

Theme & Passages	Confident Discipleship: Competence 1 Samuel 17: 33–40 and 1 Peter 3:13–16	Notes prepared by Steve Elmes
Welcome (10 mins)	What associations do you have with the word 'competence'? What ideas do you have about being a 'competent follower of Jesus'?	
Working with God (15 mins): Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care	<p>Steve talked about living hopefully in the world in whatever context God has placed us. This might be as <i>a hopeful manager, a hopeful administrator, a hopeful school teacher, a hopeful volunteer, a hopeful grandparent, etc.</i></p> <p>Go round the group and state one role you play in this way: e.g., 'I am a hopeful... (fill in the blank) – all the way round the circle.</p> <p>Think about what this means for you on the ground/in practice and share any ideas that come.</p> <p>Pray for each other in the light of what you have shared.</p>	
Worship (15 mins)	Take some time together with Tim Hughes' 'May the Words of My Mouth': https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=WlujiJXXbgA	
Word (20-25 mins)	<p>Steve was exploring what competence means for the follower of Jesus. He looked to two passages in the Bible, one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament. Take some time with each of these to help your thoughts on competence in the Christian life.</p> <p>Read 1 Samuel 17: 33–40</p> <p>How does the conversation and interaction between Saul and David speak to what it means to be a competent follower of God?</p> <p>Steve picked up on how Saul's armour was ill-fitting and needed to be shed by David in favour of a more fitting means of doing battle, and wondered if some of us needed to learn from this.</p> <p><i>Discuss</i></p> <p>Read 1 Peter 3:13–16</p> <p>Peter writes to the scattered people of God of their <i>living hope</i> (see 1 Peter 1:3) and encourages them in the face of suffering to let this hope sustain and shape them (see 1 Peter 1:13–16). As they do this, Peter anticipates that hope-shaped lives will provoke questions and he wants his readers to be ready to answer them.</p>	

	<p>Read the passage again.</p> <p><i>What are the ingredients (given in the passage) of a competent response to those who ask the reason for our hope?</i></p> <p><i>Talk about how all this plays out in your experience and ways in which you would like to grow in your witness to the hope you carry.</i></p> <p>Pray for one another.</p>
<p>Reminder!</p>	<p>Do remember our 12 hours of prayer on Sunday 24th September 6am – 6pm at BBC. We'll be praying into our vision priority for the year – 'Helping People Find Faith'.</p> <p>You might like to agree to come at the same time as a group. All are welcome to come and seek God for our journey together this year.</p>