

# **Connecting to Jesus at St. Joe Community Church**

The Big Picture



**Connect as a member of the body**

(Participate in Sunday worship/Connection Group/Serve/Support)

**Connect as an attender**

(Attend Sunday worship/Bible Class/ Men's Breakfast/VBS)

**Connect via Outreach Events designed to "Bring Joy"**

(Block Party/Trunk or Treat)

**Connect via Community Service**

(Host AA meetings/Food Truck Rally/Rescue Mission)

**Connect via Social Media**

(Website/FaceBook/YouTube/Twitter)

## 2020-2021 Connection Groups **Practically Speaking...**

### Overall:

**Organic not programmatic.** (Following the Holy Spirit not a program)  
**CG Leadership Driven** (Different groups may look different.)

### Specifically:

#### **1. Implement a Quarter System.** (Meet 10-13 weeks at a time)

To create a unified schedule, an on/off ramp, new groups, opportunity for church-wide curriculum (40 days of ...) **Groups will be open for the first 3-4 weeks** of the quarter, then close to facilitate deeper connection.

Fall – 13 weeks (Week of September 13<sup>th</sup> – December 13<sup>th</sup>)

Winter – 13 weeks (Week of January 5<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup>)

Spring – 10 weeks (Week of April 11<sup>th</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup>)

Optional Summer - July/August

#### **2. Create CG Leadership Teams.**

A connected team to build a connected group – no solo leaders.

In order to start a group you will need to form a leadership team with a minimum of two (singles/couples) to fill two specific roles:

##### **One Another Connector(s)** (Pastor-evangelist)

##### Job Description:

Shepherd the group by creating and leading opportunities that promote connection to one another.

##### Responsibilities:

Secure meeting time/place

Act as host/hostess – Provide comfortable atmosphere/food

Communicate to and for the group - roster

Fun/Activity Planner – Extracurricular activities that help bond the group

Meet regularly with team to pray/plan (select **Biblical** curriculum for the year)

Locate and invite the Lost/Unconnected

Prayerfully find another person/couple to mentor

**Word/Prayer Connector(s)\*** – (Apostle/Prophet/Teacher)

**Job Description:**

Shepherd the group by creating and leading opportunities that promote connection to God through His Word & prayer. (\*Must be Member(s) of the church)

**Responsibilities:**

Facilitate the Bible study portion of your time together

Help people grow/feed themselves by hearing God's voice in His Word.

Help people grow in their reliance on the Holy Spirit

Meet regularly with team to pray/plan (select **Biblical** curriculum for the year)

Locate and invite the Lost/Unconnected

Prayerfully find another person/couple to mentor

**3. Add an accountability component to each group.**

*(Matt. 7:24-27 – Wise vs. Foolish Builders)*

Are we growing in head and heart knowledge?

*i.e.) Start each meeting with an accountability question: "What was your take-a-way from Sunday worship?" (That song inspired me to... That sermon inspired me to....) "What did you apply from last week's study?"*

**4. Add a "connect to the unconnected" component to each group.**

As a group, prayerfully try to reach out and serve disconnected people twice/quarter. (SJCC attender in Fall/Winter – Non SJCC attender in spring)

**5. Increase support/encouragement to CG leaders**

One-to-one meetings/Podcast/Zoom to encourage/support

Help identify/train new leaders

**Next steps to start your group:**

1. Identify those wanting to lead a group and create a team. (If you sense God is nudging you to start a group – find a teammate.)
2. Choose a Biblical curriculum/focus
3. Select a time/place to meet
4. Let us know what/when and where you are planning.
5. Recruit others to your group

# **Connection Group Leaders Meeting**

August 27, 2020

## **1. "Connection" Group**

The **BIG** picture

**"AA does a better job of making disciples than the Church."**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

<sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (CSB)

**Our mission:** Make disciples

**CG Strategy:** Focus more on \_\_\_\_\_ than meeting together.

## **2. Connecting to the Word of God**

**Why must growing disciples stay connected to God's Word?**

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup> By these he has given us very great and precious promises, so that through them you may share in the divine nature, escaping the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire.

2 Peter 1:3-4

You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me.

John 5:39

**Our mission:** Make disciples

**CG strategy:** Hear \_\_\_\_\_ through His Word.

### **3. Connecting to One Another**

And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him...

Mark 3:14

**How many "one another" verses do you know?**

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 12:26

**Our mission:** Make disciples

**CG strategy:** Become healthy \_\_\_\_\_ of His body.

### **4. Connecting to the Unconnected.**

<sup>15</sup> The LORD also said to me, "Take the equipment of a foolish shepherd. <sup>16</sup> I am about to raise up a shepherd in the land who will not care for those who are perishing, and he will not seek the lost or heal the broken. He will not sustain the healthy, but he will devour the flesh of the fat sheep and tear off their hooves.

<sup>17</sup> Woe to the worthless shepherd who deserts the flock!

Zechariah 11:15-17

**Our goal:** Make disciples

**CG strategy:** Connect the \_\_\_\_\_.