



## **Group Discussion Guide: Connecting People to Jesus | January 1, 2023**

### **Open with prayer (5 minutes).**

Take a few minutes to acknowledge God's presence as you begin your group time. Ask Him to help your group have a good discussion and to help you internalize the Scriptures.

### **Break out into smaller groups and debrief the sermon (30 minutes).**

*Select a few of these questions to help you discuss through the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.*

- What stood out to you from Dan's teaching? What challenged you? What resonated with you?
- What's your honest reaction to connecting people to Jesus? What emotions or thoughts does that trigger?
- Connecting people to Jesus is a two-fold vision: we ourselves must live connected to him and we must help others get connected to him. Which one of those is most challenging for you? Which sounds more inviting? Why?
- Read **John 15:1-5**. When Jesus says to remain in him, what images does that conjure up? What is Jesus inviting you to?
- God is the gardener, cutting off what is dead and pruning what is alive to make it bear more fruit. But, if we're honest, sometimes we want to hold onto those branches that he's working to remove. What's God cutting or pruning in your life that you need to release?
- Read **Mark 10:45** and **Luke 19:10**. What did Jesus say his mission was while on earth? What stories of Jesus come to mind what you think of him serving others or seeking the lost?
- **Luke 15** assures us that all of heaven rejoices when someone lost is found. How does that affect the way you see yourself and your relationship with God? Is there a perspective change that needs to happen in light of God's love and grace?
- How can your group find radical ways to connect people to Jesus like the paralytic man's friends in **Mark 2**? What are some ways this can become a constant focus of our group?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned the 21 Days of Prayer initiative that we're embarking upon as a church. How do you think our group should participate in this?
  - Don't forget: the 21 Days of Prayer are available in weekly devotionals emails ([thecreek.org/subscribe](http://thecreek.org/subscribe)) and The Creek's social media ([thecreekindy](http://thecreekindy))!



**Transition back to one large group and discuss (10 minutes).**

- Which questions did you discuss in your smaller groups? What were some of the things that came from your smaller group discussions? What lingering questions do you have about connecting people to Jesus?
- How is God inviting you to respond after tonight's discussion?

**Break into gendered groups for deeper conversation (30 minutes).**

In this time, share vulnerably where you sense darkness in your life – it may be something going on inside of you, something happening to you, or something happening around you.

- How have you grown in your faith this past year?
- How would you like to grow in your faith this next year?
- How can this group help you do that?

Once you've finished, spend time praying for one another.

**Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.