

Free to believe... and tell

Small group session

People can't come to believe in Jesus unless they hear about Him! In the Middle East and North Africa, there are restrictions on religious freedom, yet people are hearing about Jesus through SAT-7's satellite TV and digital media programmes. People there are coming to faith and sharing their stories with SAT-7 in their thousands. Let's hear from some of them, and let their witness inspire us to tell our own stories too!

READ: ROMANS 10:9-14

Nobody can believe unless they have heard. Once we have heard, all we need to do is believe! Discuss:

- Who first told you about Jesus? And where did they first hear about Jesus (if you know)?
- Do you remember what it was that made you believe?

WATCH: SAT-7 OVERVIEW VIDEO

[Click here](#) to watch the video. Give time for any brief questions/comments.

As we just heard, people are hearing about Jesus through SAT-7 and the programmes are having an amazing impact on viewers. We're going to hear from some of those viewers now and see the difference God is making in their lives.

TELLING VIEWERS' STORIES

(Share one, two or all three of these depending on time)

NASRIN'S STORY

(Watch video [here](#) or read out the story – overleaf, or Tuesday 23 February in booklet)

- Why do you think Nasrin was "drawn to Christianity"?
- What is it that you love most about Jesus and His character?

SHAHEEN'S STORY

(Watch video [here](#) or read out the story – overleaf, or Wednesday 24 February in booklet)

- What difference has Jesus made in Shaheen's life?
- What difference has Jesus made in your life?

NABILA'S STORY

(Watch video [here](#) or read out the story – overleaf, or Saturday 3 April in booklet)

- Why do you think Nabila is so happy that she can watch her church service on SAT-7?
- What difference does it make in your life to be connected to a church/small group like this one?
- How has it affected you during the pandemic to only be able to attend/watch church online?
- Something to think about (you don't have to share your answer if you don't want to) – if someone was threatening to kill you if you went to church, would you still go?

TELLING YOUR STORY

We've talked about how we first heard about Jesus. We've talked about how much we love him and why. We've seen the difference he makes in our lives and the lives of people in the Middle East. We know what a privilege it is to be part of a church community.

We've also read in Romans 10 that once we believe, we then share with our mouths! "For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved" (Romans 10:10).

SO...

- Can you think of a time you shared your faith with someone? What happened?
- If you could share your faith with one other person in the next week or two – who would it be?
- Is there anyone particularly on your heart that you want to believe in Jesus, that we can pray for?

PRAY

- Pray for anything that has come up in discussion.
- Pray for boldness to share our faith with others.
- Pray for the people that your group has said they want to come to know Jesus.
- Pray for the believers in the Middle East who watch SAT-7 – especially Nasrin, Shaheen and Nabila whose stories we have just heard.
- Thank God that people in the Middle East and North Africa are hearing about Jesus through SAT-7.

CHALLENGE

Could you share some of your story this week – maybe a favourite Bible verse on social media, or invite people to ask you questions about your faith?

Viewer stories

NASRIN'S STORY, IRAN

"For a while, I've been searching for the truth and wanted to know how to get closer to God. I read many books about different religions and I was drawn to Christianity. I searched for the Bible in Iran but I couldn't find one. I tried to go to church but considering the restrictions in Iran, I wasn't allowed to enter. I started searching for Christian satellite networks and got acquainted with SAT-7.

"I'm thankful that you received me with kindness and sent me resources. Many of my questions were answered through your programmes and I'm experiencing a certain peace and joy which I have not experienced before. I'm glad to be Christ's disciple and God's child."

SHAHEEN'S STORY, AFGHANISTAN

"I live in one of the provinces in Afghanistan that is under the control of extremists. By watching your programmes I have come to know about Christianity and this had caused me to become conflicted and ask, 'What is the truth, Christianity or something else?' I am tired and heart-broken by the lies and unrighteousness I see around me, but more importantly, I am asking why it is that people are denied the freedom of thought and self-determination?"

Our viewer support team got in touch with Shaheen to discuss free will and freedom of thought, and then went on to talk about Jesus and His death and resurrection. Shaheen opened his heart and said Jesus was his Saviour. The team sent him a copy of the Bible and some Christian books, and have arranged for him to get in touch whenever he needs support. Shaheen got back in touch to say:

"I have a deep sense of peace and feel so light. I feel so happy that I am on the verge of tears. I no longer fear being killed by anyone because I am certain of my salvation."

NABILA'S STORY, ALGERIA

"I became a follower of Jesus the first day I visited the church. I was lost but Jesus has found me. I met Him in the church and then He led me to know Him. Unfortunately, my family found out that I became a Christian. My brothers forbade me to return to the church and even threatened to kill me if I go back to the church. But I discovered that the service is broadcasted on SAT-7. I'm so blessed! Now I am now able to attend the church service in my room."