



CONNECT GROUP LEADER GUIDE

THEOLOGY #6

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

Getting to know your FAMILY! How well does someone know you if they don't know about your crazy uncle Joe or that your brother shot your younger brother in the knee with a bb gun

when you were young? In order to really get to know your Connect Group family, it's great to continue to get to know more about each other's family. These questions are designed to help you understand a little more about what "family" means to each person as we move into a discussion about being a part of God's true family.

A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

Love One Another Here are three "One-Another" passages to study, each one could easily be a study of it's own if you take some time to read the passage and discuss each question with your entire group. Feel free to start with the one that matches what your group needs to discuss the most, or start at the top and see how far you get with the time your group has to work with. Focus more on the quality of interaction with God's Word than on completing the study.

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

Work it out. Spending time in God's Word interacting with the specific ways that God directs us to love one another should stir up some conviction in the heart of each person. Take some time to process, even if briefly, what each person heard from the Spirit through God's Word. If we are going to be true family and a healthy family, we will need to wrestle with the hard truth that our sin creates relational mess and we need each other to help clean it up. Like any family, the family of God will not always be neat and clean, but we are better together and we have a Father who is full of grace.

Christ Community Church - Announcements

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.

Evening YADA | 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, 7:00-8:30p in C3/4. We will use a YADA style format with small groups. Marcia DeZonia is facilitating the study.

Quest Men's Retreat | MAR 3-5 at Pine Lake Christian Camp [Eldora]. What to expect: focused, brief teaching sessions, time for solitude/prayer/reflection, and time for fellowship and outdoor activities. For more info or to sign up visit www.iowaquest.com.

CONGO | White Cross | Monday, FEB 13, 9:30a - 2:30p in Connect 8/9. Help prepare necessary supplies for Tandala Hospital, Elikya Training Center, and Global Fingerprints Orphans we support in Congo. All are welcome, come for as long as can, and bring a sack lunch. Questions? Contact Annette Miller (quiltbear@gmail.com or 232-9162)

NAVS | Can you bake? Can you buy bagels? We are looking for donations of cookies, muffins, and bagels for the NAVS Mens and Women's Retreat FEB 17. Please contact Mary Wiedenhoef, marywied@gmail.com, 515.509.0729.

SERVE | Donations for Bolivia | A team will be in Bolivia MAR 9-20 taking donations for Talita Cumi orphanage. Current needs: tennis shoes, sizes to fit ages 4-18 for girls and boys; soccer balls; and books in Spanish (Magic Tree House, Dr. Seuss and Spanish bibles for children and young adults). Donations can be dropped off at the Start Here desk. Additional needs coming soon. Contact Peggy Best with questions - 515-460-1611.

CONNECT GROUP STUDY

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

GOD and My True Family #6 February 12-18.2017

This week's teaching explored what it means to be a part of a healthy family. We are a family in Christ, who grow and act together to defeat the gates of Hell until the Master returns. This study will equip you to understand how we can be a healthy family by the way we love one another.

BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART

When you begin thinking about your family, probably many different things come to mind. You think about the unconditional love, the shared experiences, the fights, the hurts, and the moderate to severe dysfunction that make up your experience of family. As we begin this week, looking at a few ways that God's Word shows us how to love one another in a healthy family, share some of your family experience with the group as a way to understand each other better. Each person can choose one or two questions to answer and share with the group . . .

1. Are your grandparents still living? If so, what do you like best about them? If not, what's your favorite memory of them?
2. Did your family have "rules" growing up? What were they?
3. Do you have extended family? Do they live close? How often do you see them? What's the best time you ever spent with them?
4. When your family eats a meal together, what do you typically talk about?
5. How did/does your family celebrate birthdays?
6. What's the hardest decision your family ever had to make?

A LOOK IN GOD'S WORD

God's Word gives clear direction about what it looks like to love one another well as family. Let's explore some of the one-another passages in Scripture as they apply to us being a true family together in Christ. (Choose one or two of these sections if your time is limited, focus on good discussion over "completing" the study.)

Live in Harmony with one another:

Read [Romans 12:9-16](#). Focus on the direction of verse 16.

- What makes this command so attractive, yet so difficult to live out as true family?
- 1 Peter 3:8-12 describes in more detail what it looks like to live in harmony. What specifics does Peter call us to live out?
- As a group, stop and pray. Ask one person to turn Romans 12:16 into a prayer for us as members of a true family.

Serve one another:

Read [Galatians 5:13-15](#).

- Paul connects the instruction to serve one another with the freedom we have been called to in Christ (v13). How do you understand what Paul means by being called to freedom?
- What does it look like in a family, when we pursue freedom but it is fueled by selfishness?
- Give some examples of what it looks like to use your freedom to serve one another in love.
- Think of someone you struggle to serve. Think of ONE practical way this week that you could choose to serve them in love.

Make allowances for each other's faults:

Read [Colossians 3:12-17](#). (v.13 bearing with one another or another version, "make allowances for each other's faults".

- What's your reaction to the direction to forgive anyone who offends you?
- How does your struggle to receive God's love for you (v12) hinder your ability to live with a tenderhearted spirit toward others (v13)?
- Share with your group a real life example of what it looked like for someone else to make allowance for and bear with your faults?

MY LIFE- OUR MISSION

MY LIFE – Is there someone in your true family in Christ that you need to pray about, living in harmony with, serving, or making allowances for? Thank God for offering you that grace and extend his grace to that person out of that love that Christ, as the head the family, offers you.

YOUR FAMILY – Be brave this week! Sit down with your kids and ask them if there are any places in your family routine that lack "living in harmony". Admit where you know there are some "hot spots" that you're aware of to let them know that you know that you really want to hear what they think. For my family, choosing a place to eat out together is often so frustrating that we get a headache just thinking about it. Share Romans 12:16 with them.

OUR MISSION - When you are in Christ, we are God's family. We are Jesus' body of disciples who grow and act together to defeat the gates of hell until the master returns. Do you see the other members of the family of God at Christ Community as your true family? Are you committed to love them like family, bearing with them in their imperfections, serving them, and living in harmony with them? This family can be a fun and messy adventure!