

Share  | 2023

Growth Groups



# 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
<b>Meet</b>	Hermit	Some	Many			Sacrificially
<b>Pray</b>	No-one	Three	Thirty			Unceasingly
<b>Listen</b>	Boring	A bit	Frequently			Inquisitively
<b>Speak</b>	Never	If asked	Deliberately			Unrestrained
<b>Proclaim</b>	Never	If asked	Occasionally			Evangelist
<b>Read</b>	Never	Asked 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](http://christchurch.com.au/sharelife)

Jan-Mar

Apr-Jun

Jul-Sep

Oct-Dec

Meet

Pray

Listen

Go and ask about things that matter and listen really well

👉 ON THE WEBSITE: IDEAS AND RECORD RESPONSES

Speak

Go and voice your Christian perspective on different topics

👉 ON THE WEBSITE: SHARE LIFE EVENTS

Proclaim

Go and tell the good news of Jesus, his death and resurrection

👉 ON THE WEBSITE: BIG FRIDAYS & SHARE LIFE SUNDAYS

Read

Go and read the Bible with people, exploring together who Jesus is

👉 ON THE WEBSITE: QUESTION LIFE

Daily

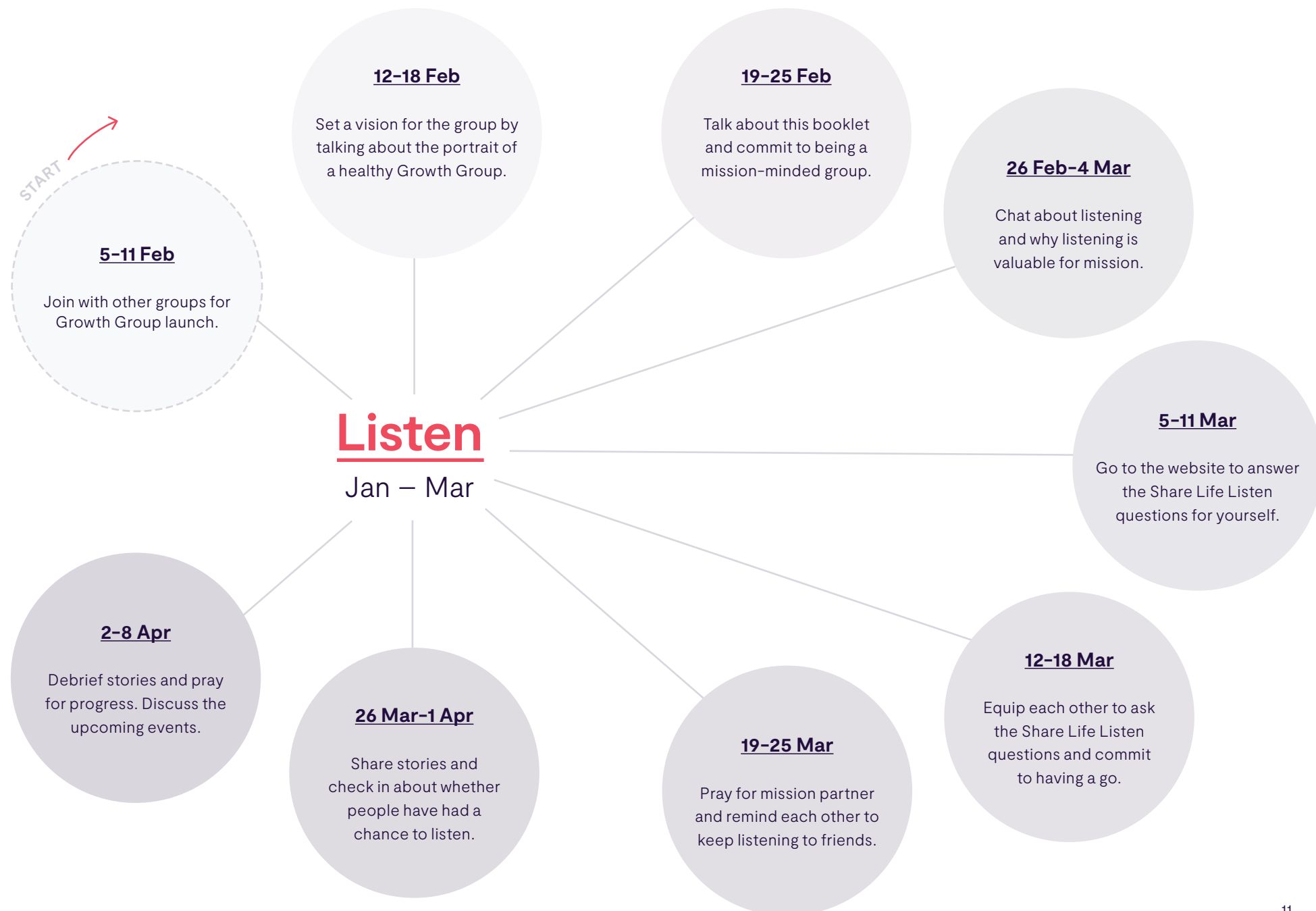
Each term we focus on different steps to share Jesus naturally, but every day is a great day to take any steps. **Which steps will you take today?**

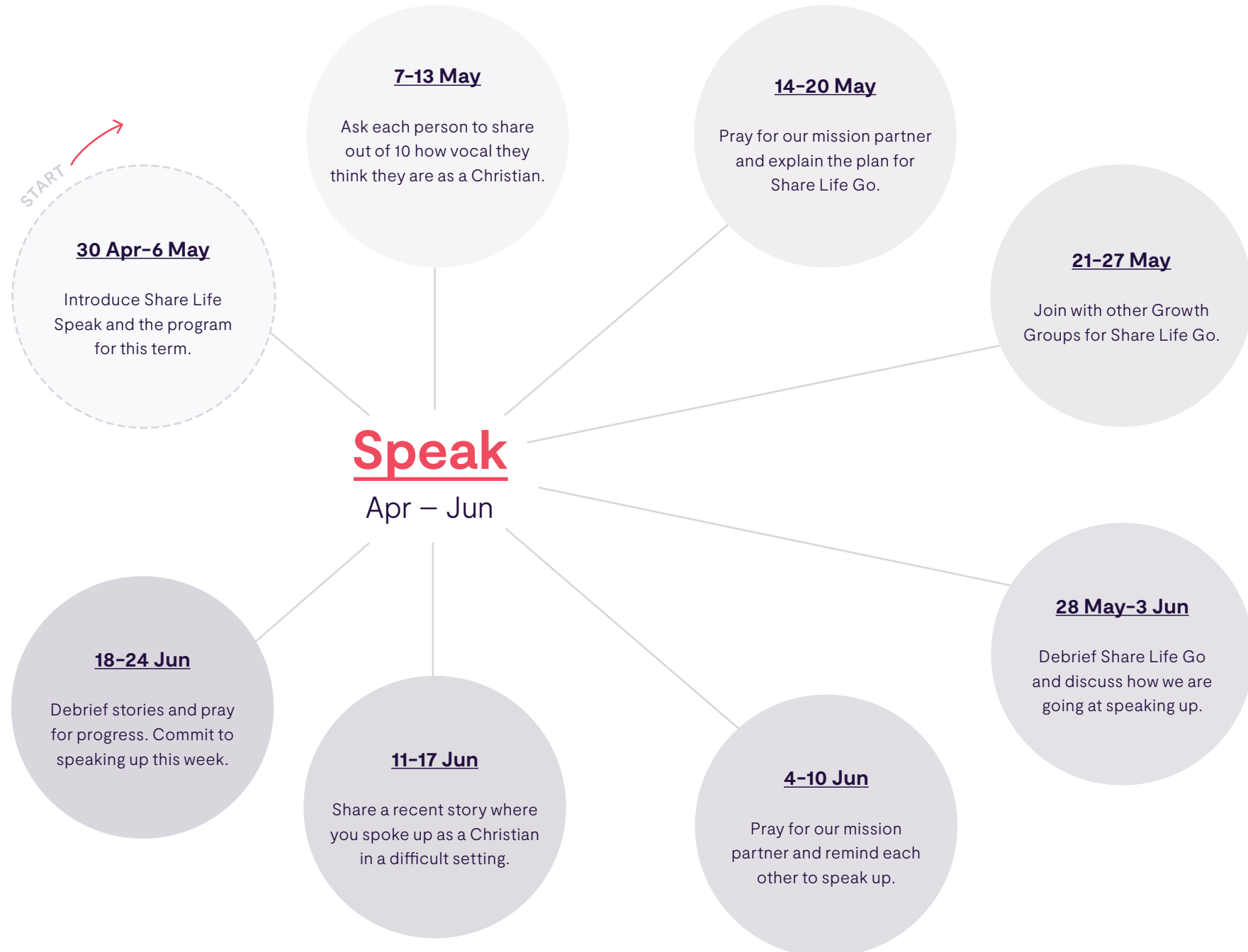
# Making plans to be a mission- minded group

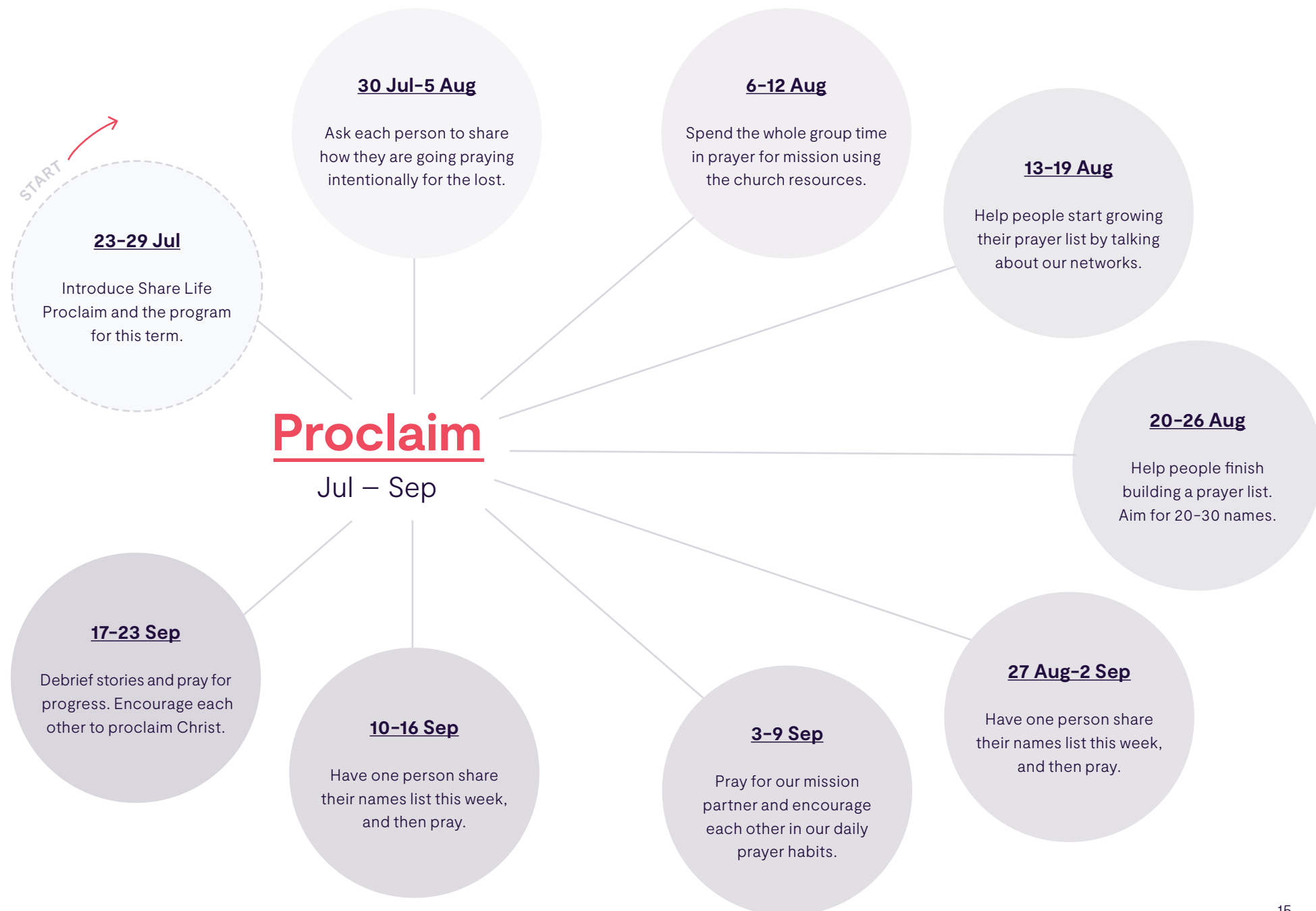
Over the following pages there are a series of mind-maps to help your group make some plans to grow in mission-mindedness.

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

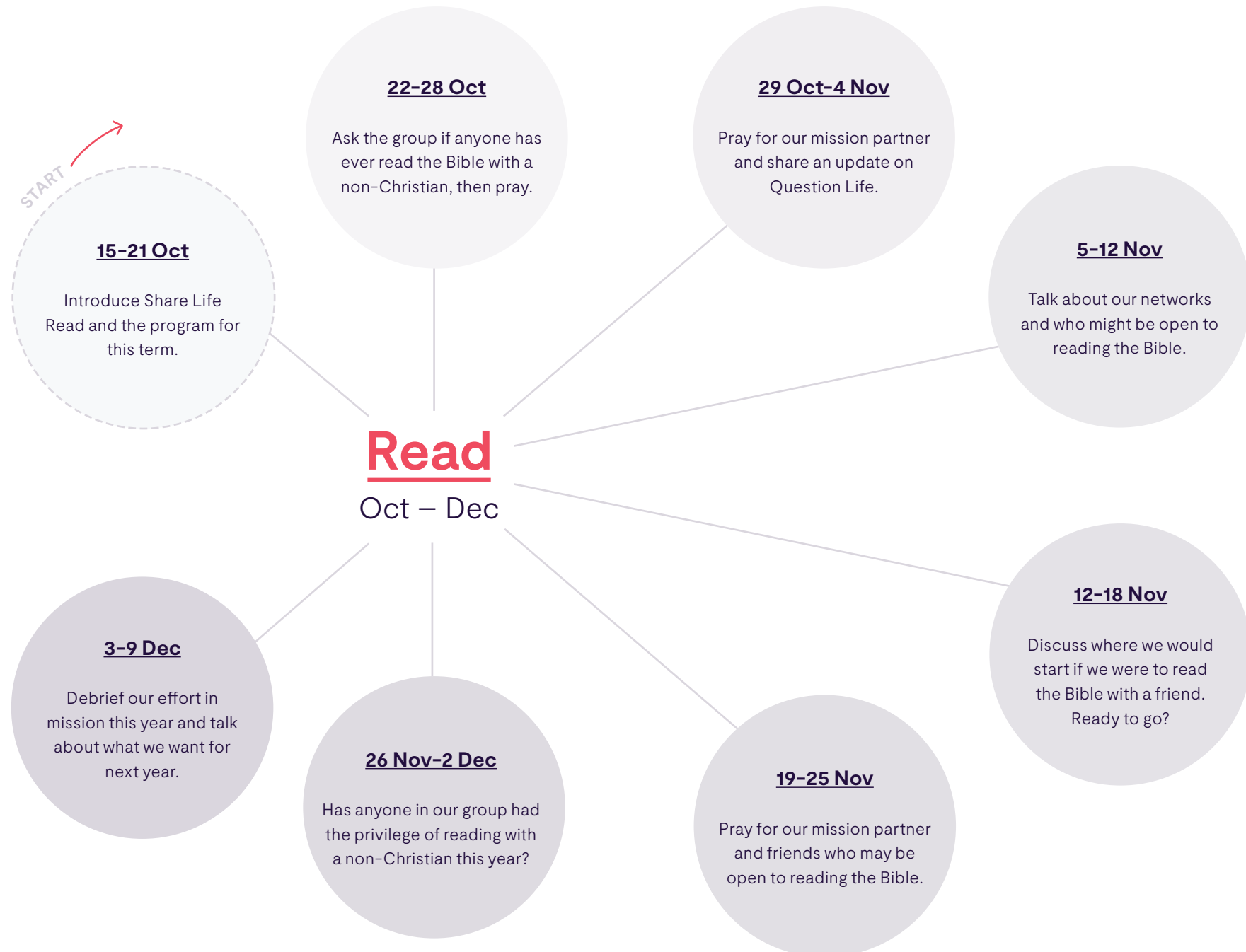
These ideas are part of our Growth Group Bible studies, but you can adjust the studies to best suit your group.











# How to build your names list

Step 1: List all of your networks

neighbours

The Woods  
The Smiths  
Jan and Frank

family

Mum  
Dad  
Jono

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.

relatives

Aunty Bev  
Andrew  
Ellie and Dan  
Simon  
Uncle Darren  
Grandma Jan  
Samantha

shops

facebook

uni

church fringe

sports

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

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**

[christchurch.com.au/sharelife](http://christchurch.com.au/sharelife)