

Connect Group Meeting Agenda

Sunday, August 24, 2014, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Fellowship around 40-45 minutes

Discussion Time (Have group be seated)

HOST: Encourage everyone's participation in the discussion time.

Remind them that they need to allow others to share as well. You can inform them that you are not being rude if you have to interrupt them if they are going too long.

Ice Breakers (You can pick your own or use the suggested ones below)

- What sermon have you heard (by any preacher) that impacted your life and changed you?
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Group Guidelines

Stress once again the confidentiality that is necessary in each meeting.

Discussion/Bible Study

A few Sundays ago, Pastor Danny talked about the Parable of the Sower. Many commentators believe that this should be called the Parable of the Soil instead because it is more about the soil that receives the seed. Pastor shared Jesus' teaching concerning the four soils we receive the seed of the Word of God in.

Suggested Ref: Mark 4:1-9, 13-20

Every week we come together twice, Sunday and Wednesday, to hear the preaching of God's Word. It is an important part of our services.

1. How can we prepare ourselves to receive the most out of the time of preaching/teaching?

Jesus talked about the soil by the wayside which represents those who never really grasp the gospel with understanding. It never internalizes because Satan comes and steals away the seed.

Suggested Ref: Mark 4:15, II Corinthians 4:3-4

2. What are some ways that Satan steals away the seed of the Word when we read it or hear it preached?

Jesus encountered some people who heard His sermons yet only followed Him for His miracles.

Suggested Ref: John 6:60-66

They wouldn't "commit" to Him because of the level of commitment He required.

3. Why is it so hard to commit to following Christ 100% and to raise our level of commitment to Him?

Jesus shared about the stony ground which refers to a place where the soil was thin, layering upon a rocky shelf. Because of the stony ground, the seed wouldn't take root so the plant was only on the surface. Jesus described people who gladly received the gospel but when trials and persecution came they fell away.

Suggested Ref: Mark 4:16-17

4. How can we make sure that we are rooted and grounded in God's Word?

5. Would you be willing to stand up for your faith if you knew it might cost your life?

Suggested Ref: Hebrews 11:35-38

Jesus shared about the ground among thorns which represents that weeds grow along with the grain. He is making reference to the fact that their ground has the Word implanted but the weeds are growing up with it. It speaks of letting weeds grow in our lives that we haven't pulled out.

Suggested Ref: Mark 4:18-19

6. Spiritual weeds choke out the Word of God in our lives. What are some weeds that we allow to grow up in our lives and destroy us spiritually? Ex. Sin, bitterness, pursuits etc.

Suggested Ref: Hebrews 12:14-15

Finally Jesus spoke of the good soil which is fertile and weed-free. Perfect for planting. He said that when we plant in this soil then we will bear fruit in our lives.

Suggested Ref: Mark 4:20

7a. How can we make sure our spiritual soil is good to plant in?

7b. What are some ways that we can get the most out of the preaching of the Word?

7c. What should we do after we hear a sermon that speaks to us? How do we let it change us?

Prayer for each other (Ask them if they have any needs)

Conclude by 7:30pm

(Instruct the ones with kid's at church to pick them up promptly)