



INTRODUCTION - Week 1

We all want to be known for something. But we can't be really known until we allow ourselves to be known by a group of someones. From the very beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis, God said it is not good for us to be alone. God created us in such a way that life is so much better when we are intimately connected to one another and God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you want to be known for?
2. What do you do when there are gaps between what you want to be known for and who you really are? Can you name examples of times when this is so? (Ex. I want to be a patient mother, but I lose it sometimes.)
3. For all of us, there are gaps between who we want to be known as and who we really are — and we all hate this! How do we “manage” these gaps? How do you “pretend” they don't exist? What gaps do you tend to “hide”?
4. When we start time manage and pretend and hide these gaps, it's like we put on masks that don't allow people to see who we really are. ...And, we do this best the moment we step into church, right? For example, you may have argued in the car all the way to church, but the moment you step into church you look as though you are the happiest family God ever created. Does this ever happen to you?
5. Which is truer: We want to be known for something. OR, we need to be known by someone.
6. **Read Genesis 2:18.** After spending 6 days on creation, God stepped back and said things were “not good.” Why?
7. Do you believe the following?: God created us in such a way that when we are connected to one another and God, life is simply better.
8. What keeps us from engaging deeply — being vulnerable and transparent — with those around us?
9. Why do you think connectedness is such an important part of our faith? church? God's story?

MOVING FORWARD

God created us in such a way that when we are connected to one another — and through those connections, we are connected to God — life is simply better. That's why we all need a group with whom we can do life. A group that can remind us that we're not alone. That you're not the only couple that goes through struggles. That you're not the only mom who understands why lions sometimes eat their young. That you're not the only guy who doesn't know a fan belt from a muffler belt. You're not the only person who struggles with money or your parents or your kids or your work. You're not the only one who feels isolated sometimes.

BETTER CONNECTED

We all say we want to be known for something, but maybe what we really need is to be known by someone. Who in your life really knows you? What would it look like for you to allow a group to really know you?