



## Better Connections

### WEEK 4 DISCUSSION GUIDE

#### Overview

In this message of our *Better* series, we will look at the importance of having better connections and how we can flourish in our relationships and every area of our lives when we are planted in God's house.

#### Discussion Questions

David says in **Psalm 26:8**, **Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.** When David mentions God's house, he is talking about the people of God gathering together and experiencing God's power and presence. In the New Testament, God's people, His Church, is often called the Body of Christ, the House of God, the Bride of Christ, and the Family of God. We, the church, are the hope of the world, because Jesus is the hope *for* the world and the Church is His hands and feet.

**...the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. (Ephesians 1:22-23 NIV)**

- How can we better share the hope of Jesus with others in our homes, offices, schools, etc.?

The Church exists to help people **connect with God, grow in community,** and **discover their purpose** so they can **go make a difference.** As part of God's family, we are called to help others know God in a personal way and help them grow in their relationships. As they grow in their relationships with God and people, they will begin to discover the purpose God gave them and use that purpose to make a difference in the world around them.

- How do you regularly connect with God?

- What are some fun and beneficial things you can do to grow in your godly relationships with others this summer?

**Psalm 92:12-14** says, **The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing,**

- Why do you think we will flourish if we are planted in God's house?
- In what ways have you seen yourself flourish since you planted yourself in the house of the Lord?

**Jeremiah 17:7-8** says, **“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.”**

When we put our trust and hope in God, we will never fail to bear fruit. The fruit that we bear is never for us-it is always for someone else. The fruit, oxygen, and shade a tree produces is never for itself but for the benefit of someone else.

- How can we use our fruit to bring life to others?
- Share an example where your fruit blessed someone else and helped them grow.

## Life Challenge

Life Challenge A:

If you are in a season where you are learning to be planted, pray about where you should be planted and what next steps you should take to grow and flourish.

Life Challenge B:

If you have been planted in God's house, pray about the different ways you can use the fruit God has produced through you to bring life to others.

## Prayer

*Thank you, God, for choosing us to partner with You to be Your hands and feet. Help us keep our feet firmly planted in Your house, and speak through us as we encourage others to be planted. Use our lives as inspiration to others so they will see how we can truly flourish if we are planted. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.*