



# Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

## INTEGRITY: We all miss the mark

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

**WELCOME:** Last week's message focused on the point that living a life of Integrity means being who God created you to be and when we do live that way, we find God's favour.

- **What are your thoughts about the idea that "living a life of Integrity means being who God created you to be?"**
- **What are your thoughts about the idea that "living as who God created you to be finds God's favour?"**
- **What does it mean to you to "find God's favour?"**

### **DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE:**

This week's message continues our journey exploring living a life of Integrity, considering that even though we seek to be true to who God calls us to be, we all miss the mark at times.

- **Do you have any reflections on times in life when you have "missed the mark," that you are able to share with the LIFEgroup?**

The best Olympic Archer missed the potential total points haul by at least 20 points – whether we miss by an inch or miss by a mile we still "miss the mark." The Greek language of the New Testament uses the word "*hamartia*," which historically was an archery term for missing the mark. In Drama critique the term "*hamartia*" is used as a technical term, to describe the "inherent defect or shortcoming in the hero of a tragedy, who is in other respects a superior being favoured by fortune." (Encycl. Britannica) Bible translators, render "*hamartia*" in English as "Sin."

In **Matt 1:21** Jesus is named because he "will save people from their sins (from "*hamartia*")." In **Rom 3:23** Paul writes that "all have sinned (from "*hamartia*."). According to translator Bill Mounce it is translated as "to miss a mark; to be in error" and "to sin, do wrong; usually to do any act contrary to the will and law of God."

- **In what ways does this understanding of "*hamartia*" as the term for "Sin," change or expand your understanding of the nature of sin?**
- **In what ways do you think behaving in ways that are contrary to who God created us to be, could be described as "Sin?"**

**Read 2 Sam 11:1-5**

- **Knowing David as King should have been with his army, what does this passage indicate?**

**Read 2 Sam 11:6-17**

- **In what ways can "sin" take hold and grow in a person's life?**

**Read 2 Sam 11:18-27**

- **In what ways has David's sin impacted other people's lives?**

### 1. The actions of King David indicate that we all miss the mark/sin

*Read 2 Sam 12:1-6*

- In what ways do the choices we make have consequences for us and for other people?
- How could the prophet Nathan's parable help David recognise his own sin?

### 2. The actions of King David indicate that all choices have consequences.

*Read 2 Sam 12:7-12*

- What does this indicate David's actions reveal about how he treats God and the Word?

*Read 2 Sam 12:13*

- What does this verse reveal about David's response to recognising his sin?
- What does it suggest about the impact David's contempt for God has on others?

Despite all of David's wrongdoing, the one thing that counts in his favour is his readiness to take responsibility and repent for his behaviour. The New Testament term for "repent" is "*metanoia*" which means more than just expressing sorrow for our sin. *Metanoia* means "changing your mind," not in some flippant way, but truly changing your thinking to line it up with "the will and law of God," resulting in permanent changes in attitude and behaviour.

### 3. Repentance leads to forgiveness but that does not always negate consequences.

- In what ways have you experienced forgiveness but then also had to deal with the consequences of things you have done wrong or mistakes you have made?

In this broken world we inhabit things are not yet perfected. We suffer the consequences of our own mistakes, and we are also impacted by the consequences faced by others – known and unknown. This world is not fair and as believers we have the opportunity to contribute to doing the right thing, living in right ways, and when we do miss the mark responding in genuine repentance.

#### Our response:

**Take some time to reflect on when you have missed the mark and to commit to making changes – to repent and change direction on your life. Acknowledge that your choices have consequences – either immediately or in the long term – and that they impact other people's lives too. Consider how you can engage with God to make better choices and be a blessing to the people whose lives you impact.**

#### Pray together:

Pray for the strength, encouragement and empowering of the Holy Spirit to live a full and productive life as a follower of Jesus. Pray for those you know who are struggling in areas of life to know the love of the God who forgives. Pray for Connect Church and for our leadership team to truly be who God has called them to be.

*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.*