

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 3: We Need Each Other

SERIES OVERVIEW

Our 7 convictions are Biblical and reveal the heart of who we are and what we do as a church. These convictions will shape and define our culture as we strive to accomplish our mission.

CONTEXT

In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus heals a paralyzed man after his friends lower him through the roof of a crowded house, demonstrating their faith. Jesus not only heals the man physically but also forgives his sins, showcasing His divine authority and prompting amazement among the gathered crowd.

THE BIG IDEA

We Need Each Other!

We believe our God is a God of community. As his people, we too must share in community both for spiritual growth and to bear his image rightly in the world. Doing so requires more than surface-level interaction but true devotion, commitment, and deep love for one another (Acts 2:42-47). Therefore, we will be a people of authentic relationships, knowing they are vital for us and instrumental in making the Gospel more believable to the outside world (John 17:21, 1 John 4:11-12).

SCRIPTURE: Mark 2:1-12

1 And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. 2 And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. 3 And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. 4 And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. 5 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." 6 Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" 8 And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'?" 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— 11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." 12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

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ICE BREAKER

Think back to your childhood. Who was your best friend and what made you best friends? Stories are encouraged ;)

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read THE BIG IDEA on page 1 above. Share a time when you experience authentic Biblical community. How was it different from your usual surface level friendship group?

Read Mark 2:1-12 as a group.

Carlos began his sermon with this question, Why do stories like this seem so rare today? Have several people share their answers.

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

The 1st reason Carlos shared concerning why these stories are rare today is, "We have stopped believing in what Jesus can do". Do you think this is true, why? As a group look through the Gospels and brainstorm 7 of the top things Jesus proved he could do. Of these acts, what does Jesus do and not do today?

The 2nd reason Carlos gave is, "We have stopped believing we need each other." What role does pride & busyness play in convincing ourselves that we don't need each other?

What is your greatest obstacle and your next step to forming deep friendships within Biblical community?

Read James 5:16. Carlos said, "Confession was never meant to be difficult. It was meant to be healing." How can confession deepen our community and heal surface friendships?

Discussion continued.

How are you doing as a Connect Group living out this conviction, We Need Each Other? Share a story that comes to mind?

Think of a friend that you need to get to Jesus and share their first name with the group if appropriate. (It may be your ONE who is spiritually dead, someone who is embattled with an addiction, someone who is sick or someone struggling with loneliness.) Pray for each other and your friends who need Jesus.

PRAAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Pray for your group that it would be a community that truly embodies the conviction, We Need Each Other.

Summer Schedule

As we approach summer, take some time as a group to look at your calendars noting vacations and busy times.

We encourage Connect Groups to meet at least 3 times during the summer and take a healthy break from meeting weekly.

Group leaders, look for an email for guidance and support for summer scheduling.