



Lessons For Connection Groups



Discussion Questions For Connection Group Leaders

“LIVING AN INTENTIONAL LIFE: Die to Self and Live for Christ”

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 praise and adorn the Lord for who He is and what He has done in our lives. Let the worship lead you into a time of Spirit-led 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.

NOT I, BUT CHRIST

Scripture References: Galatians 2:20

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

1. Can you think of something you once gave up because you realized it wasn't good for you? How did it feel?
2. Have you ever tried to change something in your life that was difficult at first but turned out to be very rewarding?

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 Galatians 2:20, Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ." In your own words, what does it mean to be crucified with Christ?
 2. According to the sermon, why did Paul emphasize that living by faith in Christ is more important than following religious rules?
 3. What is the difference between "self-life" and "Christ-life"? Share one example for each from the sermon.
 4. Paul speaks about putting our old selves to death. Can you name one area of your life that you struggle to surrender to Christ?
 5. In your life, do you find it challenging to depend on Christ fully? What makes it hard?
 6. The sermon talks about finding true fulfillment in Christ instead of worldly achievements. Have you ever chased after something you thought would make you happy, only to be disappointed? What did you learn?
 7. How can denying yourself and surrendering control help you develop a closer relationship with God?
 8. Why do you think Paul calls us to die daily? What does "dying daily" practically look like for you?
 9. What practical steps can you take this week to apply Galatians 2:20 and begin to experience more of Christ living through you?

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.
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A MOTHER'S COURAGE : The Legacy of a Godly Mom

Scripture References: Exodus 2:1-10

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

1. Can you share one special memory you have of your mother or a mother figure in your life?
2. What is the most courageous thing you have seen a mother do?

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. According to Exodus 2, why did Jochebed decide to hide her baby boy, Moses?
 2. What dangers did Moses' mother face in choosing to save her son?
 3. How did God honor Jochebed's faith and courage when she placed Moses in the river?
 4. Jochebed had to trust God with her child's future. Can you think of a situation in your own life when you had to trust God completely, even when you didn't know the outcome?
 5. Mothers today face many difficult decisions, just like Jochebed. How can her example help mothers trust God more deeply in their parenting?
 6. The sermon mentioned that Jochebed had faith even in dark times. What can you learn from her about maintaining faith during your own struggles?
 7. Why do you think God often chooses ordinary people like Jochebed, rather than powerful people, to carry out His plans?
 8. Moses grew up knowing his Hebrew identity because of his mother's early influence. How important is it for mothers today to instill godly values and identity in their children from an early age?
 9. Jochebed's actions remind us that we must sometimes let go and trust God. Is there something in your life today that God is calling you to surrender into His hands?
 10. How can you honor and encourage the mothers and mother-figures in your life this week, inspired by Jochebed's example?

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A LIVING SACRIFICE: Surrendering to God's Will

Scripture References: Romans 12:1-2

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

1. Can you share a time when you gave something valuable to someone else? How did it make you feel?
2. If you had to describe yourself using only three words, which words would you choose 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 Romans 12:1-2, Paul asks believers to be a “living sacrifice.” What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?
 2. Why does Paul emphasize that our surrender to God should be “holy and acceptable”?
 3. In your daily life, what area is most challenging for you to fully surrender to God (e.g., relationships, finances, plans)?
 4. The sermon mentioned Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice Isaac as an example of total surrender. Can you recall a moment when trusting God required a similar leap of faith for you?
 5. Paul warns against conforming to the patterns of this world. What worldly attitudes or behaviors do you find difficult to resist?
 6. How can renewing your mind through God's Word help you overcome the pressures of conforming to worldly standards?
 7. Why do you think people are afraid to fully surrender to God’s will? What encouragement can you find in today’s message to help overcome this fear?
 8. Think about Corrie ten Boom’s quote, “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” How does this quote speak to your own fears or uncertainties about the future?
 9. How can your personal relationship with God grow deeper through daily surrender? What practical steps can you take to experience greater intimacy with God?

10. What is one specific thing you will commit to surrendering to God this week, as you live out Romans 12:1-2 in a practical way?

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CRUCIFYING THE FLESH : Breaking Free from Old Nature

Scripture References: Galatians 5:16-24, Romans 8:12-13

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

1. Can you share about a habit you successfully changed in your life? How did you do it?
2. If you could immediately improve one thing about yourself, 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. According to Galatians 5:16-17, what does it mean to “walk in the Spirit,” and why is this important for Christians?
 2. Paul lists several examples of “works of the flesh” in Galatians 5. Can you identify some that are common struggles for people today?
 3. The sermon mentioned the story of the two wolves. Which “wolf” do you feel you feed more often – your flesh or your spirit? How do you know?
 4. Samson’s story shows the danger of giving in to sinful desires. Are there any specific areas in your life that you think could lead to spiritual weakness if left unchecked?
 5. In your daily life, what practical steps can you take to avoid feeding the flesh and instead feed the Spirit?
 6. Why do you think so many believers find it difficult to overcome certain sins, even though they know these sins hinder their relationship with God?
 7. What role does accountability play in helping you to crucify the flesh and walk by the Spirit?
 8. Think about the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 (love, joy, peace, patience, etc.). Which one do you feel needs to grow more in your life?
 9. Reflect on Jesus’ prayer, “Not My will, but Yours be done.” How does Jesus’ example inspire you to surrender your own desires daily?
 10. What is one specific fleshly desire or habit you will commit to crucifying this week? How will you practically rely in the Holy Spirit to gain victory in this area?

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LOSING TO GAIN : The Cost and Reward of Following Christ

Scripture References: Matthew 16:24-26

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

1. What is something you had to give up in life, but later realized it was for the best.
2. If someone gave you a free ticket to travel anywhere in the world, where would you go 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 verse 24, Jesus says, “If anyone desires to come after Me,...” What does this tell you about who is invited to follow Jesus?
 2. What does it mean to “deny yourself” in your own words? Why do you think this is the first step in following Jesus?
 3. Jesus says we must “take up our cross.” What did a cross represent during Jesus’ time? How is this different from how people use the symbol today?
 4. In verse 25, Jesus talks about losing and finding life. How is this different from how the world tells us to live?
 5. What does Jesus mean when He says, “What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” How would you explain this to a friend?
 6. What are some examples of areas in your life where you find it hard to deny yourself? Why do you think it’s hard?
 7. What “cross” are you currently carrying as a follower of Christ? How does knowing Jesus carried His cross help you?
 8. What is something in this world that tempts you to “gain” instead of follow Christ? How can you overcome that?
 9. If someone asked you, “Is following Jesus worth the cost?”—what would you say and why?
 10. What is one specific way you can “lose your life for Christ's sake” this week—through service, sacrifice, or surrender?

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NO LONGER SLAVES : Denying Self to Walk in Freedom

Scripture References: Galatians 5:1, 13-14; Romans 7:1-6

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

1. Have you ever experienced freedom after being stuck in a difficult situation for a long time? How did it feel?
2. If you could describe freedom in just one word, what word would you choose, 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. According to Galatians 5:1, what does it mean that Christ has set us free? What has He freed us from?
 2. In Galatians 5:13-14, Paul says freedom should be used to serve others in love. How is this different from the world's view of freedom?
 3. The sermon mentioned Nelson Mandela as an example of using freedom to serve others. Can you share how you have seen someone else use their freedom selflessly?
 4. What does the imagery of the bird in a cage teach you about how you might be holding onto old habits or fears despite having freedom in Christ?
 5. Why is it tempting sometimes to go back to our old ways, even though we know Christ has freed us from them?
 6. How does understanding our union with Christ (Romans 7:4) help us live more freely in daily life?
 7. What difference does it make in your daily life to serve God out of joy and love rather than from a sense of obligation or duty?
 8. Can you identify an area in your life where you still feel enslaved (such as fear, sin, or worry)? How does this message encourage you to experience true freedom in that area?
 9. Paul encourages us to use our freedom to serve others. Who is one person God might be calling you to serve this week?

10. What is one specific step you will take this week to intentionally live out the freedom Christ has given you—either by serving someone, surrendering a fear, or letting go of an old habit?

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WALKING IN THE SPIRIT : The Power to Say No to Self

Scripture References: Romans 8:1-14

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

1. Can you share a time you tried hard to stop a bad habit? What helped you succeed, or what made it difficult?
2. If you could change one thing about yourself instantly, 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. According to Romans 8:1–2, what does it mean that there is "no condemnation" for those who are in Christ?
 2. What does Paul mean by "walking in the Spirit" in Romans 8:5–8? Can you explain this concept simply?
 3. The sermon described two different mindsets: fleshly (self-centered) and spiritual (God-centered). Which mindset do you think you struggle with most often?
 4. What practical things can you do each day to help set your mind on the Spirit rather than the flesh?
 5. Romans 8:11 speaks about the Spirit's power that raised Jesus from the dead being in us. How does knowing this encourage you in your own struggles and temptations?
 6. The sermon described our relationship with sin as an "old operating system." How does this illustration help you understand the importance of fully relying on the Holy Spirit?
 7. Have you ever felt that inner conflict Paul described, doing what you don't want to do and not doing what you know is right? How does today's message help you with this struggle?
 8. Romans 8 says we are "no longer debtors" to the flesh. Is there something in your life you still feel you owe to your old way of living? How can you begin to let that go?
 9. What specific steps will you take this week to intentionally listen and respond to the Holy Spirit's leading in your daily life?

10. Identify one area in your life where you need to intentionally "uninstall" old patterns or habits. How will you practically allow the Holy Spirit to take control in this area?

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SERVING OTHERS: The Mark of a Denied Life

Scripture References: Galatians 5:13-15; Romans 15:1-3

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

1. Can you recall a time when someone served you unexpectedly? How did it make you feel?
2. What is one simple thing you enjoy doing to help or serve others?

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. According to Galatians 5:13, what does true Christian freedom look like? Why isn't freedom about doing whatever we want?
 2. In Romans 15:1–3, Paul talks about bearing the weaknesses of others. How did Christ Himself model this attitude?
 3. The sermon explained that serving others is the mark of true self-denial. Can you share a practical example of how you can serve others in daily life?
 4. Why is it sometimes challenging to serve others selflessly, even when we know it's the right thing to do?
 5. Galatians 5:15 warns about "biting and devouring one another." How do negative attitudes and critical words damage relationships within the church or family?
 6. How can intentionally serving others prevent conflicts and divisions in your home, church, or community?
 7. Think about Jesus washing His disciples' feet (John 13). How does this powerful example challenge your own attitude about serving?
 8. Is there someone in your life whom you find difficult to serve or love? How does today's message help you see this situation differently?
 9. Identify one specific way you will intentionally serve someone else this week. How will you ensure you follow through?
 10. How can you encourage others in your church or family to adopt this lifestyle of humble service, creating a stronger community of love and unity?

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THE END GOAL : Christ Formed in You

Scripture References: Galatians 4:19. Jeremiah 18:1-16

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

1. Have you ever tried making something out of a clay or crafting something with your hands? How did it turn out?
2. If you could become excellent at one skill overnight, what skill would you choose 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 Galatians 4:19, what does Paul mean when he says "until Christ is formed in you"? How would you explain this simply?
 2. Jeremiah 18 describes God as a potter and us as clay. What does this picture tell us about how God works in our lives?
 3. Paul felt deep concern when the Galatians were drifting from grace into legalism. Have you ever found yourself trying to earn God's love rather than receiving His grace freely? Why do you think that happens?
 4. The sermon explained that God's goal is not just to save us from punishment but to transform us. What specific areas in your life do you feel God shaping right now?
 5. Spiritual formation involves being shaped through spiritual disciplines (like prayer, Bible study, worship). Which discipline do you feel has helped you most in becoming more like Christ?
 6. The sermon mentioned that suffering and trials are part of God's shaping process. How have you personally experienced growth or change during difficult times?
 7. Think about the illustration of Eric Liddell and Hudson Taylor. Which of their stories inspired you the most, and why?
 8. Can you honestly say your greatest desire is for Christ to be formed in you? If not, what is competing for that priority in your life?
 9. What is one spiritual habit (like daily prayer, Bible reading, or worship) you will commit to practicing consistently this week to allow Christ to form His character in you?

10. How can you encourage someone else to stay on the Potter's wheel this week and continue letting God shape them?

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