

Q: What are some the real life problems that real people in London face?

Application

For each of the case studies:

- What are the problems? What is the potential and the possibilities?
- What does the Bible say and what do you do as a leader?



Jesus the connect group leader

2. Real People, Real Problems, Real Potential

Mark 3:13-35

¹³ And he went up on the mountain and **called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him.** ¹⁴ And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) **so that they might be with him and he might send them out to preach** ¹⁵ and have authority to cast out demons. ¹⁶ He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Jesus as connect group leader (recap)

Jesus core ministry was that of a group leader. He taught the masses; he helped and healed the many; he concentrated on the few. He often tried to get away from the masses to be with the few. He discouraged those he healed from talking so as not to make the crowds any bigger than they were. This gave him more time to spend with the few.

Jesus is therefore our ultimate example of a connect group leader and the role model we should follow.

Real People

Jesus didn't call perfect people and didn't have 'ideal' group members. His disciples would have been rejected by other rabbis, were a diverse bunch of people, and had different personalities and problems.

- Peter – Impulsive and insecure
- Andrew – preferred a supporting role
- James and John – young upstarts
- Simon the Zealot – militant terrorist
- Levi – pragmatic traitor
- Bartholomew – The introvert

Jesus called real people, believing they had real potential

Q: What 'type' or person do you find it the hardest to lead?

Real Potential

Jesus took real life people with potential and turned them into fruitful disciples. He spent time:

- Modelling (v.1)
- Explaining (v.10)
- Moving them into mission (v.1-34)
- Leading them into faith-stretching challenges (v.35-41)

Q: Which one do you most need to grow in doing with your group?

Real Problems

Mark 4:16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Problems and challenges are part of life. We will not escape them in this life and they are often the very things God uses.

Our job as leaders is to help people overcome their problems, endure through their problems, and even to turn their problems into possibilities.