



FLOWER MOUND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECTION GROUPS

BECOMING | *Connection Group Study Guide* | Week 3 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:

- The word “love” can get tossed around pretty flippantly. “I love tacos.” “I love you.” “I love skiing.” “You are loved.”
 - To whom do you speak the phrase “I love you?”
 - Is this phrase something you say regularly? Occasionally? At all?
 - Is this phrase something you hear regularly? Occasionally? At all?
 - 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:
 - Is it possible to love something or someone deeply if you do not experience being loved yourself?
 - List some things (theoretical *and* practical) that often prevent us from experiencing love?

Watch the Connection Group Video

Read Luke 7:36-50

- It appears this woman goes to great lengths to seek out Jesus, to the extent she crashes a dinner party:
 - Why is it so important for her to meet Jesus?
 - What does she know that we don’t?
- Given the peculiar setting, why does Jesus allow this woman to do what she does?
 - What does he see in her that the others don’t see?

- Read Jesus' parable again carefully (verses 41-43):
 - What does this parable imply about the woman?
 - What might this parable imply about the Pharisees / invited dinner guests?
 - What does this parable imply about us?
- Read verse 47 carefully:

Biblical Note:

NIV: "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as (so that) her great love has shown"
 NRSV: "Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence (that's why) she has shown great love"

- How does translating this passage differently effect our theological understanding of being "beloved?"
- Are our sins forgiven because we are loved? Or are our sins forgiven so that we can show great love? Or both?

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.

- Do you believe you are Enough? That you're Beloved?
 - List (like... for real, make a list) of the things preventing you from accepting that you are enough.
 - How can you hand that list over to God this week?

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?