

Small Group Discussions 2024 - February

Discussion title: Connection Killers

How are you going to connect?

1. What is your connection like with God at the moment?
2. What are some of the connection killers in your life that you can identify with?
3. How are you going to deal with them practically in your life?

Content

- Disconnection happens through Apathy, Stonewalling, Blame and Shame.
- Let's look at Jesus being our most important connection.
- God's intention for us was never to live disconnected to Him
- Look at the following scriptures:

Jesus our true connection John 15:1-16

¹"I am a true sprouting vine, and the farmer who tends the vine is my Father. ²He cares for the branches connected to me by lifting and propping up the fruitless branches and pruning every fruitful branch to yield a greater harvest. ³The words I have spoken over you have already cleansed you. ⁴So you must remain in life-union with me, for I remain in life-union with you. For as a branch severed from the vine will not bear fruit, so your life will be fruitless unless you live your life intimately joined to mine.

⁵"I am the sprouting vine and you're my branches. As you live in union with me as your source, fruitfulness will stream from within you—but when you live separated from me you are powerless. ⁶If a person is separated from me, he is discarded; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire to be burned. ⁷But if you live in life-union with me and if my words live powerfully within you—then you can ask whatever you desire and it will be done. ⁸When your lives bear abundant fruit, you demonstrate that you are my mature disciples who glorify my Father!

⁹"I love each of you with the same love that the Father loves me. You must continually let my love nourish your hearts. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will live in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands, for I continually live nourished and empowered by his love. ¹¹My purpose for telling you these things is so that the joy that I experience will fill your hearts with overflowing gladness!

¹²"So this is my command: Love each other deeply, as much as I have loved you. ¹³For the greatest love of all is a love that sacrifices all. And this great love is demonstrated when a person sacrifices his life for his friends.

¹⁴"You show that you are my intimate friends when you obey all that I command you. ¹⁵I have never called you 'servants,' because a master doesn't confide in his servants, and

servants don't always understand what the master is doing. But I call you my most intimate and cherished friends, for I reveal to you everything that I've heard from my Father. ¹⁶You didn't choose me, but I've chosen and commissioned you to go into the world to bear fruit.

John 15:1-16

Apathy - The word apathy means to be "without feeling": John 5:5-9

Among the many sick people lying there was a man who had been disabled for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there, he knew that the man had been crippled for a long time. Jesus said to him, "Do you truly long to be well?"

⁷The sick man answered, "Sir, there's no way I can get healed, for I have no one to lower me into the water when the angel comes. As soon as I try to crawl to the edge of the pool, someone else jumps in ahead of me."

⁸Jesus said to him, "Stand up! Pick up your sleeping mat and you will walk!" ⁹Immediately he stood up—he was healed! So he rolled up his mat and walked again!

John 5:5-9

Stonewalling: Is actively choosing to shutdown and block out all communication.

Matthew 7:7-8 says: Ask, and the gift is yours. Seek, and you'll discover. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For every persistent one will get what he asks for. Every persistent seeker will discover what he longs for. And everyone who knocks persistently will one day find an open door.

Blame and Shame

Luke 6:42

"How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."

Isaiah 61:7

"Instead of your shame, you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion, they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore, in their land, they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs."

He canceled out every legal violation we had on our record and the old arrest warrant that stood to indict us. He erased it all—our sins, our stained soul—he deleted it all and they cannot be retrieved! **Col 2:14**

Discussion points or questions

Can you identify Apathy, Stonewalling, Blame and Shame in your life?

How will you walk this out with God and with people you trust in relationship?

What does it mean to pickup my cross and walk/ follow Jesus?

Conclusion

Practical exercise

Put these scriptures somewhere this week where you will look at them daily.

Application

1. Write down this week what challenges you face regarding you connection with God and people and go find some scriptures that will help you get the truth about that area.
2. Who are you going to connect with this week that can pray with you trust with you for breakthrough in this area of relationships.

Prayer and encouragement