



Workshops

Good News...

What you'll need...

This SCM workshop aims to help us explore our understanding of Good News. It's just a starting point and we hope it sparks many ideas and conversations. You will need **newspaper articles** (see below), **paper** and **pens** and print outs of **the bible quotes** and **questions** overleaf for each group. You should also think about having some tea and cake (the ultimate ice breaker) and a big smile—enjoy!

Break the ice...

True or False?

Ask each person in turn to introduce themselves and relate one good thing, and one bad thing that has happened to them recently or in the past (preferably nothing too personal or too serious). One of these should be true and the other one false. The rest of the group has to guess which statement is true and which is false. Consider prizes for those who make the most correct guesses, or for the best liars.

Ask the question...

What news is good news?

Bring along a selection of newspaper articles, some that clearly relate good news, some bad. Try to get several ambiguous articles, or to encourage discussion on the articles, e.g., news of a company getting big profits for the year – but what is their humanitarian record? News of oil shortages – bad news for short-term energy needs, but good news for carbon emissions? News of a revolution or the fall of a dictator – good news perhaps for democracy, but bad news for peace and stability?

If you can't find much in the newspapers today, consider some major world events: the moon landing, the assassination of Martin Luther King, the fall of the Berlin wall, 11 September 2001, the fall of Saddam Hussein, Britain's successful bid to host the Olympics in 2012...

Ask the group to divide the articles into those that contain good and those that contain bad news.

Ask them to give reasons for their decisions.

If you would like to deepen the discussion before going on to explore the issue, see the 'extras' sheet.

Explore the issue...

Bringing Good News...

This activity involves asking getting participants of 3 or 4 and doing a role play.

Each person in the group takes on the role of one of these characters:

The witness to a great and happy event (the birth of a child, the success of a great undertaking, the discovery of something that was lost, or has been looked for a long time).

The messenger that is taking the good news of this event to someone who will be very happy to hear it.

The recipient of the news.

Act out this scenario as a group. Then discuss the following questions:

- What are the thoughts, feelings of each character throughout the scenario?
- What is the effect of sharing the good news? Does sharing it increase the joy of the event itself?
- Was the good news expected or unexpected? How would this factor affect the emotions involved?
- Now we can just send a text or email to share good news, in Jesus' time you would have walked for days; what difference would this make? Would you make this kind of effort now?



Jesus and the Good News

Good News is a central idea for Jesus Christ in the gospels, and for the gospel-writers. Jesus saw what he had to say as good news, and the writers of the New Testament say Jesus himself was the good news. Ask participants to get into pairs, read the verses below and discuss the questions (you may want to write this up somewhere),

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God (Mark 1:1).

Jesus travelled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness (Matthew 4:23).

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free” (Luke 4:18).

This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all (Acts: 10:36) (New Living Translation)

What was it that the gospel-writers saw as good news? Do you think it was/is good news?

Is there any part of it that is particularly persuasive, or unpersuasive?

Why do you think they were so certain that what they had to say was good news?

Why do people today still see it as good news?

Is it still “new”s, or do people now already know what Jesus had to say about God and people?

If you would like to discuss Good News in the Old Testament see the ‘extras’ sheet.

Invite the response...

Our Good News

Invite a more personal response to the question, by encouraging people to reflect on the following questions. You may wish to share your answers, as appropriate, or ask people to write them down as a reminder of what, for them, is the core of the good news of Christ, and to encourage each other to live according to that good news.

- What, for you, is the most central part of the ‘good news’ that Jesus showed and taught.
- How do you/ would you communicate or exhibit this good news?

Optional Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

You are yourself the herald of good news, thank you. Don’t let us stifle the joy and wonder and excitement that is the proper response to the wonderful news that you are and bring. Give us the integrity and the strength to receive your good news, and to be good news to the world.

Amen.

The End...

Tea and cake?

If you didn’t have some at the beginning, have some now. Or have some more!

Get involved

Come along to our *Living it out* Conference in February 2010. Book online www.movement.org.uk/conference.

Want to respond?

If you are interested in writing a blog post about *Good News* for the SCM website please contact the office scm@movement.org.uk

Use the **Vocation** and **Mission** workshops (available on the SCM website www.movement.org.uk) to explore how we live out our faith. If you have stories, ideas or feedback from the **Good News** workshop that you’d like to share with the rest of the movement please get in touch with Aileen resources@movement.org.uk