



11-14's

All activities collated from www.scriptureunion.org.uk/lightlive and www.scriptureunion.org.uk/schoolslive

Shoes Using Ephesians 6:10-20

You will need:

- Newspapers
- Scissors
- Pens

1 Ask everyone to draw round their shoe and cut it out. In the cut-out footprint, invite them to write the names of people they are willing to share the good news with.

2 Encourage the group to pray for these people and pray also that they will get an opportunity to share the good news with them!

3 Point out to the group that this is between them and God and they don't need to share this with anyone.



For a predominantly non Christian Group

What are Christians trying to tell us?

Ephesians 6:15 Romans 5:6-11 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

You will need:

- Be reconciled sheet enough for groups of 4-5

Ask the students the followings questions:

- Have you ever come across Christians telling you about their faith? If yes, who were they and what kind of places or events did they talk to you at? (*Answers may include: friends; family members; school - assemblies, lessons, groups like this one; in the town centre; at your door; at church events.*)
- How did you feel when in these situations? (*Answers may include: interested; compelled to find out more; uneasy; under pressure to become a Christian; angry; not affected by it; changed.*)
- Do you think Christians should or shouldn't be allowed to share their faith in the way that they do?
- Do you know why Christians want to tell other people about their faith?

3 After listening to the comments from members in your group, try to explain why Christians want to share their faith by making the following points:

- Christians believe that they have good news that is for everyone's benefit. Knowing about Jesus and what he has done is not just for a few people but for everyone. That is why Christians want to tell as many people as possible about the good news they have heard and how it has affected their lives.
- Christians also believe that telling people about the good news of Jesus is part of their armour of God, which helps them in their battle against the devil.
- In Ephesians 6:14,15 Paul tells Christians to 'Stand firm then ... with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.' (NIV)
- Paul is making the point that, by sharing the good news, Christians are strengthening God's kingdom and weakening the devil's.

4 Split the students into smaller groups of about four or five and give each group a copy of resource sheet: Be reconciled. Allow them 5-7 minutes to work through the questions.

Some possible answers are:

- Question 1: Reconciled and reconciliation are all about bringing together in friendship after a quarrel or disagreement.
- Question 2: An ambassador is someone who represents someone else.
- Question 3: a - reconciled us to God, made Jesus take our sin; b - the ministry of reconciliation; c - that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not



counting men's sins against them; d - God made him who had no sin (ie Jesus) to be sin for us, so that in Jesus we might become the righteousness of God.

- Question 4: They represent God (by the things they say, don't say, do and don't do) to those who don't know him.

5 Allow time for each group to feed back to make sure they have understood the passage.

Resource sheet: Be reconciled

Be reconciled

This part of the Bible is written to Christians, telling them what God has done for them, how he did it and what they should do about it. As you read it, see if you can spot these things.

¹⁸ ... God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin [i.e. Jesus] to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:18–21

1 What do 'reconciled' and 'reconciliation' mean?

2 What does an ambassador do? (Think about what an embassy is for in a foreign country.)

3 Circle or underline in the passage above the following things:

- a) What God has done for us.
- b) The job he has given Christians to do.
- c) The message has he given to Christians.
- d) The way that God makes people right with him.

4 In what ways are Christians 'Christ's ambassadors'?

5 Do these verses help to explain why Christians are so keen to tell other people about the great things God has done?



Responding: The best news you can think of Using Ephesians 6:15 Romans 5:6-11 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

This *Responding* activity works well with the ‘What are Christians trying to tell us?’

You will need:

- Sheet of paper for each student
- Pens etc

1 Hand out a sheet of paper to each member of the group.

2 Ask them to spend a few minutes thinking about (and writing down) the best news they can think of that they would want to share with a friend. It could be something that has actually happened in their own life or they can be creative and think of some news that is completely fictional.

3 Encourage the group to share their good news with one another - hopefully it should be quite amusing to see what they come up with.

4 Make the point that, as people, we love to share good news with friends. It makes the person telling the news feel good and it makes the person hearing the news feel good. This is exactly how Christians feel about sharing the good news of the gospel. They have news that they know will be good for others to hear and desperately want to share it! Maybe this exercise will help the students in your group understand why Christians always want to share their good news.



Get Creative:

What is the good news? Using Ephesians 6:15 Romans 5:6-11 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

You will need:

- Copies of the verses from Romans
- Large sheets of paper to make into posters.
- Collage materials/paints/glue/thick pens etc

Hand out copies of the following verses explaining that they are from the book of Romans. It is written by Paul who was telling the Roman people the good news about Jesus Christ:

⁶ *When we were unable to help ourselves, at the moment of our need, Christ died for us, although we were living against God.* ⁷ *Very few people will die to save the life of someone else although perhaps for a good person someone might possibly die.* ⁸ *But God shows his great love for us in this way: Christ died for us while we were still sinners.*

⁹ *So through Christ we will surely be saved from God's anger, because we have been made right with God by the blood of Christ's death.* ¹⁰ *While we were God's enemies, he made us his friends through the death of his Son. Surely, now that we are his friends, he will save us through his Son's life.* ¹¹ *And not only that, but now we are also very happy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we are now God's friends again.*

Romans 5:6-11

2 Read through the passage from Romans chapter 5 with the students, pointing out that Paul is trying to explain what Jesus did for us by dying on the cross.

3 Encourage each student to make a poster. On the poster they should include all the good news that Paul talks about in the passage. They can either put the good news into their own words or they can use Paul's explanation. Remind the students that they have the passage in front of them on the resource sheet, so they can easily double check that they have included all the main points.

4 Challenge them to make their posters eye-catching and interesting to look at.

5 As the students are working on their posters, make the following points to sum up the activity:

- Our posters remind us of the good news of Jesus.
- Remember what Paul says in Ephesians 6:15, 'Stand firm then ... with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.' (NIV)



- Paul is telling us that constantly remembering this good news can help us in our battle. It can help us in two ways. Firstly, if we remember the good news and are ready to talk about it, it minimises the chance of us forgetting what God has done for us. Secondly, if we are talking about the good news to other people then there is more chance that they will want to become Christians and be part of God's kingdom - this will strengthen God's kingdom and make the devil's kingdom weaker.

6 Encourage the students to put their poster up somewhere they will see it regularly - it will help to remind them about the great things Jesus has done for them.



News broadcast Using Matthew 28:16-20

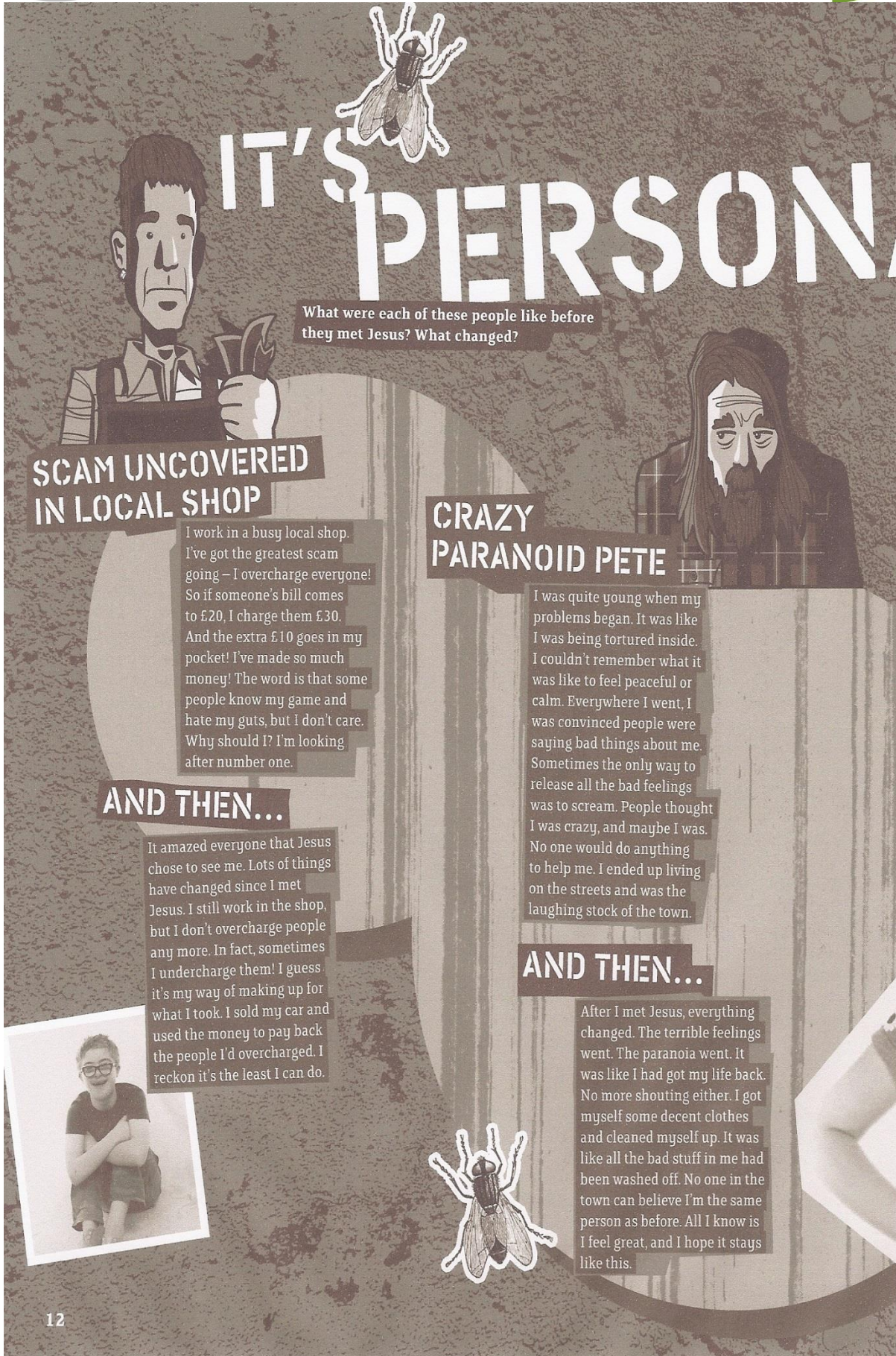
You will need:

- Newspapers
- Sheets of A4 paper
- Pens
- Bibles
- 'It's personal' sheets for each group



- 1 Divide the young people into groups of four or five.
- 2 Explain that each group must make up a news broadcast to last three minutes but it can only contain good news. The broadcast should include someone reading the news and can include dramatic reconstructions or interviews with people involved. Use the Newspapers to find both Good and Bad New-stories as well as using stories from their own lives.
- 3 Get the groups to take it in turns to act out their broadcast to the rest of the group.
- 4 If appropriate, explain that we don't often hear good news but there is some very good news that we'll be looking at today.
- 5 Bible study
 - 1 Divide the whiteboard or large sheet of paper into two columns. Write the titles 'Before Jesus' on one side and 'After Jesus' on the other.
 - 2 Hand out copies of 'It's Personal' sheets and ask four volunteers to read out the characters' stories. Alternatively, you could divide the young people into four groups and invite each group to act out one of the stories.
 - 3 After each story has been read or acted out, ask the group: 'What was this person like before meeting Jesus?' Write the answers under the 'Before Jesus' heading. Then ask: 'What were they like after meeting Jesus?' Write the answers under the 'After Jesus' heading.
 - 4 Explain that all these stories are modern day versions of accounts from the Bible of people who met Jesus (Luke 19:1-10; Mark 5:1-20; John 4:1-30 and Matthew 9:18-26). Read these passages together. Read out the things you have listed under 'Before Jesus' and ask, 'Are there still people like this in the world today?'
 - 5 Ask a young person to read Matthew 28:16-20 from a contemporary version of the Bible (such as The Word on the Street). Ask, 'What did Jesus command the people then (and us today) to do?'
 - 6 Explain that Jesus has given us the most important job of all time: to share the news that Jesus can still affect people's lives just like he did in the ways listed on the 'After Jesus' list on the whiteboard. Ask the group to think and chat about how this makes them feel.
 - 7 If appropriate, tell the young people that, if they feel they have encountered Jesus, or would like to - just as the people they have been learning about did - they can speak to a leader after the session.
8. Pray together.





IT'S PERSONA

What were each of these people like before they met Jesus? What changed?

SCAM UNCOVERED IN LOCAL SHOP

I work in a busy local shop. I've got the greatest scam going – I overcharge everyone! So if someone's bill comes to £20, I charge them £30. And the extra £10 goes in my pocket! I've made so much money! The word is that some people know my game and hate my guts, but I don't care. Why should I? I'm looking after number one.

AND THEN...

It amazed everyone that Jesus chose to see me. Lots of things have changed since I met Jesus. I still work in the shop, but I don't overcharge people any more. In fact, sometimes I undercharge them! I guess it's my way of making up for what I took. I sold my car and used the money to pay back the people I'd overcharged. I reckon it's the least I can do.



CRAZY PARANOID PETE

I was quite young when my problems began. It was like I was being tortured inside. I couldn't remember what it was like to feel peaceful or calm. Everywhere I went, I was convinced people were saying bad things about me. Sometimes the only way to release all the bad feelings was to scream. People thought I was crazy, and maybe I was. No one would do anything to help me. I ended up living on the streets and was the laughing stock of the town.

AND THEN...

After I met Jesus, everything changed. The terrible feelings went. The paranoia went. It was like I had got my life back. No more shouting either. I got myself some decent clothes and cleaned myself up. It was like all the bad stuff in me had been washed off. No one in the town can believe I'm the same person as before. All I know is I feel great, and I hope it stays like this.