

ACTION GROUP INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Welcome everyone to our first Action Group! Today we will be setting the scene for this action group and talking through what it's going to be all about.

ACTION GROUP PURPOSE

Action Group is a place for us to grow as disciples of Jesus, and put our faith into action at university. We want to make a difference for Jesus while we study here on our campus. We'll do this by:

- Meeting together for Action Group and learning from God's word,
- Learning to share our faith with others through weekly sharing times,
- Journeying together as Christians at uni to encourage one another in our faith.

PROMPT

Ask if anyone has any questions about this? Count to 7 in your head to give a silent space for people to ponder and respond. (Don't be afraid of silence!) If there is none, you can move on quickly. But it's a good idea to let people ask things here to make sure they have a good understanding of what Action Group is all about.

LEADER'S NOTES:

Remember to book or think of the space you will meet. Notify students in your AG of the time and place.

SUMMARY

This is the first Action Group. It's a chance to set the tone and give a great "why" for the Action Group. Success will look like everyone walking away with a great understanding of that. This is your chance as a leader to cast a vision for this Action Group to walk together towards Jesus, determined to put their faith into Action at university. We'll cover the Great Commission today, and give space for a discussion of what going after it looks like here at this university for this Action Group. The Action Step at the end will be very helpful for you to make sure everyone commits to a time to go sharing before you meet again next time.

AT THE START

This is our first Action Group. Let's introduce ourselves. Take turns to share our names, what we study, and one thing we love to do when we're not studying. (This can be started early and without everyone being present as latecomers arrive for the sake of time.)

THE GREAT COMMISSION

The heart of why we want to meet together as Christians at university is Jesus. He's given us a really important job. He wants us to share about him with others who don't know him, and make disciples of those who want to follow him. Here at university, there are literally thousands of students who need to hear about Jesus. While we study here, we have a great opportunity to share our faith with them. Hopefully, God will give us the privilege of seeing some of them become disciples of Jesus too.



Read **Matthew 28:18-20** as a group discuss the following:

- What do you think is Jesus' main message in this passage?
- Why do you think this message is important?
- Does this passage still apply to us today? Where can we see that in the text?
- How do you think you can live out making disciples in your life here at university?

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

NOTE

For this section, let the convo flow. You don't need to give the right answers if they come out naturally. But if your group needs a bit of help, here are some good answers for you to have up your sleeve.

What do you think is Jesus' main message in this passage?

We must take his message to the world and make disciples of everyone everywhere—including at this university

Why do you think this message is important?

This was the last thing Jesus ever said to his disciples. It was what he wanted his followers to do. It's incredibly important!

Does this passage still apply to us today? Where can we see that in the text?

Yes. He mentions that in the context of making disciples, he will be with his followers to the end of the age. So far we're not there yet. He also said for them to teach people everything he has taught them. This very command to go and make disciples was part of what he taught them, therefore it must also be something we all need to be taught too.

How do you think you can live out making disciples in your life here at university?

See what they say. Part of it must be to share our faith with people studying here at this uni.



OUR WHY

We in Student Life are convinced this verse applies to every Christian, and we want to live it out at university. If you think about it, students are the future leaders of our world. It's more than likely a future NZ prime minister is studying here right now at this university. One way we can impact the world of tomorrow is to share Christ with the university students of today!

For this reason, we make it a weekly Action Group commitment to go share our faith at uni at least once a week. Not only does it give people we talk to the chance to consider Jesus, it's also a fantastic opportunity to learn what questions people are asking about God. We'll learn how to explain our faith better with others as we get out on the mission here at university. We'll find that going sharing to people we don't know will actually help us become better at sharing with our friends and family who we do know.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS IN PAIRS

- *What are your hopes and expectations for this Action Group?*
- *How's your heart for the Great Commission?*

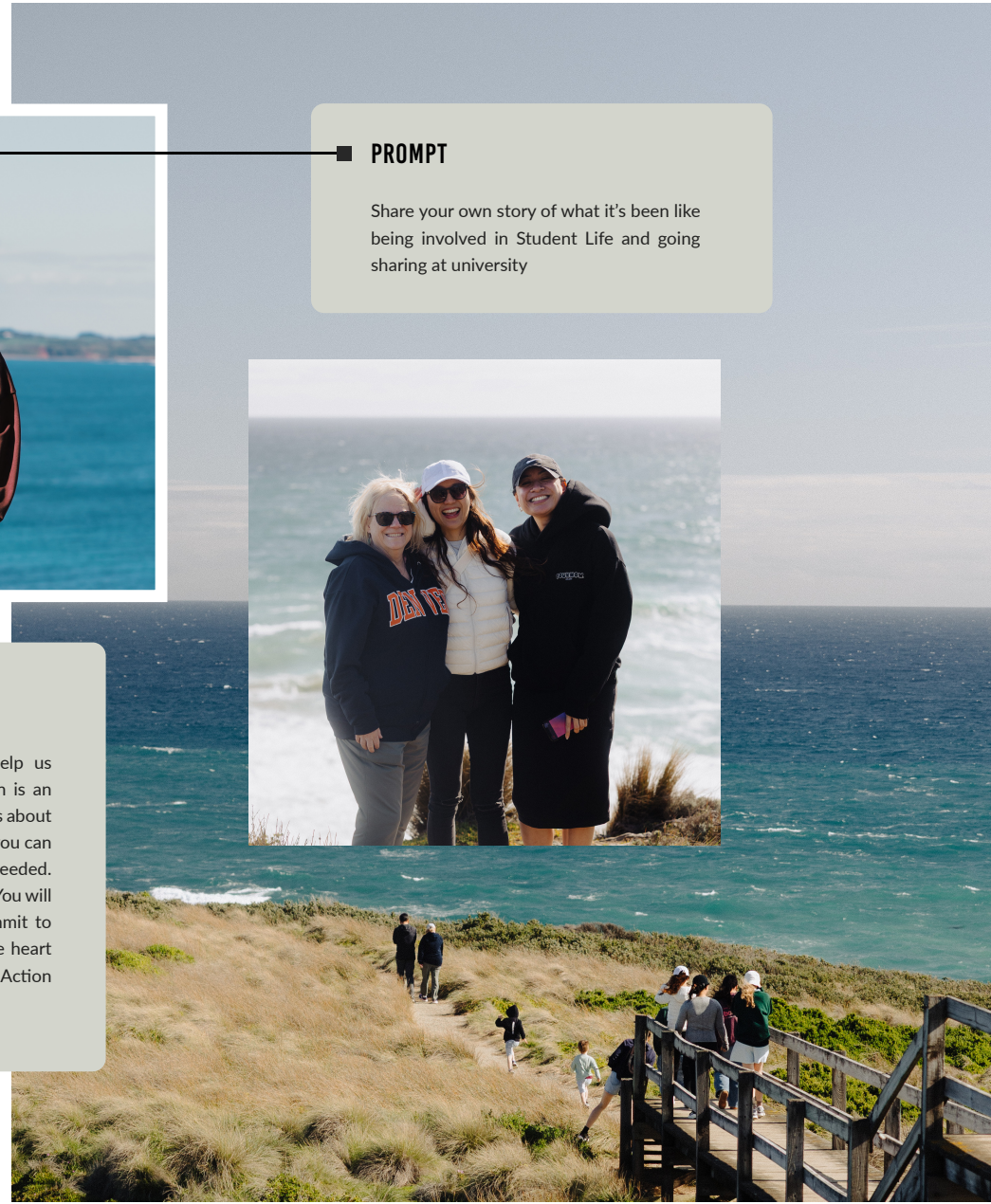


PROMPT

Share your own story of what it's been like being involved in Student Life and going sharing at university

PROMPT

This is now is the chance to help us land well today. The first question is an opportunity for people to ask things about Action Group if they need to. But you can move on very quickly if that's not needed. The second question is important. You will want people in this group to commit to going sharing because that's at the heart of what it means to be a part of this Action Group.



ACTION STEPS

- *Are there any questions to clarify what it means to be a part of this Action Group?*
- *When will I commit to go sharing each week at uni?*

PRAYER

Finish in Prayer: As a group, we want to pray each week about what we've learnt in Action Group. Today let's pray for God to give us all a heart to make disciples here at our university, and so take part in the Great Commission.

WRAP UP

Share any campus notices people will need to know about.