



INTRODUCTION - Week 2

The Bible very clearly teaches that whenever a person comes to faith in God they are always connected to a community. In fact, Jesus taught that *“where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am with them.”* Truth is that no one can grow in a life-long faith in Jesus all alone—this only happens as you are connected in a healthy and supportive community of faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. One’s mind and thinking can easily play tricks on a person who lives in isolation. How can one’s perspectives on life and attitudes concerning issues be affected? How has listening to another person’s perspective on things often changed how you look at things?
2. *“There is no such thing as a Robinson Crusoe Christian.”* In what ways is this seminary professor’s quote true? In what ways do some people today argue against this idea?
3. Why is it always better to do life and faith together with others? How are people with supportive friends much stronger than those who think they need to do it all themselves?
4. **Read Matthew 18:19-20.** How is Jesus present with you in a special way when you meet together in a small group? Why is it important that two or three agree on something rather than simply one person insisting to be right? List some specific ways you experience Jesus in each other.
5. Why should you be skeptical if someone says they had a special message from the Holy Spirit? Why did Jesus teach that we need to *“tests the spirits?”*
6. What do you know about the Quaker’s *“Clearness Committee?”* How do you think a group like this could help you in thinking through some big decisions in your life?
7. **Read John 20:26-28.** How did Peter’s being off by himself make it impossible to believe that Jesus was alive? Why was it so important for Peter to be with the other disciples?
8. Why do people have less close friends today than in 1985? Why are men especially vulnerable? Jesus gave us his church as a place where we can have the closest of friends—warts and all. Why is inviting others to experience Christ’s community at Calvary an important part of our mission together?

MOVING FORWARD

Pray each day for God’s help as you seek to be a good friend and participant in your small connect group community. Pray also each day that the Holy Spirit will open your life to new people where you can share your friendship and care. Always remember that life is truly better when we are connected.

PRAYER

Loving God, our world today often promotes the false belief that you can live life on your own; All that matters is what I think and what I want to do. Loving God, help us to show our neighbors and friends that life is so much better when we are connected with others in authentic Christian community. In Jesus’ name, Amen.