



Mary Ajoung Duang (in yellow) from Biet Boma, South Sudan works with women to improve harvests.

# You can make a difference

## We're all different, but we can all put faith into action.

This bible study is one of a series of four, designed to help your small group put your faith into action.

This study focusses on how our unique personalities and gifts shape the way that we live out our faith. We are all different, but we can all put our faith into action.

It includes:

- Brief notes on two Bible passages: Exodus 4:1-14 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-14

- Prayers to open and close your session
- A [Faith in Action video](#) featuring Sarah Corbett
- Questions to help your group put their faith into action
- Suggestions to help your group think about their next steps

NOTE: We advise downloading the suggested resources in advance to show the group.



## Notes on the Readings

Exodus 3 and 4 tell the story of the call of Moses. As a young man Moses had burned with anger at the enslavement of his people in Egypt. It had led him to commit murder and flee the country. Now, many years later, God offers him the chance to be the deliverer that he had failed to be then, but Moses has lost his confidence, he doesn't feel up to the job and throws up objection after objection. God is gracious with him, offering him the help and support he needs to do the work before him. In 1 Corinthians Paul is writing to a church that is deeply divided. One of the causes of the division was some believers considering themselves to be better than others because of their gifts or spiritual experiences. In chapter 12 Paul emphasizes the unity of the church, but it is unity not uniformity. There is one body of Christ, and we are each a part of it with our own unique gifts and talents – we each have our own ways of putting our faith into action. No one way, or person, is better than any other; the body needs all its parts working together for the common good.

## Opening Prayer

Gracious God,  
Please teach us by your word  
and empower us by your Spirit.  
Make us more like Jesus,  
That our mouths may speak his truth  
and our deeds accomplish his will.  
Make us agents of your kingdom,  
which is growing now amongst us  
and will one day come in glory  
and with great power.  
Amen.

## Introduction

The Bible is full of unlikely heroes: The elderly couple who became the mother and father of a nation; the man who feared public speaking yet became God's spokesman to Israel and to Pharaoh; the shepherd boy who became king; the peasant girl who became the mother of Jesus, and the persecutor of the church who became its greatest evangelist. Our readings pick up on the experiences of two of these unlikely heroes with the call of Moses and a passage from Paul's first letter to the Christians in Corinth.

## Readings

Read Exodus 4:1-14, pause for a few moments and then discuss the questions:

- Can you think of some of the reasons that Moses may have felt unable or unwilling to obey God's call to confront Pharaoh and challenge the injustice of the Israelites' enslavement?
- What excuses do we use to avoid putting our faith into action in new or challenging ways?
- How did God encourage Moses, and how does he encourage us?

## Making connections

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-14, pause for a moment, then watch Sarah Corbett's Faith in Action video.

We may imagine activists to be bold extroverts, but as an introvert Sarah has discovered a form of activism that has proven to be a really fruitful way of engaging decision makers, and which



has encouraged many others to become gentle activists. By recognizing her gifts, she has found a truly effective way to put her faith into action.

In 1 Corinthians some believers had been acting as though their gifts were more important than those of other people. Paul writes to correct that attitude and stress the value of every believer's gifts and talents.

- Take some time to think about your church and community – name some of the ways people put their faith into action that might easily go unrecognised. Take a moment to consider how you might encourage some of those people in what they do.
- Now, think about yourself – what gifts and talents do you have, does Sarah's example inspire you to think of new ways to put them into action?

## Next Steps

Sarah is inspired by the beauty of creation in her activism. The climate crisis is threatening creation in the form of rising sea levels, longer droughts, and more frequent extreme weather events like storms and floods. The biggest impact is being felt by communities living in poverty.

You can join with Sarah in taking a stand for climate justice by downloading Christian Aid's [climate justice church activity](#) pack and using it to engage with your church community, MP or other decision makers.

If you like the idea of craftivism, you can download our [campaigning with craftivism](#) guide and get started as a gentle activist by using some of the ideas. This would combine well with the easy craft action in the church activity pack.

Take a few moments to pray for one another and for the actions that you have decided to take following this study, then have someone say the closing prayer.

## Closing Prayer

Mighty God who speaks not in fire or storm but in a still small voice;  
We thank you for Sarah's gift for gentle activism and for all that she has achieved.

We thank you too for our own gifts, talents and personalities.

Please show us how we can use them in your service.

Please show us how to put our faith into action.

Grant us the courage to stand for mercy, love and justice

That we might begin to glimpse what it means for your kingdom to come and your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Amen.**

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