

LifeGroup Deep Dive | 40 Days of Invitation: Connect Intentionally 03/15

Main Focus: Build the bridge before extending the invitation

Key Line: *Connection precedes invitation.*

Culture Code Emphasis: Presence > Preference

Main Question: Are we relationally close enough that an invitation would feel natural and sincere?

KEY THEMES THAT CARRY THIS WEEK

Connection Builds Credibility — *People rarely receive spiritual invitations from relational strangers.*

Presence Opens Hearts — *Consistent care often prepares the soil for gospel moments.*

Small Steps Create Spiritual Bridges — *We are not forcing moments; we are faithfully forming them.*

Faithfulness Before Fruit — *Our role is obedience and love; God handles the outcomes.*

PORCH TALK

(Intentional, relational, movement-focused)

Leader Setup:

By now, each person should have identified their one and begun praying. This week we move from prayer into presence — from intercession into intentional connection.

Conversation Starters (choose 3–4):

- Who has been on your heart this week as your “one”? What have you noticed as you’ve been praying?
- What makes relational connection feel natural for you? What makes it feel uncomfortable?
- When has someone’s simple check-in or presence meant more to you than a big conversation?
- Where do you sense God already opening relational doors?

Anchor Verse: “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.” — Colossians 4:5

Scripture References: *John 13:34–35, Romans 12:10–13, Hebrews 10:24–25, Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 3:15–16, Philippians 2:4, Proverbs 27:17, Acts 2:46–47*

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LIVING ROOM

1) Connection Is a Ministry of Presence

Read: Colossians 4:5–6; Luke 19:1–7

Context: Jesus consistently built relational bridges before speaking transformational truth. Zacchaeus was seen before he was changed.

Say: We often want God-moments without God-paced relationships. But in the Kingdom, presence often precedes impact.

Ask (go slow): Where are you tempted to rush past relationship into results? How does Jesus' approach to Zacchaeus challenge our modern urgency? What might it look like this week to simply be present with your one? What fears tend to surface when you think about reaching out?

Support Scriptures: John 1:14; 1 Thessalonians 2:8

ACCOUNTABILITY MOMENT

Have each person state: **Name of their one, Specific connection step this week** (text, coffee, prayer offer, act of service)

Leaders: write these down for follow-up next week.

2) Small Steps, Not Big Leaps

Read: Proverbs 11:30; Luke 16:10

Context: Spiritual influence rarely begins with dramatic moments. It grows through consistent, faithful steps.

Say: We are not forcing spiritual conversations — we are faithfully building spiritual bridges.

Ask: What small step feels most natural for you this week? Which of these feels most doable right now?

1. Send a thoughtful text
2. Ask a caring question
3. Grab coffee or lunch
4. Offer practical help

Where do you tend to overcomplicate what could be simple obedience? How might consistency matter more than intensity here?

Leader Note: Remind the group: **faithfulness > flashiness**

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PRACTICAL ACTION GRID

Have group members choose **ONE**:

- Send a check-in text
 - Ask “How can I pray for you?”
 - Schedule coffee or lunch
 - Serve them in a practical way
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3) Trust God With the Timing

Read: Ecclesiastes 3:1; 1 Corinthians 3:6–7

Context:

We prepare the soil. God produces the growth.

Say:

This week is not about visible results. It is about faithful presence. The Kingdom often moves quietly before it moves visibly.

Ask:

- Where are you tempted to measure success too quickly?
- How does trusting God’s timing relieve pressure from you?
- What would faithfulness look like even if nothing “obvious” happens this week?
- How can we guard our hearts from discouragement in this stage?

WEEK THREE HEART CHECK

Invite the group to pray silently:

“Lord, help me value the person more than the outcome.”

Pause 30 seconds.

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AFTER GLOW

(Reflective, prayerful, forward-moving)

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:8; Galatians 6:9

Say: Connection is not wasted time — it is Kingdom groundwork. Many people are one genuine relationship away from being open to Jesus.

Ask (slow and personal): Where did you see an opportunity for connection this week? What resistance did you feel internally? What encouragement did you experience? Who in this group needs prayer for courage right now?

GROUP PRAYER MOMENT

Pray in pairs: *For bold love, For open doors, For softened hearts, For Spirit-led timing*

FOLLOW-UP & WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Connect: Take your one intentional relational step this week (no postponing).

Notice: Pay attention to what you learn about your one's world.

Record: Write down one thing you discovered about them.

Pray: Continue daily prayer even while connecting.

Report Back: Come ready next week to share what happened.

LEGACY CHALLENGE — WEEK THREE

Don't force the moment — faithfully build the bridge

This week we measure obedience, not outcomes. If we are present on purpose, God will open doors in His time.

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