

# Connect Group Discussion Guide

## Part One: **JESUS' MASTER PROJECT**

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- **Watch online teaching clip** <https://youtu.be/K9uoWHUqwDA>

Jesus declared He would build His '**Church**'. His '**master project.**' Jesus: "*I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church...*" **Matthew 16:18a**

Greek word for church **ekklesia**. **ek** 'out of' and **kaleo** 'to call - called out ones.'

The Church is **NOT** a '*building*' or an '*event*' we visit, the **Church is a community** that Jesus wants us '**connected into**' - *to do life together*.

Jesus never intended for us to walk through life alone. He desires us to experience authentic community because life is better connected.

**Romans 12:5b (nlt)** "*Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other and each of us needs all the others.*"

### **WE ARE DESIGNED BY GOD TO BUILD HEALTHY LIFE GIVING AND SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS.**

The Apostle Paul said; "*As each part does its work, it helps the other parts grow. So Christ's whole body, is healthy and growing and full of love.*" **Ephesians 4:16**

### **JESUS INTENDED FOR US TO GROW TOGETHER, AND TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.**

**Galatians 6:10 (msg)** "*Every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.*"

Authentic community occurs when we uphold the value and worth of each person, by creating an environment of love, acceptance and forgiveness.

Being committed into a local church family is where we can and should experience authentic community.

### **JESUS NEVER DESIGNED US TO LIVE IN ISOLATION BUT IN COMMUNITY.**

**Ecclesiastes 4:12 (niv)** *A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*

Authentic community is best achieved through physical relationships and fellowship and not through online relationships or online church.

**Hebrews 10:24-25a (niv)** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,*

### **JESUS DESIRES US TO GROW THROUGH MUTUAL ENCOURAGEMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVING TOGETHER.**

<sup>25</sup> *not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another...*

Genuine loving physical relationships provide the care, support and context we need to stay on course so life transformation can take place. A **sense of belonging** best happens through supportive and accountable relationships.

# Group Discussion

1. Do you find it hard to develop authentic life giving relationships?  
If so, please explain why.
2. Explain what benefits you receive from life giving supporting relationships with those you do life with.
3. Provide reasons why people can tend to isolate themselves and not extend their hand in friendship with others.
4. How important is forgiveness in relationships? Have you got a personal story that you can share to convey the importance of a forgiving attitude?

## Read Hebrews 10:24-25

5. How may you '*spur*' one another onto '*good deeds*' – to serve others?
6. Discuss the differences between meeting physically together in church verses watching church online.
7. Why is it important to share communion together on a regular basis?
8. In what ways can we encourage one another in your Connect Group?

**THOUGHT:** What can I do this week to encourage someone in my Connect Group?