

Holy Smoke!

Set your imagination on fire with...

an Unlock Glasgow event at Bridgeton St Francis in the East
Saturday 31st May 2008



Unlocking real life stories of urban people

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

Releasing life changing skills and confidence



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

This session took 2 hours, but could easily be longer if people are creative in engaging with the themes. We had a fruit-and-water break in the middle.

.....

The gathering (15 mins approx.)

Welcome: in a small circle invite people to share their names and where they have come from.

Introduce UNLOCK (you can use the 3 (three)-fold Unlock method).

Remember as a group the last encounter. Get participants input from those who were there and from those who were not there. Create a collective memory which will set the scene for the monthly pilgrimages

Game/icebreaker/introduction to main session

You will need speech bubble post-its and pens for each person. Ask people to imagine that they are *inside* the park on a sunny day.

-What would somebody have to say to make them leave the park?

Each person should stick their speech bubble post-it on the flip-chart (or wall).

Again, ask people to imagine that they are *outside* of the park on a sunny day.

-What would somebody have to say to stop them from going into the park?

Each person should stick their speech bubble post-it on the flip-chart (or wall).

The person facilitating this part should then invite/make some general comments about the speech bubbles, seeking to link with the workshop which follows.



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Unlocking real life stories of urban people

Activity 1: Why violence? (30-40 mins)

In the circle, show people **appendix 1**.

-What do people think of when they see this word?

Get people to share their experiences of violence in our world. This should be done in a sensitive way, making clear that the experience can be something that people have seen, heard about or experienced. It can come from the media, a community experience or a personal experience. There should be *NO* pressure that people express personal (subjective) experiences of violence. It is sometimes helpful if someone (the facilitator or another person) can jot down the gist of each idea on a flip-chart. Reference can be made to this to link ideas/experiences.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has produced a World Report on Health and Violence. In it, the WHO introduce three broad categories for helping us understanding violence:

Self-directed violence: suicidal behaviour and self-abuse such as self-mutilation. Suicidal behaviour ranges in degree from merely thinking about ending one's life, to planning it, finding the means to do so, attempting to kill oneself, and completing the act. However, these should not be seen as different points on a single continuum. Many people who entertain suicidal thoughts never act on them, and those who attempt suicide may have no intention of dying.

Interpersonal violence: divides into 2 (two) subcategories: (1) Family and intimate partner violence-that is violence largely between family members and intimate partners, usually, though not exclusively, taking place in the home. (This includes forms of violence such as child abuse, abuse of the elderly, etc); (2) Community violence-violence between individuals who are unrelated, and who may or may not know each other, generally taking place outside the home. (This includes youth violence, random acts of violence, rape or sexual assault by strangers, and violence in institutional settings such as schools, workplace, prisons, church, nursing homes).



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Collective violence: the instrumental use of violence by people who identify themselves as members of a group against another group, in order to achieve political, economic or social objectives. It takes a variety of forms-armed conflicts within or between states, genocide, repression and other human rights abuses, terrorism and organised violent crime.

Invite participants to gather the shared experiences of violence (those on the flip-chart) under each broad category.

Reflect together:

- Is it helpful to approach an understanding of violence in this way?

Revealing Good News of the down to earth Christ

Activity 2: "Who said it was the story of Moses? Zipporah and Miriam speaks (30-40 mins)

For this part, you will need copies of the Bible texts (see **appendix 2**).

Exodus 2 vv 1-5

Exodus 2 vv 16 – 22

Exodus 4 vv 24 – 26

Exodus 15 vv 19 – 21

Exodus 18 vv 1 – 4

You can split the people into 5 (five) groups (one for each text) or you can divide into pairs with each pair having a different text. Invite each group (or pair) to read the text. Remind people that following the UNLOCK approach they should try to read the texts from the perspective of experiences of violence.

Ask each group (or pair):

-What kind of violence (if any) do they see in the text? (use the WHO categories as a guide).



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk

info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Ask each group (or pair) to pass the text onto the next group (or pair). Repeat the above question

After an appropriate time, you can draw people back into the larger circle. In the larger circle you can invite reading of each text or general comments from people. Again, write any ideas on a flip-chart for people to be able to refer to.

A time for milk and honey (15-20mins)

A rest, something to eat, something to drink (perhaps fruits and water instead of tea/coffee and cakes and biscuits), a time to chat, a time to look at the resource table, (some kind of evaluation game/form), etc

The going (15-20 mins)

Releasing life changing skills and confidence

Invite participants into in a circle. In the middle of the circle have "the burning bush". Use your imagination to create this-it can be a focal point for the closing prayer. You may want to gather people with a song appropriate for the community.

Invite people to share stories or examples of overcoming violence. Or ask if there is anything practical that can be done to overcome the violence in the Bible stories.

Give each person a flame for "the burning bush". You can cut this out of coloured card/paper/etc. Invite each person to write down how they can try to overcome violence. And then place their flame in "the burning bush". (Again, you could sing a song appropriate to the community at this point).

Once people return to their seats close with a short meditation or prayer or time of quiet.



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Violence

Violence

Violence



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Exodus 2 vv 1-5

(text from Today's English Version: Bible Society)

During this time a man from the tribe of Levi married a woman of his own tribe, and she bore him a son. When she saw what a fine baby he was, she hid him for three months. But when she could not hide him any longer, she took a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar to make it watertight. She put the baby in it and then placed it in the tall grass at the edge of the river. The baby's sister stood some distance away to see what would happen to him.



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Appendix 2

Exodus 2 vv 16-22

(text from Today's English Version: Bible Society)

One day, when Moses was sitting by a well, seven daughters of Jethro, the priest of Midan, came to draw water and fill the troughs for their father's sheep and goats. But some shepherds drove Jethro's daughters away. Then Moses went to their rescue and watered their animals for them. When they returned to their father, he asked, "Why have you come back so early today?" "An Egyptian rescued us from the shepherds", they answered, "and he even drew water for us and watered our animals". "Where is he?" he asked his daughters. "Why did you leave that man out there? Go and invite him to eat with us". So Moses agreed to live there, and Jethro gave him his daughter Zipporah in marriage, who bore him a son. Moses said to himself, "I am a foreigner in this land, and so I name him Gershom".



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Exodus 4 vv 24-26

(text from Today's English Version: Bible Society)

At a camping place on the way to Egypt, the Lord met Moses and tried to kill him. Then Zipporah, his wife, took a sharp stone, cut off the foreskin of her son, and touched Moses' feet with it. Because of the rite of circumcision she said to Moses, "You are a husband of blood to me". And so the Lord spared Moses' life.



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Exodus 15 vv 19-21

(text from Today's English Version: Bible Society)

The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. But when the Egyptian chariots with their horses and drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought the water back, and it covered them.

The prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took her tambourine, and all the women followed her, playing tambourines and dancing. Miriam sang for them:

"Sing to the Lord, because he has won a glorious victory; he has thrown the horses and their riders into the sea".



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk

info@unlockglasgow.org.uk

Exodus 18 vv 1-4

(text from Today's English Version: Bible Society)

Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midan, heard about everything that God had done for Moses and the people of Israel when he led them out of Egypt. So he came to Moses, bringing with him Moses' wife Zipporah, who had been left behind, and Gershom and Eliezer, her two sons. (Moses has said, "I have been a foreigner in a strange land"; so he had named one son Gershom. He had also said, "The God of my father helped me and saved me from being killed in Egypt", so he had named the other son Eliezer).



www.unlockglasgow.org.uk
info@unlockglasgow.org.uk