



# Lessons For Connection Groups



## Discussion Questions For Connection Group Leaders

### "INTIMACY IN PRAYER DRAW NEAR TO GOD, AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU"

*Each week you will want to include the following components in your Connection Group meeting:*

1. **Welcome** – This is a time for our group to have a little fun together and to get better acquainted with each other. It is a fantastic opportunity for us to glean insights into the life of each member. Use the group opener questions for this section of the meeting.
2. **Worship** – This is an occasion for us to turn our focus in the right direction. We spend time in praise and adoration to the Lord for who He is and what He has done in our lives. Let the worship lead you into a time of Spirit lead prayer and ministry to each other.

**Ministry:** Allow your group members to edify each other with the spiritual gifts that God has given to them. Pray for each other and allow the Spirit to minister through His people.  
Is there a prophetic word? (A word of exhortation, edification, comfort) Is there a word of tongues and an interpretation? Does someone need special prayer? Etc.

3. **Word** – As a group, we open God's Word, and we discuss the topic before us and learn how to apply the Word of God to our everyday situations. We take the sermon that was preached and make it applicable and practical to our everyday situations.
4. **Works** – We discuss and plan how we as a group will actively reach out to the lost and hurting around us. This is where we strategize how we will put "shoe leather" to the truth of God's Word.

## THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER

**Scripture References:** Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, Hebrews 4:14-16

**Group Opener:** (*Choose a question for your connection group to discuss.*)

1. What is one change you made this year that had a positive impact on your life?
2. If you could spend one hour with someone very important (like president, celebrity, or leader), how would you prepare for that meeting?

**Discussion Questions:**

□ Group Facilitator – *It is not necessary to use all the questions provided. Select the ones that will stimulate the most response from your Connection Group.*

1. What is prayer according to you?
2. What did Jesus do in Mark 1:35 and Luke 5:16 that showed how vital prayer was to Him?
3. Why do you think Jesus often went to quiet, solitary places to pray? What can we learn from this?
4. According to Hebrews 4:14-16, what makes Jesus our Great High Priest?
5. Why is it significant that Jesus can “sympathize with our weaknesses” (Hebrews 4:15)?
6. How does the Old Testament role of the high priest help us understand what Jesus did for us?
7. Jesus prioritized prayer despite being very busy. How can you make time to pray in your daily routine?
8. The Bible says we can come to God’s throne “with confidence” (Hebrews 4:16). What does that mean for you personally?
9. What challenges or struggles do you face that you need to bring to God in prayer?
10. Jesus found strength in prayer. How can prayer strengthen you for the challenges of this year?
11. What practical steps can you take to make prayer a regular and meaningful part of your life?

**Intentional Discipleship:**

How can this passage bring transformation to my life? What specific action do I need to take? What practical lessons can we share with those we are discipling? *Please write it down! Start applying it! Please share it with others!*

**CG Action Steps**

- As a group, encourage one another to align each one's priorities to God's priority, the souls of men.
- Reach out to your CG members or house church members experiencing difficult times. Be an encourager.
- Encourage every member of the connection group to be a part of a house church.
- Make every effort to follow up on the members of your connection groups through social media platforms.
- Always have a spare Bible ready to hand out to anyone interested. If you hand out a Bible, follow up with the person by doing LTG. Only do LTG with a person of the same sex. If the recipient is a lady, endorse her to a lady and a man to a man.
- What leadership training do your members need to take? Have they all completed our IDT levels of spiritual development? If not, what is holding them back?

## INTIMACY AND INTENTIONALITY

(A Call to Draw Near to God)

**Scripture References:** James 4:7-8; Exodus 3:1-12; John 17:4

**Group Opener:** (*Choose a question for your connection group to discuss.*)

1. What is one thing you do regularly to connect with God, and why is it meaningful to you?
2. If you could live with one guiding word or principle this year, what would it be, and why?

### Discussion Questions

- Group Facilitator – *It is not necessary to use all the questions provided. Select the ones that will stimulate the most response from your Connection Group.*
  1. Reflecting on James 4:8, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you," how can individuals and church communities cultivate a daily practice of drawing closer to God? What specific actions can foster a deeper sense of intimacy with Him?
  2. From Exodus 3:1-12, why do you think God chose to call Moses during an ordinary moment in his life? What does this teach us about God's timing?
  3. In Exodus 33:11, God spoke to Moses "face to face." What does this reveal about their relationship, and how can we strive for deeper intimacy with God?
  4. Considering Jesus's prayer in John 17:1-4, which demonstrates His intentionality in fulfilling God's will, how can you apply this model of intentional living to your personal faith journey and communal activities within the church?
  5. How do the stories of Moses and Jesus show the connection between intimacy with God and fulfilling God's mission?
  6. What are some practical ways you can "submit to God" and "resist the devil" in your daily life?
  7. Moses responded to God's call despite his fears and doubts. What fears must you overcome to obey God's calling for you?
  8. Intimacy with God often requires removing distractions, like Moses removing his sandals in reverence. What distractions in your life might be keeping you from drawing closer to God?
  9. Living intentionally means aligning your life with God's will. What specific steps can you take this year to ensure your actions glorify God?

10. How do the concepts of intimacy and intentionality interact to enhance a believer's spiritual growth and effectiveness in ministry? What practical steps can be taken to balance these two aspects in one's daily life and church involvement?
11. In light of the yearly theme mentioned, 'A year of growing closer, a year to share,' how can focusing on a specific spiritual theme each year help individuals and congregations stay aligned with God's purposes? What might be some potential benefits or challenges in selecting and adhering to an annual spiritual focus?

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## A CALL TO SEEK GOD (God's Plan, Our Priority)

**Scripture References:** Jeremiah 29:10-14, Matthew 6:33-34

**Group Opener:** (*Choose a question for your connection group to discuss.*)

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to wait a long time for something important? How did it feel, and what helped you get through it?
2. If you had to pick one thing to search for your whole life, what would it be and why?

**Discussion Questions:**

- Group Facilitator – *It is not necessary to use all the questions provided. Select the ones that will stimulate the most response from your Connection Group.*
1. In Jeremiah 29:10-14, why does God promise to restore the Israelites after 70 years of exile? What does this tell us about His character?
  2. How do the words "plans for welfare and not for evil" (Jeremiah 29:11) speak to the situation of the exiles? How do they relate to us today?
  3. What does it mean to "seek God with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13)? Why is wholeheartedness important in our relationship with God?
  4. According to Matthew 6:33, what does it mean to "seek first the kingdom of God"? How does this command contrast with worldly priorities?
  5. How does Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:34 about not worrying connect to the promise of provision in verse 33?
  6. In times of waiting, how can you remind yourself of God's promises? Share practical ways to build trust in God's timing.
  7. Reflect on your current priorities. Are there areas where you are seeking worldly success more than God's kingdom? How can you realign your focus?
  8. What are some practical ways to seek God with all your heart in daily life? Share examples from your own experience.
  9. How can trusting God's provision (Matthew 6:33-34) change the way you handle stress or uncertainty about the future?
  10. Think about a friend or family member who may be struggling with anxiety or hopelessness. How can you encourage them with the truths of Jeremiah 29:11 or Matthew 6:33?

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## IF YOU DON'T GO, WE WON'T MOVE

(Seeking God's Presence)

**Scripture References:** Exodus 33:12-23

**Group Opener:** (*Choose a question for your connection group to discuss.*)

1. What is the most memorable place you've visited? Why was it special to you?
2. If you could spend time with anyone who could guide you through a challenge, who would it be and why?

**Discussion Questions:**

- Group Facilitator – *It is not necessary to use all the questions provided. Select the ones that will stimulate the most response from your Connection Group.*
  1. In Exodus 33:12-13, Moses asks God to teach him His ways. What does this tell us about Moses' relationship with God and his priorities?
  2. Why was Moses unwilling to continue the journey without God's presence (Exodus 33:15)? How does this reflect the importance of God's presence in our lives?
  3. God reassures Moses in verse 14, saying, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." What does this promise mean for the Israelites, and what does it mean for us today?
  4. Moses asks to see God's glory in verse 18. Why do you think Moses made this bold request, and how does God respond?
  5. What do verses 21-23 teach us about God's holiness and the limits of human understanding of His glory?
  6. Moses interceded for Israel, asking God to forgive and guide them. Who are the people or situations in your life that you can intercede for through prayer?
  7. Reflect on a time when you felt God's presence in a special way. How did it impact your decisions or strengthen your faith?
  8. Moses depended on God's promises to guide him in prayer. What promises from Scripture can you stand on as you pray for guidance or strength?
  9. In what ways can you prioritize seeking God's presence in your daily life? Are there changes you need to make to experience more of His guidance and peace?
  10. Moses longed to see more of God's glory. How can you cultivate a deeper hunger for knowing God and experiencing His power and love?

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## HOW TO BECOME A PRAYER WARRIOR

**Scripture References:** Genesis 18:16-33

**Group Opener:** (*Choose a question for your connection group to discuss.*)

1. Have you ever prayed for someone and later saw God answer that prayer? How did it make you feel?
2. What do you think it means to “wrestle in prayer”? Share a word or phrase that comes to mind when you hear this.

**Discussion Questions:**

- Group Facilitator – *It is not necessary to use all the questions provided. Select the ones that will stimulate the most response from your Connection Group.*
  1. What was Abraham’s attitude as he interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:16-33)? What does this teach us about how we should approach God in prayer?
  2. In Genesis 18:16, why do you think Abraham chose to follow God step by step instead of staying behind? How can this relate to our spiritual walk?
  3. How does God’s conversation with Abraham (Genesis 18:17-19) show His purpose for Abraham as an intercessor? What does this reveal about God's heart for justice and mercy?
  4. In verse 23, Abraham appeals to God’s justice, saying, “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?” How does this show Abraham’s understanding of God’s character?
  5. Why do you think Abraham repeatedly reduced the number of righteous people required to save the city (Genesis 18:27-33)? What does this persistence teach us about intercessory prayer?
  6. Abraham’s prayer reflected his concern for others, including his nephew Lot. Who are some people or groups in your life that you feel burdened to pray for?
  7. How can we cultivate a heart that senses God’s pain over sin and wickedness in the world? What practical steps can we take to respond in prayer?
  8. Think about a time when you faced challenges in prayer. What motivated you to persevere? How can Abraham’s example encourage you to keep praying even when it’s difficult?
  9. How does understanding Jesus as our ultimate intercessor (Hebrews 7:25) inspire confidence in your prayers? How can this shape the way you pray for others?

10. How can you create a daily habit of intercessory prayer in your life? What might help you stay consistent and focused?

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