



CONNECTION GROUP LESSONS



Discussion Questions For Connection Group Leaders

“SHEPHERDS OF A FEW”

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.

GOD IS A RELATIONAL GOD

Scripture Reference: Isaiah 40:11 | Matthew 22:37–40 | 2 Corinthians 13:14 | Acts 2:46–47

Core Truth: God is relational by nature, and He calls His people to live in loving, shepherding relationships with others.

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

1. Who is one person who made you feel genuinely cared for in your walk with God?
2. When you hear the word relationship, what matters most to you – trust, love, presence, care, or something else? 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 2 Corinthians 13:14, Paul speaks of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. What does this reveal to you about the nature of God?
 2. The sermon teaches that God is not distant or detached, but relational in His very being. Why is this truth important for your understanding of the Christian life?
 3. The sermon mentions that human beings were created in the image of God. How does being made in God's image help you understand why people long for relationship, belonging, and fellowship?
 4. Sin damaged our relationship with God and with one another. In what ways do you see this relational brokenness in the world today and even in people's personal lives?
 5. According to Acts 2:46–47, the early believers met both publicly and from house to house. What does this teach you about the importance of both large gatherings and smaller, personal settings for spiritual growth?

6. Why do you think the “one another” commands of Scripture—such as loving, praying for, encouraging, and bearing one another’s burdens—are best lived out in intentional relationships rather than in isolation?
7. In Matthew 22:37–40, Jesus taught that loving God and loving your neighbor summarize the whole law. How are these two commands connected to discipleship and shepherding others?
8. The sermon says, “Shepherding does not begin with a title. It begins with love.” What do you think that means in a practical way?
9. Isaiah 40:11 and John 10 present Jesus as the Shepherd who feeds, gathers, carries, and gently leads His people. What part of Christ’s shepherding ministry speaks most deeply to you right now?
10. Who has God placed in your life that you may be called to care for, encourage, guide, or help grow in the Lord?

APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose at least one way to obey this truth:

- Because God is relational, make time to deepen your fellowship with Him through prayer and His Word.
- Because God created you for relationship, reach out to one believer who may need encouragement, prayer, or companionship.
- Because the church is called to live as a spiritual family, be intentional in building meaningful relationships in your Connection Group.
- Because Christ is the Good Shepherd, ask the Lord to show you one person you can begin to care for spiritually

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?

YOU ARE NOT MEANT TO WALK ALONE

Scripture Reference: Ecclesiastes 4:9–12; John 13:34–35; Hebrews 10:24–25

Core Truth: Spiritual growth happens best in close spiritual relationships.

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

1. Have you ever gone through a difficult time when one person's presence or help made a big difference in your life? What happened?
2. Do you usually find it easy or difficult to open up to others when you are struggling? 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. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says, "Two are better than one." What do you think this means in everyday life and in your spiritual walk?
 2. According to Ecclesiastes 4:10, what happens when a person falls and has no one to help him? What warning does this give you about isolation?
 3. The passage teaches that there is strength, warmth, and protection in walking with others. Which of these speaks most to your present season of life? Why?
 4. In John 13:34–35, Jesus commanded His disciples to love one another as He loved them. What makes Christ's love different from ordinary human love?
 5. Jesus said that the world would know His disciples by their love for one another. How can genuine Christian love become a witness to unbelievers?
 6. Hebrews 10:24 says to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." What does it mean to be intentional in helping another believer grow?
 7. How does regular fellowship with other believers strengthen your faith, your obedience, and your endurance?
 8. The sermon said, "Connection Groups are family, not events." What is the difference between treating fellowship as a family and treating it like just another church activity?

9. Why do you think spiritual growth often becomes weak when a believer is disconnected from close spiritual relationships?
10. What is one practical way you can help make your Connection Group a place of love, encouragement, and spiritual growth?

APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose at least one way to obey this truth:

- Because God did not design you to walk alone – take one intentional step to build or strengthen a spiritual relationship.
- Because Christ commanded you to love one another – encourage, pray for, or help one believer in a practical way.
- Because believers need mutual encouragement – attend your Connection Group faithfully and participate with openness and care.
- Because others also need spiritual family – invite someone to join your Connection Group or begin connecting with them personally.

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EVERY BELIEVER IS CALLED TO CARE

Scripture Reference: John 21:15–17, Isaiah 40:11, 1 Peter 5:2–3

Core Truth: Every believer is called to shepherd someone—even if only a few.

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

1. Who is one person God used to care for you spiritually, and what did that person do that made an impact on your life?
2. When you hear the word shepherd, what kind of person or action comes to your mind?

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 John 21:15–17, Jesus did not first ask Peter about his ability, but about his love. Why do you think Jesus asked, “Do you love Me?” before saying, “Feed My sheep”?
 2. Jesus said, “Feed My lambs,” “Tend My sheep,” and “Feed My sheep.” What do these commands teach you about the true meaning of shepherding?
 3. Why is it important that Jesus called them My lambs and My sheep? What does this teach you about the people God entrusts to your care?
 4. Isaiah 40:11 says that God feeds His flock, gathers the lambs, carries them, and gently leads them. Which part of that verse speaks most to you and why?
 5. What does Isaiah 40:11 teach you about the kind of heart and attitude you should have when caring for people spiritually?
 6. In 1 Peter 5:2–3, Peter says to shepherd the flock willingly, eagerly, and by example. Why are these qualities important in caring for others?
 7. Peter warns against serving by compulsion, for selfish gain, or by lording it over others. What are some wrong attitudes that can damage spiritual care and discipleship?
 8. The sermon says, “Shepherding is not position—it is love in action.” What does that statement mean to you in a practical way?

9. Why is a Connection Group leader more than just a teacher or discussion facilitator? In what ways is a CG leader also called to be a shepherd?
10. Who are the few people God may already be entrusting to you right now, and what is one practical way you can care for them this week?

APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose at least one way to obey this truth:

- Because Jesus connects love for Him with care for His people – pray for and intentionally check on one person the Lord has placed in your life.
- Because shepherding is love in action – encourage one believer with Scripture, prayer, or a personal message of care.
- Because God shepherds with tenderness – be patient, gentle, and attentive to someone who is weak, discouraged, or struggling.
- Because every believer is called to care – take one step toward helping someone grow in Christ, even if it is only one or two people.

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THE MISSION OF EVERY CONNECTION GROUP

Scripture Reference: Matthew 28:18–20 | Acts 1:8 | 2 Corinthians 5:19

Core Truth: Every Connection Group is called to grow in the Word, build relationships, and reach out to others by living out the mission to win, connect, train, and send.

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

1. Have you ever been invited to something that changed your life? What made that invitation meaningful to you?
2. When you think of “mission,” what comes to your mind – responsibility, pressure, purpose, or something else? 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 Matthew 28:18–20, Jesus commands His followers to make disciples of all nations. What does this reveal to you about the mission of every believer—not just leaders?
 2. 2 Corinthians 5:19 says that God has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. What does it mean to you personally that God has given you this responsibility?
 3. The sermon teaches that every Connection Group must “win.” Why is it important that our group does not become inward-focused only?
 4. In your own life, how did someone’s care, invitation, or friendship help you come closer to Christ?
 5. Acts 1:8 speaks about being witnesses empowered by the Holy Spirit. Why do you think we need the Holy Spirit in order to reach others effectively?
 6. The mission includes “connecting” people, not just reaching them. Why is belonging to a spiritual family important for a new believer?
 7. What is the difference between simply attending a group and being truly connected in a group?

8. Jesus said we are to teach people to obey all that He commanded (Matthew 28:20). Why is obedience—not just knowledge—important in discipleship?
9. The sermon says that healthy groups “train and send.” What fears or challenges might prevent you from helping others grow or stepping into leadership yourself?
10. Who are the people in your life right now that God may be calling you to reach, connect, disciple, or encourage?

APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose at least one way to obey this truth:

- Because we are called to win, pray for at least one person who does not yet know Christ and intentionally reach out to them.
- Because we are called to connect, take time to build a deeper relationship with someone in your group.
- Because we are called to train, apply one truth from Scripture in your daily life and share it with someone.
- Because we are called to send, encourage someone to step into serving, leading, or discipling others.

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BORN TO MULTIPLY

Scripture Reference: John 12:24, Acts 2:47 | 2 Timothy 2:2

Core Truth: Healthy Connection Groups always multiply.

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

1. Can you share about a person who helped you grow in your walk with God? What did that person do that blessed you?
2. When you hear the word multiply, what comes first to your mind – joy, fear, pressure, excitement, or something else? 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 John 12:24, Jesus said that unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone. What do you think Jesus is teaching about fruitfulness and multiplication through this picture?
 2. How can this principle of the seed apply to a Connection Group that wants to grow and multiply?
 3. The sermon said that groups go through stages: forming, growing, serving, and multiplying. Why is it important to understand these stages in Connection Group life?
 4. Why should we see multiplication not as division, but as celebration?
 5. In Acts 2:47, the Bible says, “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” What does this teach you about who ultimately brings growth to the church?
 6. Looking at the life of the early church in Acts 2, what marks of a healthy spiritual community do you see that would help a group become ready to multiply?
 7. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul told Timothy to entrust the truth to faithful people who will be able to teach others also. What does this teach you about discipleship and spiritual multiplication?
 8. The sermon said, “Every believer is a future discipler.” Why is this an important truth for every Christian to embrace?

9. What fears or wrong mindsets can keep a group or a believer from multiplying?
10. What is one practical step you can take to help your Connection Group become healthier, more fruitful, and more ready for multiplication?

APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, choose at least one way to obey this truth:

- Because fruitfulness requires surrender – ask the Lord to help you let go of comfort, fear, or selfishness that may keep you from growing and multiplying.
- Because healthy groups do not stay inward forever, do one intentional act that helps strengthen your Connection Group spiritually.
- Because every believer is a future discipler- begin praying for one person you can encourage, guide, or help grow in the Lord.
- Because multiplication is a part of God’s design – invite someone to join your Connection Group or begin building a relationship that may lead to discipleship.

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