Share life | 2023

**Growth Groups** 

# **Deep In The Word & Prayer**Teach one another by being deep in God's word and prayer

## **Mission-Minded**Encourage each other in our mission-mindedness

# Growing in Christ Together

At Christ Church our Growth Groups meet weekly to do four things:

#### **Accountability**

Spur one another on in faith through mutual accountability

#### Care

Care for each other in all the joys and trials of life

# Growing A Heart For Mission

### Commit to Progress, Not Pretence

#### Mission-Minded Principles for Growth Groups

#### 1. Commit

- Talk at the start of the year about being a mission-minded group.
- Commit to progress, not pretence we're all at different points.
- Plan the future with hope rather than looking backward with guilt.

#### 2. Pray

- Chat and pray together about people in our networks who need Jesus.
- Share stories and give thanks for every tiny step someone has taken.
- Build a partnership with a missionary and pray for them once a month.

#### 3. Embed

- Apply the Bible with a big view it speaks about those we love who need Jesus.
- Pray with kingdom eyes the whole world needs Jesus.
- Embed mission in everyday life, rather than schedule it as an event.

#### Share Life in Growth Groups

The Share Life material helps Growth Groups be mission-minded without needing to plan everything from scratch. Use the Share Life material, but make it work for your group. You might like to pick someone who has a heart for mission and give them the responsibility to lead Share Life discussions.

For a group meeting together for 90 minutes it could look something like this:

Arrive & Catch-Up - 10-15 mins Share Life - 10-15 mins Bible Study - 45-50 mins Prayer - 15-20 mins

## **Share Life in Six Steps**

When it comes to the mission Jesus gave us, many of us are stuck, because talking about Jesus in everyday life feels like a big jump. We can become nervous bystanders watching others get involved but unsure how to make progress ourselves. But we can help each other by laying some realistic stepping stones.

#### How to Share Jesus Naturally

Step 1: Meet

Care about people and spend time with people

Step 2: Pray

Add people to your prayers, and ask God to reveal himself to them

Step 3: Listen

Ask people about things that matter and listen really well

Step 4: Speak

Find your voice as you share your Christian perspective on different topics

Step 5: Proclaim

Love people with the good news of Jesus, who died and rose again

Step 6: Read

Open up the Bible with people and explore who Jesus is

Let's increase joy and confidence by celebrating stories from any small step. Every step is a step closer to making new disciples.

#### On Mission Together

We're not on mission alone. God is with us and we have each other. In Growth Groups let's talk about mission and pray for each other. Across our gatherings let's share stories and get involved in mission opportunities. As a church let's support our mission partners and pray for them.

# Reflect on yourself and your Growth Group

How deliberately do I take steps to...

|          | 0      | 1     | 2           | 3            | 4     | 5             |
|----------|--------|-------|-------------|--------------|-------|---------------|
| Meet     | Hermit | Son   | ne          | Many         |       | Sacrificially |
| Pray     | No-one | Thre  | ee          | Thirty       |       | Unceasingly   |
| Listen   | Boring | A bi  | t           | Frequently   |       | Inquisitively |
| Speak    | Never  | If as | ked         | Deliberately |       | Unrestrained  |
| Proclaim | Never  | If as | ked         | Occasional   | у – – | Evangelist    |
| Read     | Never  | Ask   | ed once – – | Did once -   |       | Experienced   |

#### Which steps am I most intentional about?

Which steps do I feel least confident or active in? Which habits do I wish to develop this year? What kind of support might help me?

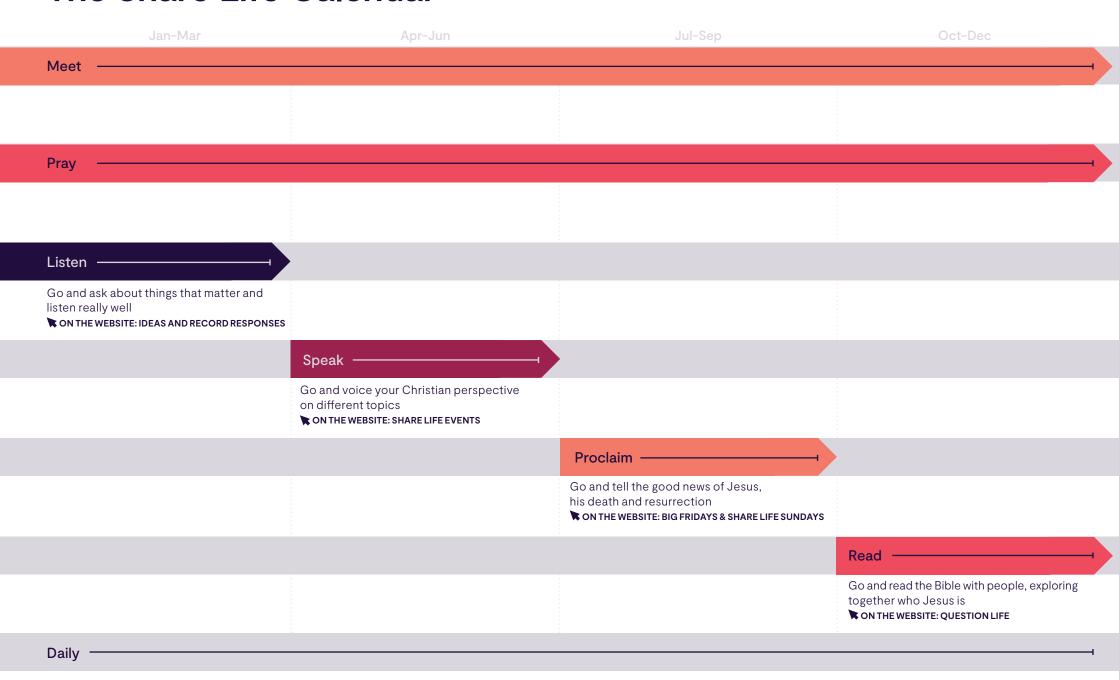
#### Share your answers with the group

What have we learned about each other?

How can we support each other to increase joy and confidence in mission this year?

### The Share Life Calendar

#### christchurch.com.au/sharelife



Each term we focus on different steps to share Jesus naturally, but every day is a great day to take any steps. Which steps will you take today?

# Making plans to be a missionminded group

Over the following pages there are a series of mind-maps to help your group make some plans to grow in mission-mindedness.

You can also improve, modify or add your own ideas.

These ideas are part of our Growth Group Bible studies, but you can adjust the studies to best suit your group.

#### 12-18 Feb

Set a vision for the group by talking about the portrait of a healthy Growth Group.

#### 19-25 Feb

Talk about this booklet and commit to being a mission-minded group.

#### 26 Feb-4 Mar

Chat about listening and why listening is valuable for mission.

#### 5-11 Feb

Join with other groups for Growth Group launch.

## **Listen**

Jan – Mar

#### 5-11 Mar

Go to the website to answer the Share Life Listen questions for yourself.

#### 2-8 Apr

Debrief stories and pray for progress. Discuss the upcoming events.

#### 26 Mar-1 Apr

Share stories and check in about whether people have had a chance to listen.

#### 19-25 Mar

Pray for mission partner and remind each other to keep listening to friends.

#### 12-18 Mar

Equip each other to ask the Share Life Listen questions and commit to having a go.

#### 7-13 May

Ask each person to share out of 10 how vocal they think they are as a Christian.

#### 14-20 May

Pray for our mission partner and explain the plan for Share Life Go.

#### 21-27 May

Join with other Growth Groups for Share Life Go.

#### 30 Apr-6 May

Introduce Share Life Speak and the program for this term.

# Speak Apr - Jun

#### 18-24 Jun

Debrief stories and pray for progress. Commit to speaking up this week.

#### 11-17 Jun

Share a recent story where you spoke up as a Christian in a difficult setting.

#### 4-10 Jun

Pray for our mission partner and remind each other to speak up.

### 28 May-3 Jun

Debrief Share Life Go and discuss how we are going at speaking up.

#### 30 Jul-5 Aug

Ask each person to share how they are going praying intentionally for the lost.

#### 6-12 Aug

Spend the whole group time in prayer for mission using the church resources.

#### 13-19 Aug

Help people start growing their prayer list by talking about our networks.

23-29 Jul

Introduce Share Life Proclaim and the program for this term.

## **Proclaim**

Jul – Sep

#### 20-26 Aug

Help people finish building a prayer list. Aim for 20-30 names.

#### 17-23 Sep

Debrief stories and pray for progress. Encourage each other to proclaim Christ.

#### 10-16 Sep

Have one person share their names list this week. and then pray.

#### 3-9 Sep

Pray for our mission partner and encourage each other in our daily prayer habits.

#### 27 Aug-2 Sep

Have one person share their names list this week, and then pray.

### <u>22-28 Oct</u>

Ask the group if anyone has ever read the Bible with a non-Christian, then pray.

#### 29 Oct-4 Nov

Pray for our mission partner and share an update on Question Life.

#### <u>5-12 Nov</u>

Talk about our networks and who might be open to reading the Bible.

#### 15-21 Oct

Introduce Share Life
Read and the program for
this term.

## Read

Oct – Dec

### 3-9 Dec

Debrief our effort in mission this year and talk about what we want for next year.

#### 26 Nov-2 Dec

Has anyone in our group had the privilege of reading with a non-Christian this year?

#### 19-25 Nov

Pray for our mission partner and friends who may be open to reading the Bible.

#### 12-18 Nov

Discuss where we would start if we were to read the Bible with a friend. Ready to go?

## How to build your names list

Step 1: List all of your networks

neighbours

The Woods

The Smiths

Jan and Frank

Step 2: Make a long list of people you can pray for and seek to positively influence with the gospel

family Mum

Dad

Jono

relatives

Aunty Bev Andrew

Ellie and Dan

Simon

Uncle Darren

Grandma Jan

Samantha

friends
My bestie Louise

old friends

Step 3: Underline all the people that might benefit from something during Share Life this year, whether it is online, one-on-one, or at an event.

Do this without guessing their level of interest and without being limited to my family and peers.

facebook

VNI

church fringe

work

schools

## Now, build your names list!

## **Notes**

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb

Revelation 7:10

