

The winter conference

for GB's children and youth leaders

5 November 2016

Didcot Baptist Church Centre,
Wantage Road, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0BS

Including

volumise

— a resource for equipping leaders

Hope: Why we do what we do

2018 is quite a year for the church in the UK. We know of course that 2018 marks GB's 125th year in mission; a year which will see us Give Hope, Build Hope and Celebrate Hope among even more lives through the #WeAreGB125 anniversary project (<http://leaders.gbaw-members.org.uk/activities/resource/your-quick-guide-to-getting-involved-in-wearegb125>). In this very same year, the pan-church organisation HOPE (www.hopetogether.org.uk) will also be in full swing with a HOPE 2018 initiative too!

That's why GB and HOPE are pleased to be linking up over the next couple of years – working towards a great 2018, in which even more lives are transformed by Jesus' love.

As part of this collaboration Phil Timson (HOPE Youth Director) led this Volumise session at GB's conference in November 2016, exploring the call and command of Christ to 'go and make disciples' (Matthew Ch.28:19-20). Through this session we engaged with the message of hope: why we do what we do – Jesus – and how we can share His love in both words and actions.

Phil is a qualified youth and community worker and ordained Baptist evangelist, with more than 20 years' experience in youth work, evangelism and ministry.

What is this resource?

This resource is based upon that shared in the conference Volumise session and has been designed to enable you to run a practical session with the volunteers in your local group, district or regional teams exploring the related themes. Equally the material can also be used by individuals.

The material is linked to HOPE's Fun-size Mission Academy and the Chatterbox Tool which forms part of their HOPE 2018 initiative and vision to be mobilising 100,000 young people to be practically sharing their faith. The work that GB does will help to play a part in this vision being realised.

This resource is accompanied by a range of resources that will help you and your volunteers explore the good news of the Gospel with your young people, in turn equipping them to communicate this through both their words and actions.

How should I use it?

This resource contains four sections helping us share the reason for our hope and why we do what we do – Jesus!

1. Engage – why people need hope and what part we should play in this
2. Equip – building confidence in sharing the Gospel
3. Empower – shaping mission activities that we can do
4. Enjoy – reviewing and responding, celebrating the hope that we have because of Jesus.

These sections are complimented with video clips of Phil Timson equipping and inspiring you as you share and engage with the material. Do check out the Volumise section within the online GB Leaders' Resource Base to access these supporting videos.

This resource is flexible and can be used in a variety of settings:

- Local GB group, district, regional meetings/gatherings
- During a themed night on evangelism or mission looking at the work we're doing as part of the #WeAreGB125 anniversary project and how this links into the HOPE 18 initiative
- Individually online.

The material sits alongside the Chatterbox Tool (<http://leaders.gbaw-members.org.uk/activities/resource/hope-why-we-do-what-we-do>), which offers a simple process of equipping young people to engage in word and action mission.

Below are some suggested questions and activities which can be used to equip leaders in your local, district or regional teams, as they explore this Volumise material. In total the material could last between 1hr 30 – 2 hours depending on the number of activities and questions you engage with. Feel free to pick and choose activities depending on time and relevancy.

Together, let's grow an intentionality around evangelism, bringing the good news of Jesus to our children and young people and equipping them in turn to do the same in the world around them.

Hope: Why we do what we do

INTRODUCTION

Have a look at Talking Jesus (research into people's perceptions of Jesus, Christians and evangelism in England at www.talkingjesus.org). Reflect upon how 42% don't believe, or are unsure if, Jesus was a real person. What does this say or mean about evangelism today?

Hope: Why we do what we do

I. ENGAGE

This section enables us to understand why people need hope and what part we should play in this.

ACTIVITY:

If you have time, complete one of the Jesus stories from the Who? section of the Chatterbox Tool (<http://leaders.gbew-members.org.uk/activities/resource/hope-why-we-do-what-we-do>).

Discuss with the group:

- What did Jesus say, what did Jesus do and what does this teach me?

For more detailed reflections and questions on these stories (Zacchaeus and the Woman at the Well) go to the Volumise section on the online GB Leaders' Resource Base.

BEFORE WATCHING PHIL'S VIDEO, DISCUSS TOGETHER:

Discuss your understanding of the word 'evangelism'. What do you think and feel when you hear this word?

- Read Matthew Ch.28:19-20. Why is it important that Christians should 'Go, and make disciples'?
- In what ways can it be challenging to 'Go' and make Jesus known through your words and actions?

AFTER WATCHING PHIL'S VIDEO, DISCUSS TOGETHER:

- In what ways, do you see a lack of hope in the lives of children and young people? Are there times when you've experienced this in your work among them?
- In what ways do you currently take risks and 'go' and in what ways do you find it easier to be comfortable and 'stay'?
- In a challenging context of church decline, how can we demonstrate an urgency and be more intentional in making Jesus known, both in our personal lives and in our work with GB?

PRAY TOGETHER:

- Thank God for the opportunity we have to play a part in God's mission - the Missio Dei; that the father sends the Son, and the Son in turn sends us
- Ask God to help you model evangelism in your own life, so that making Jesus known can be a natural part of daily living.

Hope: Why we do what we do

2. EQUIP

This section helps us to build confidence in sharing the Gospel.

ACTIVITY:

If you have time discuss this scenario:

- You're on a plane and you're about to crash! The passenger next to you looks at you and says 'I can see you're a Christian. What must I do to be saved?' You now have just three minutes to sum up the Christian faith. What do you say to communicate the good news of the Gospel?

BEFORE WATCHING PHIL'S VIDEO, DISCUSS TOGETHER:

Stories can be very powerful when it comes to making Jesus known. Knowing God's story (the Gospel), your story (your testimony), and listening to the story of the people we're engaging with, is vital. Read 2 Corinthians Ch.3:2-3 and 1 Peter Ch.3:15.

- The power of our testimony lies in the evidence of how Jesus has impacted our lives. Agree/ disagree? Discuss.
- Our story conveys the truth of God at work in our lives. Take the opportunity to tell your personal story of faith – your testimony.

AFTER WATCHING PHIL'S VIDEO, DISCUSS TOGETHER:

- Read John Ch.3:16. Do you think that Christians today have lost confidence in communicating the Gospel using words? Why/why not?
- Discuss together the many reasons that someone might come to faith in Jesus. What key words and themes do you feel are important when sharing the good news of the Gospel?
- How can we create an environment for GB's young people to grow in confidence with a three-story approach to sharing the Gospel?

PRAY TOGETHER:

- Thank God, that in His grace, He chooses to use us, His followers, to bring the good news to the world around us
- Ask God, that we might both demonstrate and communicate the good news of Jesus, and that consequently our confidence in sharing our faith might grow.

Hope: Why we do what we do

3. EMPOWER

This section helps us to shape mission activities that we can do.

ACTIVITY:

If you have time, take a moment to write Big Hairy Audacious Goals on top of a piece of paper. Reflect on Ephesians Ch.3:20 and Philippians Ch.4:13).

Discuss and write down your hopes and dreams for your GB group...

- What would it mean for your GB group to get closer to Jesus and how might their lives be different?
- What could your group look like in five years' time?

BEFORE WATCHING PHIL'S VIDEO, DISCUSS TOGETHER:

Both words and actions are important when communicating the Gospel. If you've time, read together Romans Ch.10:14-15 and James Ch.2:14-17.

- When have you seen, or experienced, both words and actions being used effectively to communicate the Gospel?
- Think of examples of when you personally have used words and actions to share your faith. What does this teach you about how we can best make Jesus known?

AFTER WATCHING PHIL'S VIDEO, DISCUSS TOGETHER:

Using the session content on the Chatterbox Tool (<http://leaders.gbew-members.org.uk/activities/resource/hope-why-we-do-what-we-do>) as a guide, apply these questions to decide your own mission activity. Work out:

- Who is it that you're going to reach out to?
- What is it that you're going to do?
- How is it that you're going to do it?

Commit together to make your idea and plan a reality, so that you can share your experience when leading your GB group through this journey.

PRAY TOGETHER:

- Pray for your chosen person or groups of people, that God would use your chosen activity to help make Jesus known in their lives
- Pray for increased confidence to engage in further opportunities to continue to make Jesus known through both words and actions.

Hope: Why we do what we do

4. ENJOY

Let's review and respond, celebrating the hope that we have because of Jesus.

ACTIVITY:

If you've time, look at the Engle Scale resource and PowerPoint in the Volumise section within the online GB Leaders' Resource Base (<http://leaders.gbew-members.org.uk/activities/resource/hope-why-we-do-what-we-do>). Discuss:

- Where would you place your chosen person or group to whom you plan to reach out to and why?
- Why it's important to recognise the place of journey in the lives of those we reach out to, and to celebrate the steps that they may make towards Jesus?

BEFORE WATCHING PHIL'S VIDEO, DISCUSS TOGETHER:

It's important in evangelism that we don't try to be like anyone else. That we celebrate our unique gifting, strengths, passions and resources that God has given us.

- Take a moment to reflect on your strengths, allowing others to speak into these. Use the Hedgehog resource in the Volumise section online (<http://leaders.gbew-members.org.uk/activities/resource/hope-why-we-do-what-we-do>) if helpful.
- What are some of the tangible ways we can praise and encourage our young people to celebrate their unique strengths and gifting, building confidence for evangelism?

AFTER WATCHING PHIL'S VIDEO, DISCUSS TOGETHER:

- Discuss together the ways in which we can learn to 'enjoy' evangelism more
- Think through some of the things that you may need to stop, start, change and pursue to see evangelism become a natural part of your everyday life
- In what ways, could an intentionality around evangelism impact the work you do in your GB group?

PRAY TOGETHER:

- Pray that God will water the seeds that you've sown into the lives of young people you work with and that those who don't yet know Jesus, will make significant steps towards Him
- Pray for a fresh confidence and boldness to daily makes Jesus known through your words and actions.



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