



# Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

## **INTEGRITY: choices have consequences**      **Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2021**

**WELCOME:** Last week's message focused on the idea of Integrity in life having impact across the generations. Although at one level this refers to a Christian family home, it also relates to the church as a family. The three key points were:

- 1. Generational Discipleship begins Home**
  - 2. Other godly influence is vital**
  - 3. Generational discipleship is a 2-way street**
- **What do you think is key from this that applies to our LIFEgroup and to Connect Church?**
  - **What do we do well and what can we improve?**

### **DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE:**

This week's message continues exploring the ways that Integrity impacts us personally, as a church family and as a community, made up of multiple generations.

- **What connections do you have with people in different generations from you, in your life in general and through Connect church?**
- **What is most significant for you, in your relationships with people who are from a different generation from you?**

#### **1. There are consequences for ignoring God.**

*Read 1 Sam 8:1-9; 1 Sam 9:1; 1 Sam 9:21; 1 Sam 10:1*

- **What do we learn about God and Samuel and Saul from these verses?**
- **What do we learn about God's people from these verses?**

Saul has been appointed Israel's first king – Samuel and God are displeased, and despite being the most handsome man in Israel, Saul is surprised

*Read 1 Sam 13:1-8 and read 1 Sam 10:8*

- **How do you think Saul and his men were feeling?**
- **Can you share about a time where you prayed and felt like God was not responding – what did you do? (Only share what you feel safe to share.)**

*Read 1 Sam 13:9-13*

In response to fear Saul has acted completely contrary to the principles of God's people

- **What outcome would you expect faces someone who directly opposes God?**
- **Have you ever been tempted or done something that was the opposite of God's calling for you – or has it happened to someone you know? (Only share what you feel safe to share.)**

*Read 1 Sam 13:14*

- **How do you think Saul felt in that moment?**
- **How significant are these consequences?**
- **Do you think it's fair or not? Why or why not?**

## **2. Choices we make impact other people's lives.**

*Re-read 1 Sam 13:14*

- **How does Saul's choice impact other people?**
- **What does it mean that God has sought out someone "after his own heart?"**
- **How can we be people who are after God's heart?**

Samuel reveals that God has already appointed the next leader – even though Samuel doesn't yet know who that is and that David is not anointed King for another couple of chapters

## **3. God is at work ahead of us.**

- **What does the idea of "God working ahead of us" mean to you?**

*Read Eph 2:10*

- **What do you think when you hear this verse?**
- **What do you think the things are that God planned for you and for Connect long ago?**

*Read Rom 8:28*

- **Have you had experience of seemingly bad or difficult things in your life subsequently having a positive impact?**

*Read 2 Tim 1:7*

- **What does this verse mean to you?**
- **How do you think followers of Jesus should respond when they sense that decisions, actions or behaviours are driven by fear?**

*Read Rom 13:1-7*

- **What does this passage say to you about our relationship to the Government?**
- **Does this mean we should slavishly follow immoral or unethical rules or decisions?**
- **How should we determine when to act and how should we respond, to the consequences imposed on us, when we make a decision that is not in line with the Government?**

In all situations we should consider "what is God's BIG picture?" and how does this situation fit in.

*Read John 3:16-17*

- **What would you say is God's BIG picture?**

*Read John 3:16-17*

- **How does Jesus deal with what must be the most unethical, immoral and illegal decision ever made in human history?**
- **Why does Jesus not react with outrage?**
- **What is the BIGGER picture that Jesus is aware of?**

*Read Rom 8:18*

- **What are your reflections on this verse?**

### **Our response:**

**Every choice we make has a consequence – either immediately or in the long term. Our choices have consequences that often impact others too. Jesus Christ made a choice that has a bearing on every human being, everywhere in all of human history – Jesus paid the price set YOU free.**

### **Pray together:**

Pray that we would be people who share God's BIG Picture with others.

Pray that we would each be partner together regardless of age or status.

*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.*