

## Connection Group Notes for - October 30, 2022

**Read:** John 3:1-15 (NIV); 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV); Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

### Open:

- Think of an amazing restaurant that you have been to in the past. Share that experience with the group. What made it so amazing for you? Did you tell others about your restaurant experience? Why?
- Like the excitement for the restaurant, we too should share our faith with excitement. Why is it difficult at times for us to share our excitement about our faith with others?
- How can we stay ready to receive people and share our faith with them?

### Dig:

*Read: 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)*

- What does it mean in this passage to *"revere Christ as Lord?"*
- How can followers of Christ *"be prepared to give an answer for the reason for the hope that you have?"*
- When giving our answers for the hope that we have in Christ, why is it important to do this with *"gentleness and respect?"* What are the benefits if you *do this well* and what are the negative results *if you do not?*

*Read: John 3:1-15 (NIV)*

- Why is important to note that the Pharisee, Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night?
- Nicodemus sought out Jesus to ask Him questions because what he saw in Jesus' life was something that was appealing and attractive to him. What would you say those appealing and attractive things are about Jesus?
- The human condition tries to fill the "God-shaped hole" in their lives with other things like drugs, alcohol, money, religion, etc. Why are people unsatisfied in life?
- Point 1 in the sermon this week is: Our faith is a supernatural lifestyle. Jesus tells Nicodemus in verse 3, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." What does it mean to be born again?
- Point 2 in the sermon this week is: Our faith is a surrendered lifestyle. What does a surrendered lifestyle look like for someone?
- What is the difference between 'giving up' and 'surrendering'?
- Read Matthew 11:28-30. How does Jesus provide rest for our souls?
- What are traits of a surrendered life unto Christ?
- Point 3 in the sermon this week is: Our faith is a superior lifestyle. How can our faith live out this truth before God and others? How is the Christian faith, a life in Christ, better than anything else in this world?
- Why would we as Christians ever not at look at the amazing things Jesus has done in our lives and not share that with the world? Describe this tension in your group.

### Read & Reflect: John 3:16-17

- Discuss in your groups the word 'LOVE' in John 3:16.
- Talk about the difference between 'CONDEMNING' and 'SAVING' in John 3:17.
- Encourage one another in your Connection Group, to go into your world to inspire others to know Jesus and to be ready to give an answer for the hope you have in Christ.