

SESSION 5 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GET STARTED

In Session 2, we learned that the definition of connecting is “joining or linking things together, especially as to provide access and communication.” We are all too familiar with how frustrating a weak communications signal can be! **Have you ever been in a situation where you had no cell phone signal and needed it? Can you draw some parallels to how disappointing it must be for God to have a sporadic connection to us?**

New Groups: *Getting To Know You* activity (pg. 130)

TAKE IT IN

Watch Session 5: Connecting To Christ at mynorthside.com/ctu.

What encouraged or challenged you from the video and daily study guide this week?

TALK IT OVER

Read Matthew 18:20 & Philippians 2:2

These are only two of the many scriptures that address togetherness. They show the joy of the Lord in our unity and His desire to be with us when we gather in His name. Often, in our relationships we can focus on what others can do for us, instead of how God is present in them. **Does this understanding change how you think about your relationships with others? Explain how and why.**

Read Matthew 28:19-20 & Luke 5:18-20

In these verses, we all have some responsibility to go and bring people to Jesus Christ. We often view our relationship with Christ as only a personal one. However, there should be an outward facing aspect of this relationship as well, one that brings others closer to Him. **Have you ever seen your relationship with Christ as only personal and inward, without paying enough attention to how it shows outwardly? Explain. What changes could help this outward aspect of our faith become more prevalent for you?**

While it is one thing to have outward facing “relationships,” it is another to have true “friendships” with others. Friends spend quality time with each other. **Have you developed any new friendships in the past few years, people you’ve invited to your home or chosen to spend time with? If the answer is no, it may be a sign**

that you have relationships with others, but not friendships. **Take some time to talk about this with your group. Who do you need to invite to coffee, lunch, an event, or over for dinner.**

Read 1 Peter 2:12 & Ephesians 4:29

Whether we realize it or not, as believers, it's important to remember that what we say or do reveals our beliefs and character to others. **Do you think you handle your life as a believer with enough awareness of how non-believers might see it? If so, share a story. If not, what changes can you make to better guard your faith story and not become a stumbling block for those who don't believe?**

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10, 1 Peter 3:8 & John 17:23

There is a clear call from Scripture for unity among believers in order to connect others to Jesus. This is perhaps shown most impactfully in Ephesians 4:1-16. There we are directed to:

- v. 3 “*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit...*”
- v. 12 “*equip his people for works of service.*”
- v. 13 “*become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*”

With all these scriptures in mind, what resonates with you about your role in unity with others? How can you better lead people to Christ and help others grow in the maturity and fullness of Christ?

LIVE IT OUT

One of the best ways to connect others to Christ is to serve others. When we give and serve sacrificially, it speaks to others in a powerful way. This can open the door to spiritual conversations, and eventually to an invitation to church, your group, and connecting to Jesus. **Discuss with your group practical ways you can serve others to show Christ's love. Where can you get involved that will give you chances to help others connect with Him? As you do, introduce and discuss your plans to complete the Serve Experience (pg. 136).**

Daily Devotions: Take 15-30 minutes each day to dive into the *Connecting The Unconnected* daily devotions. Don't think of it as homework, but time growing alongside your Heavenly Father. Come ready to discuss what you are learning at the next group session.

Memorize: “*Instead, speaking truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.*”
Ephesians 4:15