

CONNECT Group study questions for February 5, 2017

Title: “Doing Life Together” (Part 2) Selected Scriptures

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Scripture: “Doing Life Together” (Part 2) Selected Scriptures

Children:

- What do you have in common with your friends at church that you might not have in common with your friends in your neighborhood? (worship, prayer together, love for God’s Word, beliefs about right and wrong)
- Why is it important that your closest friends be other kids who love Jesus?
- Do you have any ideas for how you and your Christian friends can serve Jesus together?

Read: Acts 2:41-42

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Read: 2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

Review: “They continued steadfastly.” They shared hopes, fears, laughter and faced life together. In that respect, like a marriage. Fellowship was a high priority among early church believers and only among believers.

Read: *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Question: What does “called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” mean? **Facilitator:** Look at the words “called,” and “fellowship of.” Note that it doesn’t say “fellowship with.”

Does this mean the relationship we share with the Lord Jesus Christ also extends to each other? What do we share with the Lord? What do we share with each other?

Read: 2 Corinthians 8:1-4

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints.

Question: From time to time we all have needs that our brothers and sisters in Christ can help by prayer, exhortation, and even shelter, food and clothing.

If you have received help, do you wish to help others once you are able? What do we do about people who always seem to need help? What do we do if we ourselves have no expectation of one day living without needing the help of others?

Read: Galatians 2:9

...and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

Question: What does giving “the right hand of fellowship” entail in the context of church life? **Facilitator:** Note that “the right hand of fellowship” was followed by “go,” a reference to The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20).

Read: *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

Question: How do you feel when someone leaves the fellowship of the church? Why do some people “hop” from one church to another? What do you, or people in general look for in a church, a place to serve or a place to be served?

Question: Why does the pain or failure of one member of a fellowship hurt the others? **Facilitator:** Discuss authenticity (1 John 1:5-6) and unity (Philippians 2:1-2) in the fellowship and how they factor into the hurt and/or strength of the church.