will now look at the four characteristics of good news people that Gavin and Phil describe in the book:

**Bibliocentric** – we believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God and

that the scriptures reveal universal and eternal truth to all humankind.

**Cruciocentric** – a clear focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus and His atoning work on the cross.

**Conversionist** – a strong conviction around the need for personal conversion. People don't come to faith by osmosis. We get on our knees and surrender our lives to Jesus our Saviour.

**Activist** – the gospel needs to be lived out in actions too, as we seek to make the world more like the kingdom of God.

- Talk about a time when you have looked to the Bible to give you clarity on a question of life, for guidance, or a moment when God's word has been good news to you.
- Find some verses in the New Testament that talk about the cross or its impact. What do they mean to you?
- Share your own story of the key moments when you decided to follow Jesus or the difference He makes in your life.
- Think of as many ministries and activities you can that Christians are involved in that are a blessing to others in the UK.

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## ❖ Activity

Take an A4 piece of paper and divide it into four sections. Write at the top of each the words Bible, cross, conversion and activism. Take some time to fill each section with Bible verses and personal experiences that you think of when you consider the importance of these themes. See examples below for each section:

### Bible

- 2 Timothy 3:16: "All scripture is God-breathed..."
- There was a moment in my life when I was really struggling with my identity. Reading the Bible – in particular Ephesians 1 – made me realise how important I was to God.

### Cross

- Romans 5:8: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- I always find Easter really moving. The same with communion. I'm blown away whenever I consider the price Jesus paid for me.

### Conversion

- 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation..."
- I didn't have a dramatic conversion, but I love hearing the stories of those who have met Jesus and experienced dramatic change. I love how much He

changes lives.

## Activism

- Matthew 5:14: “You are the light of the world. A town on a hill cannot be hidden.”
- Volunteering at the foodbank and with young people is really important. Those experiences have really helped me work out my faith and learn what being a disciple is like.



## Response

Using the paper you have used for the activity, spend some time reflecting on these firm foundations of good news people. Play a song such as ‘Cornerstone’ or ‘Build My Life’ that speaks of the firm footing we have in Jesus. Pray for one another that they would know the strength of the solid spiritual ground beneath their feet, whatever the circumstances of their lives.

## SESSION 2

# Brave and kind

### Aim

In this session, we will:

- Learn from the Acts church about how we can be brave and kind in a culture that is hostile to our message.
- Reflect on the need for us to be kind and consider how kindness and bravery complement one another.
- Think about how we practically stand firm on the word of God and reach out with the gospel, and how these brave and kind characteristics influence both actions.

### Before the session

Read *Good News People* chapter 4.

You may need pens and paper.



### Welcome

#### Dangerous jobs

To introduce the subject matter of bravery, we are going to guess or rank the top ten most dangerous jobs in the world. You can choose how you play. You may want to try and guess them and award points for where they appear in the rankings, or write them out on strips of paper and ask the group to rank them one to ten. Below is the list for you to use:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Logging workers                      | 6. Drivers and truck drivers |
| 2. Roofers                              | 7. Refuse collectors         |
| 3. Fishing and hunting workers          | 8. Iron and steel workers    |
| 4. Construction workers                 | 9. Underground miners        |
| 5. Aircraft pilots and flight engineers | 10. Agricultural workers     |

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## Watch

Good News People – Brave and kind  
[eauk.it/gnp-ep-2](http://eauk.it/gnp-ep-2)

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## Bible

Acts 4:1-37

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## Discussion

In the book Gavin and Phil share stories of being recipients of great kindness and their attempts at being brave.

- Talk about a time when someone did something kind to you or for you. How did it feel?
- Can you think of a time when you did something brave? What was that like?

The Bible passage in Acts 4 give us a snapshot into the life of the disciples trying to live out kingdom values as the early church takes shape. It would take great bravery to make the exclusive statement that Peter makes in verse 12: “Salvation is found in no one else.”

- What issues do you find you have to be brave about in the 21st century?
- What is your experience of living for Jesus in a world of so many worldviews?
- What can we learn from the persecuted church in this regard?

When Peter and John are released from prison, the disciples respond in prayer. In the book, Gavin and Phil write:

In Acts 4:23–31, we get a seat at one of the fiery prayer meetings of the Acts church at a pivotal moment. Under intense scrutiny and attack from the authorities, many of us would pray for a change in circumstances. Seeing 3000 new believers, many of us would pray for deeper impact. But what they pray for is to be bold: “Now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness”(Acts 4:29).

What might it look like if the content of our 21st century prayer meetings, church services and home groups looked more like that of the early church? Perhaps one of the reasons we aren’t seeing the expansive growth we see in the book of Acts is that we aren’t praying Acts-like prayers. Let’s make boldness our prayer.

- Why are we sometimes reluctant to share our faith? Why does it take such

boldness?

- Can you think of a time when God answered your prayer for bravery to share your faith or invite a friend to church? How did that go and how did you feel?

Finally, this chapter gives us an insight into the kindness of the early church. In verses 32 to 35 we read that the believers shared everything they had with anyone in need.

- Think about the tension between bravery and kindness. What might be the dangers of being too kind without being brave, eg never challenging bad behaviour? How about being too brave without being kind, eg speaking truth without love? Have you ever experienced either of these?
- The disciples' radical generosity is a challenge to us. Where do you think we, as the church, can grow in kindness? What might be the impact on our communities?

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## Activity

Set yourself a challenge that involves being brave or kind or both to complete in the next week or two. It could be anything, but here are some examples:

- Invite a friend to church.
- Buy a homeless person a cup of coffee and offer to pray for them.
- Take cakes or chocolate around to neighbours (like Phil and his family did at Easter).
- Post a helpful Christian video on your social media that communicates the gospel.

Then, either text a group member, post on a group chat if you have one or write a note to go in a fellow group member's Bible so that they can pray for you and ask you how it is going in a couple of weeks.

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## Response

Reread out loud the prayer that the disciples pray in Acts 4:24-30 and pray it for yourselves. Take some time together to ask the Holy Spirit to increase your bravery and kindness in whatever contexts and situations you are facing in this moment.

## SESSION 3

# Culturally relevant without selling out

### Aim

In this session, we will:

- Think biblically about why we keep the substance of our messages the same but must consider how we change the style to speak to different audiences.
- Use the analogy of a house to think about our practices and gatherings as good news people, and consider how effective they are, especially at reaching unchurched people in today's world.
- Remember the ancient practices that have brought us life and celebrate those that have deepened our relationship with Jesus.

### Before the session

Read *Good News People* chapter 5.

You will need pens and paper.



### Welcome

#### Changing times

In this game, group members have to guess whether an event took place before or after the previous answer. Read out an event and then ask the group whether the next one happened before or after it.

- The first McDonald's restaurant opens (1948)
- World War II begins (1939)
- The discovery of Pluto (1930)
- The first modern Olympic Games (1896)
- The opening of the Panama Canal (1914)
- The sinking of the Titanic (1912)
- The first email ever sent (1971)

*continued...*

- The moon landing (1969)
- The release of the first Star Wars movie (1977)
- The Euro currency is introduced (1999)
- The launch of Google (1998)
- Facebook is launched (2004)
- The first artificial hamburger grown in a lab is unveiled (2013)

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## Watch

Good News People – Culturally relevant without selling out  
[eauk.it/gnp-ep-3](http://eauk.it/gnp-ep-3)

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## Bible

Acts 17:16-34

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## Discussion

In the book, Gavin and Phil pick out some key stages in the Apostle Paul's approach to the people of Athens in Acts 17.

"I see that in every way you are very religious." Paul finds common humanity and identifies with them. He, too, is very religious. Whether it is a mutual interest in football, hipster coffee, gardening, salsa, Taylor Swift, 80s cartoons or 90s vinyl, we build chemistry with people through similar passions. The best gospel connections take place on common ground.

- How would you characterise the main aspects of the culture we are living in today? Who are our heroes?

"To an unknown god." Here we see Paul's genius. In the polytheistic marketplace, he spots an altar to the unknowable: an ode to no one, an absent phantom deity, a road to nowhere, and he builds a bridge. He is basically saying, 'Guys, you know that God that you don't know? Well, I know who He is. Let me tell you about Him.'

- Can you think of examples of where things in popular culture point to Jesus? Can you think of lyrics of songs or themes in films that we cherish that reveal a deeper truth?

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of Heaven and earth." Having built his bridge of cultural connection, he now drives the good news across it into the hearts of his listeners. Note that the essence

of the message is still the heart of the good news. He still talks about Jesus and His victory over the grave (verse 31). He still calls people to repent and believe (verse 30).

- Talk about the relationship between cultural relevance and the temptation to water down the gospel. How can attempting to connect with the world result in compromising the core message of Jesus and the truth of the Bible?

Gavin and Phil go on to talk about church that is EPIC – experiential, participatory, image-driven and connected. They then use the image of a house to help us think about church gatherings that connect with people who are exploring faith.

- What are some of the things that we do as a church that you think help people who are not yet Christians? What is working well?
- Where can we improve in terms of how we engage with culture and create gatherings with less unnecessary barriers to those who are unfamiliar with how we do things?

Finally, this theme also addresses that it is ok for us to do things that are different and distinct from the world. We are salt and light. Some of what we do is unavoidably weird in the world's eyes. There are also some practices that Christians have engaged in for centuries that are biblical and have stood the test of time.

- What are the blessings of things like Communion and The Lord's Prayer that believers have engaged in for the last 2,000 years? Describe what these mean to you.

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## Activity

Take a piece of paper and create the floor plan of the ground floor of a house, as if an architect were drawing it. Play some worship music and take time to reflect and pray about how your church is doing in each of the areas of creating a sense of home. Ask the Lord to speak to you about what you can do individually and corporately to move forward. As a reminder of what the rooms are about, consider:

- How's your hallway? How might you make people feel more welcome at church, at work, in your local community?
- How's your living room? Are you part of smaller spaces where deep friendships can be made?
- How's your kitchen? How creative and engaging is your communication?
- How's your dining room? Are you able to have the difficult conversations? Are you preaching on and discussing the real issues that affect people's lives?



## Response

Read Colossians 4:2-6

Take time to pray for your own church and the church across the UK:

- Pray that God may open a door for our message.
- Pray that we would be clear in our communication, but also full of grace, knowing how to answer everyone.
- Pray that we may make the most of every opportunity.

## SESSION 4

# Realistic and hopeful

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### Aim

In this session, we will:

- Consider how we hold the tension between avoiding the pitfalls of blind optimism and unnecessary pessimism by being realistic people of hope.
- Reflect on where God has been strong in our weakness and worked powerfully in our fragility and vulnerability.
- Tell good news stories of the faithfulness of Jesus in our lives and the lives of others.

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### Before the session

Read *Good News People* chapter 6.

Get hold of some seeds, compost and small plant pots.

If you have a cross or an image of a cross, that will help for the response section.



### Welcome

#### Glass half full or glass half empty?

This is a game to assess the levels of optimism and pessimism in the room around a few world events. Read out the following scenarios and group members must decide whether they are hopeful that it will happen or not (either in their lifetime or the next 50 years – up to you which you decide). If group members are holding mugs or cups, they could hold these higher or lower to demonstrate their hopefulness levels.

### Scenarios:

- England's men's or women's football team winning the World Cup
- Scientists discovering a cure for cancer
- Robot servants in people's homes
- The UK winning Eurovision
- Drone parcel deliveries
- Most cars becoming self-driving
- An end to extreme poverty
- World peace
- The number of Christians exceeding 3 billion globally (currently 2.4 billion)

## Watch

Good News People – Realistic and hopeful  
[eauk.it/gnp-ep-4](http://eauk.it/gnp-ep-4)

## Bible

2 Corinthians 4:7–18

## Discussion

- What is your more natural tendency – to be hopeful or realistic? How does faith in Jesus impact this, if at all?

Paul in 2 Corinthians 4 reminds us that we are “hard-pressed, perplexed, persecuted and struck down”. Gavin and Phil unpack ‘struck down’ and suggest that Paul is referring to a mental and emotional struggle.

- Which of these four characteristics resonate with you at the moment? How do you feel about the invitation that you can be real with yourself, others and God about how you are really doing? Have you ever struggled to admit that things are not ok? Why do you think we often do this?

Gavin and Phil write:

In an age of disillusionment, politicians and advertisers alike have tried to harness the power of hope to capture our minds, votes or purchasing decisions. This can be taken to extremes. Multi-million-pound advertisements by a mainstream fast-food provider urge us to “Believe in chicken”. A recent Christmas marketing campaign from a company selling butter rather ambitiously claimed that “There is hope in baking”. We are as partial to a Victoria sponge or a custard slice as most people, but our hope

is not in cakes and pastries.

- As Christians, our hope is in Jesus. What else do you see people put their hope in?

Paul then goes on in verse 13 to say, “I believed, therefore I have spoken.” It’s as though the fragile jar of clay can’t contain the treasure.

- Talk about a time when you have given someone hope or someone has shared hope with you. Who do you know who needs some hope in their life today?

Romans 5:3–4 talks about the fact that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character, and character hope.

- Can you think of a time when you were suffering and God did something that grew your resilience and hopefulness? Has there ever been a moment when He used you to make a difference in someone else’s life when you were struggling?

Gavin and Phil close the chapter by talking about Puddleglum in the Narnia books.

- Do you have a favourite Narnia character?
- How can we ‘Be more Puddleglum’ and get the right balance between realism and hope?

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## Activity

Gavin and Phil talk in the book about the Garden of Hope. Fill a plant pot with compost and plant a seed in it. Take it home, water it and put it somewhere you will see it regularly as a reminder of the slow work that God is doing in you. As you complete the activity, talk about a situation that you are facing that is requiring you to have patient hope.

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## Response

Play ‘Living Hope’ or another suitable worship song. If you have a cross, or an image of the cross, place it in the middle of the room and encourage group members to focus their attention on it as a reminder that the cross and resurrection are the source of our hope and Jesus is the centrepiece of where our hope is placed. He is also the person we can be most real with.

## SESSION 5

# Decisions and disciples

### Aim

In this session, we will:

- Reflect on our own journey of conversion and the importance of decision moments in our lives.
- Consider the core components of discipleship and ask where we might be growing as disciples in this season.
- Explore the need for the church to be those who both continually invite unbelievers to repent and believe and encourage people to be disciples at every stage of faith.

### Before the session

Read *Good News People* chapter 7.

You will need a box of Cadbury's Heroes and pens and paper.



### Welcome

#### Friend, follow or forget?

For this game, you will need a box of Cadbury's Heroes.

One of the key themes of this session is following Jesus and the decisions we make along the way. To introduce this idea, group members have to choose a chocolate from the box and the one they choose determines which question they are asked. When they have given their answer, they have to say why they chose that person, and then the other group members can comment whether they would like to:

- A. Be friends with that person. (They really rate them as well.)
- B. Follow that person. (They are sort of interested but not that much.)
- C. Forget that person. (They aren't bothered at all.)

**Fudge:** Name a fictional hero

**Caramel:** Name an underrated hero

**Dairy Milk:** Name someone who had a profound impact on your journey of faith

**Twirl:** Name a musical hero

**Creme Egg:** Name a hero in the Bible (apart from Jesus)

**Eclair:** Name someone from history (apart from Jesus) whom you would like to meet

**Dinky Decker:** Name a childhood hero

**Crunchie:** Name a sporting hero

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## Watch

Good News People – Decisions and disciples  
[eauk.it/gnp-ep-5](http://eauk.it/gnp-ep-5)

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## Bible

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 and Hebrews 10:19-25

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## Discussion

In the book, Gavin and Phil explain the big themes involved in people becoming Christians presently in the UK, such as:

**Friendship** – most people are helped by a Christian friend.

**Mercy ministry and gospel** – many come to a group run by the church (toddlers, foodbank etc) and are invited to take the next step.

**The Bible** – people simply reading God's truth.

**Digital** – through posts on social media, researching online watching services.

**Encounter, prayer and dreams** – God supernaturally calling people to Himself.

- Which of these surprises you and why? Are there any other themes that you have seen to be effective?
- How can you and your church maximise these pathways as you seek to reach out to those in your community with the good news?

2 Corinthians 5:17 speaks about the transformation that takes place, when we become Christians. Psalm 103 reminds us to “forget not His benefits”.

- For you, what are the biggest blessings of following Jesus? (Eg knowing you are loved, a sense of purpose, belonging to a community, assurance of

hope etc.)

Phil and Gavin write about the importance of meeting together as a church for discipleship:

But growing as a disciple is only one benefit of being connected in a mutually life-giving community...When we show up at church gatherings, we bring something into that physical space that no one else can. When we are not there, the room is impoverished as a result. Before you decide to stay at home on a Sunday, remember the gift that you are to your community and what you bring just by being there. Most importantly, the people of God together, and your part among them, glorifies Jesus. Ephesians 3:21 says, "To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations".

- Hebrews 10:24–25 urges us to spur one another on and not give up meeting together. Why do you see being part of a community as important to life as a disciple?
- What are the other practices and rhythms that you see as vital to discipleship and following Jesus closely? If a group member mentions something that you have not considered, why not ask them about it and give that a try?

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## Activity

### What's your story?

The 2 Corinthians passage explains that we are Christ's ambassadors. We get to play a part in pointing people towards Jesus. One of the ways we do that is by telling others the difference Jesus makes in our lives.

Give group members a pen and paper and ask them to write the key chapters of their story down. If someone asks why we are Christian, one of the best things we can do is share our story. Encourage the group to map the key moments of their journey and think about what they would say if someone asked them why they followed Jesus. Ask them to consider both the decisions on the way and what life is like as a disciple now. You may want to consider:

- When were the times you knew God was real?
- What would your life be like without Jesus in it?
- How does faith give you a way of understanding the world?
- When have you known God to be close?

For a deeper explanation of this activity, you may find this video useful:

[eauk.it/gnp-faith-story](http://eauk.it/gnp-faith-story)

Once group members have spent some time doing this, two or three might like to share what they have written as time allows.



## Response

A good habit of a disciple is stillness and silence. All of the other responses in these sessions involve music or praying out loud, but our encouragement to you at the end of this session is to be still. Allow a few minutes to reflect quietly on two things:

1. The key moments in your journey. Ask the Lord to take you back to them and thank Him for the fruit of the choices that you have made.
2. Your life as a disciple. Where are the disciplines and actions that are bringing you life? Where is He drawing you further forward into deeper intimacy with Him?

At the end of five minutes or so, pray to close the session.

## SESSION 6

# United and diverse

### Aim

In this session, we will:

- Celebrate the diversity of the UK church across age, race, background and story, and reflect on our own experience of being a church with people who are different from us.
- Consider the biblical mandate for unity and why it matters so much to Jesus.
- Draw on the themes and experiences that emerge as a group and explore how we continue being good news people.

### Before the session

Read *Good News People* chapter 8.

You will need a ball of wool.



### Welcome

#### Things in common

You will need a ball of wool. The purpose of this game is to find things that group members have in common. By the end of the game this will be represented visually by a web of connections using the wool.

The game starts with a group member holding the ball of wool. They must come up with a characteristic, experience or interest that they have in common with at least one other person in the room. It's not a competition (unless you choose to make it one!), but the best questions find a characteristic that only one other group member shares. Here are some examples of characteristics:

- Born in the same month
- Support the same team
- Have the same favourite food
- Been to the same country

When the group member finds something in common with someone else, they hold onto the thread at one end and throw the ball of wool to the person they have a connection with, allowing it to unravel as they throw it. When that person finds common ground with the next person, they hold onto the piece of wool connecting them to the previous person and throw the ball to the next person. By the end of the game, a web should have developed across the room. Hopefully, you have found a few more things out about each other, as well as some things that you don't share.

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## Watch

Good News People – United and diverse  
[eauk.it/gnp-ep-6](http://eauk.it/gnp-ep-6)

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## Bible

John 17:20–26

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## Discussion

Of all the things that Jesus could have prayed for, His prayer is that those who will believe in Him will be one.

- How surprised are you by this?
- What would you expect the other prayers would be that Jesus would pray for His future church?

Gavin and Phil write:

In our culture, separation, hostility and isolation are seemingly rampant – mentally, physically, tribally, spiritually, geographically and emotionally – and yet the Lord calls His children to cross all of these divides by coming together and reflecting His glory.

- Where do you see the divisions in our world at the moment? Who are the people who seem most divided from one another? How does this play out?
- Think about your church family. Talk about the people in it and the range of differences across ages, backgrounds and stories.

In His prayer, Jesus reveals a wonderful link and the fruit of such unity in the church. In verse 23 He prays, “Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” People will know about Jesus and His great love as a result of God’s people being united.

- Why do you think this is? How does unity reveal Jesus to the world?
- What does this look like? How do we practise unity in a local church? In a town or city? Across a nation?

There is one more important connection to make. Jesus prays that the church might be one “As we are one”. He is referring to His relationship with the Father. As the Trinity is united, so we are to be. Gavin and Phil write:

Just as in the Trinity, there are differing functions, so too within the body, there will be a beautiful variety of gifts and service. The global family of God is the most wonderful picture of different ages, races, attitudes, characteristics, gifts and hopes all brought to God to serve together and glorify Him. Jesus is praying that God would do it, not us. It is not possible for us to create this kind of unity for ourselves. It cannot be forced, and no amount of human effort can make it happen.

- How else is the relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit the perfect blueprint for a united church?
- Jesus’ prayer is for unity. It has to be a work of God to make it happen. How might these two factors inspire us to pray for the church to be one? What rhythms of prayer could we put in place to make this happen?

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## Activity

Watch The Comeback: [eauk.it/gnp-comeback](http://eauk.it/gnp-comeback)

After watching the video, take some time to pray around these three themes:

- Thank Jesus for what His life, death and resurrection have achieved for us.
- Pray that the church would hold firmly to the truth of the gospel, be united on its firm foundation and passionately, faithfully and creatively communicate it to a world in need of hope.
- Think personally about the people in our lives who need to know the difference the resurrection makes and pray for them.

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## Response

Read Psalm 40 as a final blessing.

The book closes with words from this Psalm, which include both imagery of the footing that the gospel gives and the promise that many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him. This is what it is to be good news people. A firm foundation and an audacious hope that the world can be changed in Jesus’ name.

# A note from Gavin and Phil

Thank you so much for going through these sessions. We hope they have been a blessing and have helped you. If you would like to let us know how you found it, do get in touch via our social media channels or complete the contact form at [goodnewspeople.church](https://goodnewspeople.church).

Every blessing.