

THE COURAGE TO CONNECT

The Inspired Podcast Companion Guide

EPISODE 1 — CREATED FOR CONNECTION

The desire we feel

We were created for connection and yet, deep community can feel surprisingly hard to find. Throughout this season of the Inspired Podcast, we are going to get honest about the barriers that keep us from the relationships we crave. Together, we'll explore what Scripture says about God's design for community and discover what it looks like to overcome these obstacles and courageously move toward one another.

Our hope is that this guide will help you take the discussion away from the table and make it real for you by studying scripture for yourself and applying what we're learning to your own friendships.

In this episode, we talk about the universal desire to be known, to have deep and meaningful relationships and to feel connected to others. We look at God's design for community and begin to discuss what might prevent us from walking in His divine design for relationships.

READ - *Scripture for the week*

- Genesis 1:26
- Genesis 2:18
- John 15:9-17
- Matthew 22:36-40
- Proverbs 27:17

CONNECT - *Your courageous step*

This week, notice the difference between being surrounded and being connected. Pay attention to the people you spend time with, and the relationships where you feel most known and most yourself. Ask God to reveal where you're experiencing meaningful community, and where you're longing for more.

REFLECT - *Questions to ponder*

- How does being made in the image of a relational God shape the way we understand our need for one another?
- Read Genesis 2:18: "It is not good for the man to be alone." What stands out to you about this being part of God's original design—not a response to something that went wrong?
- If we really believe we were created for connection, what might God be inviting you to change about the way you do relationships?