



Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

“INTEGRITY: Mission in Action” Sun 13th September 2021

WELCOME: Last week we began a new series exploring “Integrity” – the part we play in partnership with God. What do you recall from last week’s message on living to please God in 1 Thess 4 & 5?

- **How would you define “Integrity?”**
- **Why does God love his people to live in integrity?**
- **In what ways can Christians live in hope - even in times of grief, when things are tough?**
- **In what ways can we live our lives, ready for Jesus to return at any time?**

DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE:

Mike introduced our guest speaker – Colin Scott from Global Mission Partners – with an outline of Connect Church’s primary Mission engagement: Connect currently supports a number of small occasional projects throughout the year, but primarily supports 4 families in Mission:

- Chris and Lisa Laney in their work with WEC (Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ) formerly based in Turkey but now in Sydney.
- Adriel and Ryan Booker in their work with YWAM (Youth with a Mission) also now in Sydney.
- Sarah and Chris Ochaya in their work with Tamarind in Gulu, Uganda
- Steve & Bronwyn Veale in their work with Community H2O* in Myanmar & Indonesia
*(*Community H2O does not receive regular financial support at this time, the others do)*

- **What are your reflections on the “Mission work” we have been supporting?**
- **How important do you think it is as a Christian to be engaged with “Mission work?”**
- **What “Mission work” could we be developing or doing in our own community?**

Initially Colin introduced Global Missions Partners as the Missions Agency of the Churches of Christ. He outlined some of the work that GMP (Global Missions Partners) are involved with in Zimbabwe, South Sudan, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji as well as with Indigenous communities in Australia. Colin indicated some ways that God might look at the world

- **What perspectives can you recall?**

Colin suggested God looks at the world not simply through its geography, but by people’s access to the Gospel, through the Human Development Index (HDI): Income, life expectancy and schooling. Colin suggested that Poverty is a major concern to God

- **Why might poverty be a major concern for God?**
- **Can you recall any Scriptures that relate this?**

Rather than send Western Missionaries into developing nations, GMP have chosen to partner with “passionate local leaders, who live there and know the culture and heartbeat of their communities.”

- **What challenges might this approach have?**
- **What benefits might this approach have?**

Read John 9:1-12

- How would you describe what goes on in this passage?
- Have you experienced times when people are blamed unjustly for the circumstances they find themselves in and people judge and criticise rather than helping?
- How would you summarise Jesus' approach in verse 3 and how can this influence our perspective when we face trouble or see others in trouble?

Read John 9:13-23

- How would you summarise what has happened in this passage?
- Why do you think Jesus' actions cause such confusion and division?
- How should the church today handle conflicting opinions from the wider community?

Read John 9:24-34

- How would you describe the dialogue between the Pharisees and the man Jesus healed?
- How have your experiences of encountering Jesus shaped you?
- The ultimate response for this man is rejection from his community – how would you deal with this if it happened to you?

Read John 9:35-41

- How does Jesus respond to the man's situation?
- How does the man respond to his encounter with Jesus this time?
- There is a danger for people who think they see, but are spiritually blind – as we seek to follow Jesus, how do we avoid spiritual darkness?

Our response:

Apportioning blame can cause us to shrink back from being generous to people in need. Jesus did not seek to answer all the questions first, he simply responded to the opportunity and met the need in front of him. What opportunities are there before us, for God's grace to step in? What opportunities do we face that will enable us to grow – personally and as a church? Engaging with the needs around us gives us the opportunity to reveal God's glory to our world. God is in the business of transforming people – body, soul and spirit – and we are his missionaries in the world. Let's be looking for opportunities to be on Mission.

Pray together:

Pray that we would each see ourselves as God's sent people – missionaries in our world.

Pray that our eyes would be open to see the needs that are around us.

Pray that we would each be encouraged to do good to those around us in need.

Pray that we, as the family of Connect Church, would make the effort to strengthen each other to represent the Church of Jesus well in our world.

Pray that our leaders would be godly people who intercede on our behalf, while we in turn commit to pray for our leaders and support them.

Pray we would give and receive the kind of forgiveness we all need, to be who God has called us to be

Pray that we would make time this week to listen to God.

This week why not engage with the 5 x 5 x 5 process – take 5 mins for 5 days and dig deeper in 5 ways.