



## *The Power of Connection - Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>*

### **SCRIPTURE:**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

Hebrews 10:24-25

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encourage one another...*

James 5:16

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*

2 Corinthians 10:4

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.*

### **Sermon Quotes:**

*“The opposite of addiction is not sobriety. The opposite of addiction is connection.”*

- Johann Hari - *Chasing the Scream*

### **Sermon Points:**

- *What an addict truly needs - Unconditional acceptance, belonging, support, encouragement, and accountability.*
- *The power of CONNECTION is both preventative and restorative.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How old were you when you first experienced peer pressure?

2. When did you first become aware that drugs were not just an issue “out there” but also right here in our community?
  3. How can “unconditional acceptance, belonging, support, encouragement and accountability” help an addict?
  4. How is the power of connection both preventative and restorative when it comes to addiction (See Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 and Hebrews 10:24-25)?
  5. What is one thing you learned about Mark Wittig’s soccer ministry going on in Colombia today? What is one thing you can do to help make a difference?
  6. What was your first reaction when you learned about this year’s Big Give theme and recipients?
  7. What is one thing God spoke to your heart today? What is God calling you to do in response to what you heard?
- Action Steps: Either invite someone you know who is walking or has walked through the pain and brokenness of addiction to attend your small group or tell him or her about *The Landing* - <https://covechurch.com/ministries/the-landing> - a safe place for people to experience community and connection and find help and healing for their hurts, habits and hang ups. ***Pray about what God would have you give toward this year’s Big Give.***
  - If you need help figuring out your “next steps,” including finding a counselor or a Small Group connection, then email [connect@covechurch.com](mailto:connect@covechurch.com).