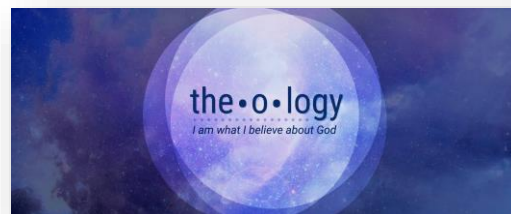


# CONNECT GROUP **LEADER GUIDE**

*THEOLOGY #4*



## **BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART**

**A great story to start this discussion about rescue!** An optional discussion starter to add to this section could be, “What is the greatest rescue you have personally been involved in? Sometimes remembering the circumstances and emotions surrounding a rescue, like this story from Haiti evokes, helps people to more fully engage with God’s Word and its application to their life. It may also be helpful to spend some time on the last question in this section focusing on what sinful rubble Jesus saved us from.

## **A LOOK AT THE WORD**

**Trapped by the rubble of sin.** This week if you are tight on time, I would encourage you still to read each passage from God’s Word, but move through them more quickly after identifying the “rubble of sin” that each individual was trapped by before Jesus’ rescue. The variety that each passage brings gives us a broader understanding of what the sin we need rescued from can look like. That should help your group move more easily into the application section as you together identify and pray for ways to rescue others stuck in the rubble that Jesus freed us from. We approach this section as rescued people seeking to be used by Jesus to rescue others with the good news of the GOSPEL.

## **MY LIFE- OUR MISSION**

**A great application exercise.** Once again there are multiple ways the Holy Spirit may lead each person to apply this study in their life. I’d encourage you to take the time to work through the Our MISSION application idea. Encourage and affirm each other for the role you play as a group in experiencing the life of Christ. Frequently Jesus sends us people from our connect group to aid in His rescue.

## **Christ Community Church - Announcements**

**Congregational Meeting** | TODAY, 4:30-6:00p in Gather 2. Members will be voting to affirm several leader candidates. Also new member candidates will be welcomed by vote into church membership. Child Care will be available through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Orbit Ministry Area.

**Women’s Evening YADA** [study/fellowship] | Our winter study will be Ann Voskamp’s book “One Thousand Gifts”, “A dare to live fully right where you are”. This is a 5 session study meeting FEB 7-MAR 7. We will use a YADA style format with small groups. Marcia DeZonia is facilitating this study.

**Totally 80’s Father Daughter Dance** | Sunday, FEB 19 from 6-8p in the gym. Dads, teach your daughter about one of your favorite decades – the 80’s! Professional photo, music, light snacks, and party favor included. Cost is \$5 per person. Theme attire welcome, but not required. Sign-up Sundays in the atrium or online at [www.ccames.org](http://www.ccames.org).

## **SERVE | CHURCH**

**Blinks Volunteers Needed** | for the upcoming Upward Basketball season. We have many positions that don’t require barista training. Contact Marilyn Rohlf to find out more information [jammr@isunet.net or 515-203-1018].



## CONNECT GROUP STUDY

SERIES: The-o-logy: I Am What I Believe about God

**GOD and My Rescue #4** January 29-February 4, 2017

This week's teaching explored why we need an enemy-destroying, death-defeating, life-giving Savior. Our new life – with all of its benefits – are found in the Lord Jesus Christ. We've been rescued, given passage way from death-to-life. This study will equip you to understand, and share with someone else, the rescue God offers each person through His Son Jesus.

### BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Read, then talk about this rescue. *On Jan. 12, 2010, 16-year-old Darlene Etienne was studying in her cousin's hillside Port-au-Prince home when the 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti and the building crumbled on top of her. Fifteen days later, a passing man heard groaning from a pile of rubble.*

*Within hours, rescuers had dug a 4-foot deep, 2 1/2-foot wide trench, where they found Etienne, who was covered in white dust and had the sunken eyes of a ghost, trapped under a piece of metal. Etienne later told reporters that she had been awake and conscious the entire time, screaming for help at those who passed by.*

- What's at stake when disaster happens?
- What's the condition of someone needing rescue?
- To accomplish a successful rescue, what is required?
- How does this story illustrate Christ's rescue of sinners? of you?

### A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

Scripture gives us a number of illustrations of people who needed the Lord's rescue. What "rubble" is each of them "under"? Then, after looking at some of these in Scripture, do some thinking about the people you know who have not yet been rescued by the Lord Jesus.

As you read these stories, identify WHO needs rescue FROM WHAT "rubble"?

- Matthew 9:1-8
- Mark 10:17-27
- Luke 19:1-10
- John 8:12-13, 21-30

How does Colossians 1:12-14 describe the deliverance Jesus accomplishes for us (look at the specifics!)? Which aspect of this really speaks to you?

Now...do some thinking about *people you know* who have not yet been rescued by the Lord Jesus. What "rubble" (which you saw in the Biblical stories) are in their lives? [NOTE: This is not meant to be an exercise in criticizing or judging others. Rather, to help us think, "How can we prayerfully help in their rescue?"]

### MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

**MY LIFE** – the "Begin with your Heart" story reminds us that we too can thoughtlessly walk by people who are buried in the difficult, rubble of life's collapses. Our ears are not tuned to their muffled cries. Or, we may not want to be bothered with the cost of a rescue-effort in their lives. Yet we follow a Lord who came to "seek and to save that which is lost." Take some moments. Whom do you know, under a pile, needing rescue? How might "the Spirit flowing through you" contribute to the rescue?

**YOUR FAMILY** – Matthew 9:1-8 would be a great story to read and discuss with your family at a weeknight dinner. Ask your crew why they think Jesus said what he did to the man on the mat. What was the man's 1<sup>st</sup> need...then 2<sup>nd</sup> need? Together, you can get some insight which "rescue" is most important.

**OUR MISSION** - We have the best message in the world – the GOSPEL! (good news!!) Buried-in-rubble, dying people can be rescued from darkness and difficulty, and saved to experience new life. A way of living that, in Christ, is redefined through relationships with others who have been rescued. Look around your group, and affirm each other! Tell each other how "You help me experience Christ's life by \_\_\_\_\_." Affirm your importance to each other, and pray for the lost together with a renewed energy.