

Connection Sunday

Life Group Discussion Questions – August 29, 2021

1. You are **GIFTED** for connection! 1 Corinthians 12

- The **PROCESS** and **PURPOSE** of receiving gifts vs. 4-14
 - ▶ ⁴ ‘Now there are varieties of **GIFTS**, but the same Spirit.’
 - ▶ ⁵ ‘And there are varieties of **MINISTRIES**, and the same Lord.’
 - ▶ ⁶ ‘There are varieties of **EFFECTS**, but the same God who works all things...’
 - ▶ ⁷ ‘But **to each one** is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**’

- Each gift is equally **NEEDED** and **NECESSARY** vs. 15-21

- Each gift is to be equally **HONORED** vs. 22-26

2. You are in **NEED** of connection! Hebrews 10:23-25

- We are spiritually **INTER-DEPENDENT**
- Engage in **THREE** spiritual meals per week
- Dine at **TWO** and serve at **ONE**

3. You can serve ‘**AT**’ the church or ‘**AS**’ the church!

- Help others **GROW** in their relationship with God
- Help others to **HEAR** about Jesus

Hebrews 10:24-25 “...and let’s consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds not abandoning our own meeting together, as is the habit of some people, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

DISCOVER

1. What are spiritual gifts? Are they special talents and skills? Can anything be included like the natural gifts of being tech-savvy or being able to sing well? Do you know your spiritual gifts?
2. There are many spiritual gifts but they all have the same purpose. What is that purpose?

EXPLORE

1. Connecting leads to growing which in turn leads to serving which again leads to more connecting, growing, and serving. Explain how this is a self-perpetuating concept.
2. Read Matthew 5:16. A servant is one who is generous with their time, treasures, and talents. What’s the difference between being a servant who is occasionally generous and one who constantly seeks opportunities to give? What are some ways that we can make generous giving a core value of our lives?
3. According to 1 Peter 4:10, all believers have been endowed with special gifts. Why is it important for us to know what the gifts are? What are the consequences of incorrectly applying them?
4. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What five things are we told to do? How do we stimulate one another to love? ...to good deeds? (What do other believers do to stimulate **you** most to love and good deeds?)
5. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. Paul notes the worldly evidence against the Corinthian church. As long as you reach for what makes you feel good or what makes you look important, then you are like a breast-feeding infant (akin to being spiritually immature). When we are “fleshly,” how do we nullify the work of the Holy Spirit in us? What areas in your life do you consider yourself to be spiritually mature? How and when are you inclined to be worldly and, therefore, immature?

EXPERIENCE

1. As followers of Christ, we know that we must to connect with God, grow in Him and serve Him by serving others. Describe a season in your life when you connected with God in a profound way. How did that impact your growth as a follower? What changed? Were you able to meet the needs of others as a result? Why or why not?
2. Read Galatians 6:9-10. Do people generally discern the needs of others around them? What is your knee-jerk reaction when you first recognize a need: inconvenience or opportunity? Why do you think that is?
3. What reasons or motives might a Christian give for not going to church? ...for not serving in some way? Are they in sin? How should you respond to them?

PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Thank You, Lord, for indwelling me and guiding me into all truth. Open my understanding of the gifts You have given me. Take every part of my life and use it for Your glory.

Action... Prayerfully consider serving “as” the church or “at” the church, then make the commitment.