



Connect : LIFEgroup discussion guide

“COMMUNITY - CONNECT” Sunday 7th February 2021

WELCOME: Last week we shared some themes for 2021 coming out of the challenging year our world faced in 2020. In discussions with our Leadership Team we sensed the opportunity to:

- Reset:** as a “factory reset” clears out the system to start afresh, we can start again.
Restore: we have the opportunity to choose what we bring back and what we discard.
Refresh: we can decide to take a fresh approach to things, it’s our choice.
Renew: will we allow the transforming work of God to renew us?

The question that leads into the themes of reset-restore-refresh-renew is simply asking “Why?”

- Have you been asking “why,” in any area of your life? Share around your LIFEgroup any significant “why” questions people may be asking.

DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE:

This week’s message is the start of a three-part series, which is a product of a three-year journey. It will shape the journey we are on, in this next season as a church family. We have been challenged by the EvangelismSHIFT course, to understand that we are called to “Live as Witnesses,” and that we are SENT by God. God sends us as followers of Jesus with a clear purpose, as we embrace the fact that we are sent to live as witnesses, we are learning what it looks like as we encounter people on our journey. In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus declares the “Great Commission,” what is it that Jesus calls us into?

Jesus came to them and spoke saying, “all power and authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Consequently, as you are going about life, train others from all nations to be disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to live in the ways I have directed you. And remember I am with you all days to the completion of the age. Matt 28:18-20

“... as you are going, make disciples...”

The fundamental response to the question of “why” we do what we do, ought to be “because Jesus asked us to.”

- **What are your reflections on that idea? Do you agree or disagree and why?**
- **Read Matt 18:28–20 aloud from the different versions of the Bible people in your LIFEgroup have, and read the version on the left.**
- **Is there anything that stands out from the passage?**
- **What does it mean to you to make disciples?**
- **How can we make disciples as we are going...?**

In the beginning we read of God, the Spirit of God hovering, the Word of God spoken – we know from John 1 that “Jesus is the Word” – God is in community and has been eternally.

- **Read Gen 1: 26 people are created in the image of a plural God – “in our image.” What does this indicate?**
- **Read Mark 12:28-31 What does this say to us?**
- **Read Acts 2:42-47 What does this say about the church?**
- **Our journey begins and ends with people. and all along the way impacts people. We are created for community and our purpose includes our community**





Our Mission is to *Connect people deeper into the Kingdom of God*. We aim to take every person we meet – whether a believer or not a believer – closer to Jesus Christ.

- **Read *John 3:16-17* how does this reflect God's heart to want to connect to every person on the planet?**
- **Read *1 John 4:9-21* around the group – what key ideas do you get from this passage? In what ways is it important that we connect together as believers**
- **Read *Mark 12:28-31* in what ways is it important that we connect with our neighbours?**
- **Share ways in which we could connect with one another and our community and how we can connect people deeper into the Kingdom of God?**



Over 50 years ago, our church, was planted by a community of passionate Christian believers. The pioneers sacrificed to build a Preschool and a church building, that would be a source of blessing to the local COMMUNITY. We have an opportunity now to reset our purpose, to refresh our approach and CONNECT with people in new and fresh ways in 2021 and beyond.

Pray together:

Pray for a fresh passion for relationship with God personally and as a church.

Pray for a fresh love, for God's heart for lost people in the COMMUNITY around us

Pray for fresh insight and spiritual discernment to help CONNECT people deeper into the Kingdom of God – both people who are already following Jesus and those who don't yet know God.

Pray for a season to see as God sees, and to walk into God's plans for his church in Engadine, our Shire, our city, our nation and our world.