

## CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

*Comfort My People #2*

### BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

A great discussion can really help you get to know each other better. Don't skip too quickly past this one to get into the study. Take some time to connect with each other beyond the typical discussion about the Cyclones, the weather, and our families. Those are great too, but this is a great set of questions to have an opening discussion around that sets up the study very nicely.



### A LOOK AT THE WORD

**Jesus, the ordinary servant.** This study provides some great snapshots of the character of Jesus as an ordinary servant. If you have it, take the time to divide up the verses among your group members for each section and hear them all. It will go faster than you think and together they fill in the snapshot of who Jesus is. IF you are short on time because you had such a great discussion in "Begin with your Heart", then I've highlighted some key passages in the study to focus your time on. You'll see that there is a chance for some immediate application discussion for each quality we see in Jesus.

REMINDER – We are saved by grace through faith, when that happens we are adopted into God's family and sealed with the Holy Spirit for eternity. We do not earn God's love by our character, but in response to His love we do grow in character. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus and we respond in obedience to His Spirit at work inside of us, we will see spiritual fruit and spiritual growth.

### MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

**Have you been challenged, encouraged, or changed your thinking? Pass it on.** In this section of the study we want to challenge you to think about how what God is doing in your life individually can overflow into the lives of your family, your friends, and our church community. When you live out and share what God has shown you in His Word your life is on mission. Connecting people to life-defining relationships in Christ.

## Christ Community Church - Announcements

**Christmas ERP Outreach | THIS IS AN REAL AND URGENT NEED! The Emergency Residence Project could really use your help.** Help people in need right here in Ames! "Adopt" a family and provide a Christmas gift for each member. Donate gift certificates from Wal-Mart, Aldi's or money towards Hansen Sinclair gas cards. Or donate winter coats, boots, hats and gloves. <http://www.amesshelter.org/>

For more details contact: Debbie and Tom Johnson, [tdjohnson@mchsi.com](mailto:tdjohnson@mchsi.com), 515 296 2041.



## CONNECT GROUP STUDY

### Comfort My People #3 – Isaiah 52-53, cf. Isaiah 42

This Connect Group Study focuses in on the character of God's special Servant, His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. How remarkable that when God became a man and entered the human world, he looked very ordinary. What would distinguish him was his unflinching commitment to accomplish His Father's will in the role of a very committed, lowly servant. Jesus' model for us, who follow him, is unmistakable.

### BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

How important in our world is the "look of success"? How does our world recognize a successful person? Whom do we readily applaud? Who gets the spotlight? Take a moment to reflect on this, and identify the usual marks of success. What are they?

One of the sometimes overlooked prophecies by Isaiah is the declaration that the Servant of the Lord (Isaiah 52:13 "My servant," i.e., Jesus, the Messiah) would have "no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2). What do you think this description means? How does it compare (or contrast) to your discussion above?

Finally...why do you think God sent His Son into humanity in such an *ordinary* way? Purpose?

### A LOOK AT THE WORD

Let's learn from the lowly, humble, ordinariness of Jesus through our look at Scripture. In his book SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP, A.W. Tozer takes us to [Isaiah 42](#), where the character of Jesus' servanthood would be predicted. Let's dial in on...

1<sup>st</sup> – Jesus' **DEPENDENCE** [Isaiah 42:1a](#) How does the first line of this verse describe Jesus' *dependence*? And, what kind of response happened in His Father's heart?

- How do you think the Holy Spirit was involved with Jesus? (note: [Matthew 1:20](#), 3:16-17, 4:1, [12:15-18](#), and 12:28, John 1:32)
- CCC LIFE QUESTION: *Is the Spirit flowing through me?* How dependent on the Holy Spirit are you for all that you do in living? Rate yourself (1 – little dependence, 5 – much dependence) Could this improve? How?

2<sup>nd</sup> – Jesus' **APPROVAL** [Isaiah 42:1b](#) Noted above, why do you think the Father took such delight in his Son as a servant?

- Does Psalm 40:8 provide a clue? Also [Hebrews 10:5-7](#)
- CCC ministry VALUE: *purposeful responsiveness* How readily do you obey the Lord when you know what He wants you to do? How would you size up how eager you are to obey the Lord?

3<sup>rd</sup> – Jesus' **MODESTY** [Isaiah 42:2](#) Tozer writes: "The ministry of God's servant would not be strident or flamboyant, but modest and self-effacing."

- How did Jesus display remarkable modesty? [Matthew 3:13-15](#), [John 13:1-10](#), [Matthew 26:47-54](#), [John 19:7-11](#) (cf. [Phil 2:5-8](#))
- CCC ministry VALUE: *transparent relationships* Pride divides; humility unites. How important is it for us to be modest and humble with each other in God's family? Cf. [1 Peter 5:5](#) – note the word picture here!

4<sup>th</sup> – Jesus' **EMPATHY** [Isaiah 42:3](#) Again, Tozer: "Failing men and women are often crushed under the callous tread of their fellow men; not so with the Ideal Servant."

- What attitude are spiritual family members to display when people are struggling? [1 Thess 5:14](#), [Hebrews 12:12-14](#), [James 5:19-20](#).
- CCC LIFE QUESTION: *Who shares my tough stuff?* Is your connect group growing in being vulnerable, willing to share the tough stuff?

5<sup>th</sup> – Jesus' **OPTIMISM** [Isaiah 42:4](#) There's much in life that can discourage. In Christ, is our glass ½ full or ½ empty?

- What did the author of [Hebrews 12:2](#) tell us about HOW Jesus kept his heart encouraged?
- CCC LIFE QUESTION: *How are my investments doing?* Our obedient walk with Jesus is an investment that will be rewarded someday. What specific encouragement do you draw from [Hebrews 10:19-25 \(& vs. 35\)?](#)

### MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

**MY LIFE** – We have an incredible, humble, optimistic example in our Servant-Savior. What is one personal application you take away from this study for your faith-walk?

**YOUR FAMILY** – Double back with your family to 1 Peter 5:5. Ask your kids what kind of clothes they like to wear...and what it looks like to "wear" humility (like Christ Jesus!).

**OUR MISSION** - We often talk about what new people experience when God leads them to GATHER with us in worship and fellowship on a Sunday morning. Do they walk away from their 1<sup>st</sup> experience with us eager for more? Which of the 5 traits noted in the study really shines in our church family? Which one needs a bit more attention? PRAY...pray for us together to express the character of Jesus.

