

Discussion Guide #1 for 5G Groups
2022 “A 5G Connected Faith” Lenten Journey
The G of GROUPS
Pastor Fritz

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” **Matthew 18.20***

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” **Romans 12.15***

- Thank you, everyone, for making time to be part of what God is doing in our “A 5G Connected Faith” series.
- Thank you, leader, for pulling this 5G Group together.



Let’s Get Started! Let’s go around and share our names and what our telephones were like growing up (maybe before the wonders of cell phones).

Opening prayer: *Thanks God for gathering us together for these fun and holy 30 minutes. We know our world can feel pretty **DISCONNECTED** at times. Thanks for your gifts to help us feel more **CONNECTED** to you, our families, our sense of purpose, and the world. In Jesus’s name, Amen.*

Discuss:

1. Telecommunications companies want us to be thrilled about 5G (or 5th generation) connectivity. As your group gets to know each other, have each person quickly share their name, again, and one way people are generally more connected or disconnected today than in previous generations.
2. This Lent, we are exploring 5 ways God provides for deeper connection with Jesus, each other, and even ourselves. The first G stands for special Groups throughout our lives. In his sermon this week, Pastor Fritz made the case that Jesus invested deeply in a “small **GROUP**” of his own with the 12 disciples. On one hand, Jesus was probably training them to continue sharing the gospel after his departure. But why else do you think even Jesus valued so deeply his connection with a small group?
3. Scripture provides all kinds of encouragement for doing life together in some type of group. In Proverbs 27.17, we read that “iron sharpens iron.” Have you ever experienced this to be true in one of your small groups? If so, how?

4. Here is some “two-thumbs-up” praise for small groups from the COS staff meeting this week:

- Groups are fun.
- Groups help me re-balance, especially with my worries.
- Groups give me confidence.
- Groups motivate me.

Pastor Rick Warren says it’s safer, supportive, and smarter to be part of a group. Personally, this Biblical advice from Proverbs 28.26 CEV makes me laugh as well as nod my head: “Only fools would trust what they alone think.” In a speed round, have each person quickly share their #1 benefit of a small group.

5. In Leslie Klein’s midweek video testimony and in Ingrid Hudson’s testimony on Sunday, they have made it clear that God can give us all kinds of groups for all kinds of seasons. In your experience, what’s a dynamic that makes groups thrive? What’s a dynamic that causes the group to stumble or atrophy?
6. Someone once said that the world often wants to “rub in” or emphasize our mistakes, but a supportive group of friends will “rub them out” like a good cleanser can even make wine or coffee stains disappear. When you are part of a small group, do you find yourself realizing you’re playing a very special role in other people’s lives? If so, please describe.
7. Even Jesus’ small group was far from perfect. Peter would deny him. Judas would betray him. Involvement in small groups can cause pain as well as support and good times. So, what’s your advice to somebody who is reluctant to join a small group because of the potential of getting hurt at some level?
8. Bonus question: What could you lovingly do to make one of your current small groups healthier or more fruitful?

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thanks again for these holy moments and the new friends in Christ I’ve made tonight. Thanks for your gift of our first G of connection, Groups. Thanks for helping me think about my various small groups in a fresh way. It’s awesome to know none of us are called to do life alone. Yes, we can go faster alone. But since we want to farther, we’ll go with YOU and those you place in our lives! Be with us this week. In Jesus’s name, Amen.

Thanks everyone!
See you next week!