



Connecting With Christ

1. We Believe _____

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Acts 4:31 (NIV) *After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

John 8:31-32 (NIV) *Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

2. We _____

Luke 5:30-32 (NIV) *But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*

3. We have a _____

"Be a Friend....Bring a Friend...."

1 Corinthians 9:22b (TLB) *Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.*

John 14:6 (NIV) *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

4. You can take your _____ right now!

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT) *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.*

Acts 2:38-39 (NIV) *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

Romans 6:3-4 (NLT) *Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.*

LifeGroup Study

Stepping In: Getting things started!

1. Think of an organization, club or team you've been a part of. What is the value to you of "belonging"?
2. What does it mean for you to "belong" to a particular local church like *Community*?

Building Up: What is God Saying?

1. Read **Luke 5:27-32**.
2. Pick the one verse that speaks most clearly to you today and write it out below: (share with the group which verse you chose.)
3. (**Luke 5:27-28**) After reviewing what a tax collector did in Jesus' day, discuss what it means to us for Jesus to invite Levi (Matthew) to follow Him before he got his life all put together.

4. (**Luke 5:29**) How does Levi's banquet/party inspire you to develop opportunities for your Christian and non-Christian friends to get together? What might that look like for you and your friends?
5. (**Luke 5:30-32**) It's one thing for Jesus to hang around sinners and help them. Sometimes it's something else for us because we can get caught up in the sin while trying to help the sinner. What are some healthy guidelines we could use to help us stay on the right path while we reach out to others who are far from God?

Living Out – How do I obey?

1. What are some practical ways our church can continue to love sinners without loving sin?
2. Remembering that I'm a sinner in need of God's grace helps me treat others with God's grace. In your prayer time, include a time of thanksgiving for Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.