



## Timeless Truths – Week 1 – The Upper Room

### Connection Group Guide

#### **Opening Thought**

Throughout the next few weeks, we are going to be diving into a handful of Christianity’s core concepts. We’re calling these core concepts, “timeless truths,” because we believe that each concept we’ll be talking about is exactly that – a timeless truth. In a world where so much is changing at a dizzying pace, it is important for us to explore some of the unchanging realities around us. Truths that stand the test of time give solid ground upon which to stand today and they provide us with a foundation upon which to build for the future. As we start to grasp some of the unchanging truths around us, it is our hope that we will be better equipped to navigate the change we experience around us, both in the life of the church and in the life of the world.

#### **In the Bible**

It should come as no surprise that the first timeless truth we’ll be exploring is Jesus himself. More than anything or anyone else, Jesus stands as the foundation of faith that stands the test of time and place.

#### ***Read John 6:1-15***

This story highlights the importance of focusing on Jesus first and foremost. It also points out just how difficult focusing on Jesus can be. Even when Jesus is standing right in front of a crowd, it is difficult for them to see who Jesus truly is. We find that the crowd ends up prioritizing the gifts over the gift-giver himself.

- What do the crowds want to do with Jesus after he performs the miracle?

#### ***Read John 6:16-29***

- Why does Jesus say that the crowd is seeking him? (6:26)
- What is it that they should be seeking? (6:29)
- Why is believing more important than eating?

***Read Romans 14:1-4 and 14:13-19***

In this passage, Paul addresses an issue in the Roman churches. The issue involves a matter of outward appearances, namely, an issue over eating foods considered unclean by the Jewish law.

- What does Paul have to say about the issue of eating meat vs. eating vegetables?
- What is life in God's kingdom all about, if it isn't these outward appearances? (14:17)
- Can you point to similar issues God's people might face today? How do Paul's words of encouragement help us today?

***Read Hebrews 12:1-3***

- What does it look like for you to run the race, looking to Jesus the whole way?

**Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your son, Jesus, the solid rock upon which we stand. Help us to look to him always first and foremost. Keep our eyes firmly fixed on him as we run the race you have set before us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.