



CONNECT GROUP GUIDE: BETTER CONNECTED—WEEK 3

We were not made to be alone! At Calvary, we want to get better connected because we believe God created us in such a way that life is simply better when we are connected to one another and God.

Today we'll wonder: Where do better connections lead us?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a time when you have found yourself in a large crowd? How do big crowds make you feel?
2. Switching gears, name a time in your life when you experienced real, authentic “community” at its best—community in which you felt deeply connected?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being “no influence” and 10 being “the primary influence,” to what extent do you believe community affects the quality of your daily life? When it comes to your faith life, 1 to 10, to what extent does your faith community affect your faith life?
4. **Read Mark 2:1-5.** What role did the crowd play in this story? Did the crowd move people toward Jesus or keep them away from Jesus?
5. What crowds are you confronted with on a daily basis (ex. media, work, school, church)? In what ways do the “crowds” lead us away from and/or toward real, connected, and authentic community?
6. The connectedness the friends of the paralytic shared was about so much more than simply being a part of the crowd. They shared a deep connectedness and were willing to do anything—even *rip the roof off Jesus’ house*—to bust their friend through the crowd to ensure he got the help he needed. Who in your life is willing to “rip the roof off someone’s house” to care for you? Who leads you past the noise of crowds so that you might know the life God wants for you?

MOVING FORWARD

The noise of the crowds too often distracts us from real, authentic community. Who do you need to surround yourself with to help lead you through the noise of crowds and toward Jesus? Likewise, who might need you to lead them through the crowds toward the life God wants for us? If you want to grow deeper in faith, get better connected with people who want the same.

PRAYER

God of love and mercy, you created us in such a way that when we are connected to one another and to you our lives are better. Help us to grow deeper connections with one another, take away any fears we might have of others getting to know who we really are, and use our relationship with one another to deepen our faith in you. We pray this in your name. Amen.