



ALREADY ONE DAILY DECISIONS

ALREADY ONE | Connection Group Discussion Guide | Week 2

Connect (5 to 10 minutes)

Come together to build relationships through fellowship and sharing about this week's worship.

- Take a few minutes to share your thoughts about worship this week.
 - What aspects of worship did or did not connect with you?
 - What story or illustration made an impact on you?
- What is your favorite way to spend time with your family? Do you enjoy eating dinner together, doing activities together, or traveling? Whether you have family game nights or play football in the front yard, share your experiences with the group.

Context (30 to 40 minutes)

Dig deeper into the videos and scripture for this week through questions and discussion.

Watch the Connection Group video.

- How have you seen beauty in diversity?
 - In the video, Allison and Cameron talked about having love, grace, and genuine curiosity for one another. How have you seen that play out in your relationships?
 - Were you exposed to different cultures early in your life? How did that exposure change you?
- “Be curious not judgmental” was a quote from Walt Whitman that Cameron mentioned. How can we live that out in our lives?
 - Can you think of examples of conversations you've had where you had a conversation and disagreed with someone but better understood their point of view?
 - Do you agree that asking questions makes our interactions with one another easier?
- Allison mentioned a John Wesley quote: “Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?” What are some examples of ways in which we can love alike?
 - We may never fully be able to understand others' experiences or the ways in which they see the world, but we can love each other through them. What are examples of the most impactful ways you've seen people do that?

- How do you handle hard conversations, regardless of the topic?
 - Allison and Cameron mentioned drawing upon emotional and spiritual stamina to get through tough conversations, and landing in a place of deep trust and faith. Have you experienced that in your life?
 - Do you pray to God to guide your daily conversations? Have you ever prayed with someone to guide your conversations together?
- We live in a society where we have access to an enormous amount of information that is right at our fingertips on a vast number of topics and issues. The resources we have today at our disposal are enormous. Have you done any reading or research on racial reconciliation?
 - Sometimes when we have hard conversations, we first need to start with ourselves. What are some ways you have done that?
- Christ calls us to welcome and love all people who are marginalized in society. What are some ways that you have done that or seen others do so?
- How can we ensure that the grace of God is the primary way in which we choose to move in the world?
 - How have others extended grace to you in your life? How did it make you feel?
- What kinds of daily decisions can we make to welcome others?
 - What are ways we can show people they are a child of God?
- Read Ruth 1:1-16. In this passage, we read the story of Naomi, whose husband died. Her sons each married Moabite wives, one of whom was named Orpah and one was named Ruth. Naomi's sons died, so she was left without a husband or sons, which put her in a terrible position. The only way for women in that society to be secure was through marriage. There was a famine and Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth went from Moab and headed toward Judah in search of food. When Naomi urges her daughters-in-law to leave her so they can remarry and find security, Ruth refuses to leave her. She tells Naomi, "Where you go, I will go. Where you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people."
 - Ruth makes a huge sacrifice and stays with Naomi rather than leaving to ensure her own security. What do you think would have happened to Naomi if Ruth had left her alone? What ultimately happened to Ruth?
 - What are some modern examples of ways that we can commit ourselves to others?
- When we engage in conversations about racial reconciliation, how can we be curious but not judgmental?
 - What are your initial thoughts on this passage? Do you relate more to Naomi or Ruth? Give specific examples from your life.

Call (10 minutes)

We believe that God not only shows us who God is but invites us to participate in God's ministry by answering unique calls in our own lives. Join together in discovering how we can actively respond to scripture and God's presence.

- How can you engage in open conversations with people this week? What are ways in which we can see the beauty in the diversity around us?
- Who do you know who best exhibits God's grace? How can you emulate that?

Closing (5 minutes)

God calls us into community by sharing our joys and concerns together in prayer and supporting one another in our walks with Christ. As we share testimony and stories of our lives, let us listen to where God is working within our community and how we can build each other up in Christian love.

- Share joys and concerns with one another.
- Close in prayer, either by inviting a group member to pray or by using the prayer provided below.

Closing Prayer

God of grace and mercy, thank you for loving us. Thank you for showing us what unconditional love really is. Be with us in our daily decisions. Help us to remember that our daily walk with you matters. As we live our lives, help us to cultivate strong relationships that honor you. Guide us to help those on the margins. Strengthen us for lives of deep commitment to one another, even if it means we have to make sacrifices. Help us to love each other through our differences and to rest in your faithfulness and truth. May we fully appreciate and love the diversity that surrounds us and always remember that everyone we meet is your beloved child. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.