



FLOWER MOUND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTION GROUPS

BECOMING | *Connection Group Study Guide* | Week 2 of 5

CONNECT (10 TO 15 MINUTES)

If a newly forming group: remind each other of your names. Otherwise, take a moment to discuss the following:

- Can you think of a place or space from your life (past or present) where you felt a sense of true “belonging?”
 - What characteristics fostered that sense of community?
 - Who/what type of people belonged to that community? And who was *not* present?
 - Share your thoughts about worship this week:
 - What aspects of worship did or did not connect with you this week?
 - What challenged you to move and how did you live into that?
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CONTEXT (30 TO 45 MINUTES)

Dig deeper into the videos and scripture for this week through questions and discussion.

- Before diving into the scriptures or video, ask this question:
 - To Belong has a double meaning: (1) to be possessed by something (i.e. the vehicle *belongs* to Sarah), and (2) to be a member of/part of/affiliated with something that is beyond you and includes you, such as an organization (i.e. I belonged to the Rotary Club). With these two definitions in mind, what does it mean to you to “Belong” to a faith community?

Watch Part 1 of the Connection Group Video

Read Exodus 2:11-22

- To what group or groups did Moses technically belong? List as many ways as you can that these differing groups might have shaped Moses’ identity?
- What groups did Moses choose to be a part of? And what groups chose him?

Biblical Note: Notice how the two Hebrews fighting easily identify Moses as a fellow Hebrew and yet Reuel’s daughters mistake (or correctly identify him?) as an Egyptian.

- Which group do you think Moses (himself) believed he most belonged to?
- Which of these identities *do you* believe best defines Moses? Why?

Watch Part 2 of the Connection Group Video

- Consider the rest of Moses' story: how he is called by God through the burning bush to confront Pharaoh, how he ushers in the 10 Plagues, how leads the Hebrew people out of Egypt, how he establishes the 10 Commandments on Mt. Sinai, and how guides them for 40 years in the wilderness only to die just before they enter the Promised Land.
 - How did the group/groups to which Moses belongs change over the course of his life?
 - Think back to Week 1 of our *Becoming* series: How do you think Moses' struggle with his identity acted as a feedback loop, shaping him into the person he finally becomes?

CALL (10 MINUTES)

The purpose of and how we measure success in Connection Groups boils down to our whether or not we see growth in our ability to move from theory to practice, from theology to lived-faith. Use the remaining time in your group to make the leap from ivory-tower to life.

- What group or groups do *YOU* belong to? Make a list of the top 3 arenas in your life that most shape your identity.
 - What groups did you choose? What groups did you chose? Are there any groups you're a part of that you wish you weren't?
- Is your identity in any of these areas you belong fostering your participation in a "Pharaoh mindset?"
 - What pragmatic things need to happen for you to either distance yourself from, reform, or transform that group?
 - Are you the Moses to do that? Or is this someone else's mission?

CLOSING (10 MINUTES)

It's unrealistic for everyone in a Connection Group to become best friends for life – although it does happen. And yet, we want to be more than just a group that meets on occasion. We want to be a community of support, which requires knowing what one another is going through. One way to do this is through Rose, Thorn, and Buds (RTB). You're invited to not simply share things at a surface level (e.g. I had a job interview this week), but rather dig deeper (e.g. I had a job interview and walked away feeling inadequate and irrelevant, etc. etc.)

- **Rose** – what is something in your life that is going really well? That is contributing to your flourishing as a human? That is helping you grow as a disciple?
- **Thorn** – What is something in your life that isn't going so well? What tough situation has derailed you lately? What is happening that's making you feel out of touch, anxious, disoriented from yourself, others, creation, and God?
- **Bud** – What is something that is emerging in your life? What new and beautiful thing is bubbling up?