



Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

INTEGRITY: choices have consequences **Sun 17th 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.