



## Come Matter Here: Be The Invitation | August 12, 2020

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

These days, we are more connected than we've ever been in history, yet somehow we still feel disconnected.

#### Key Verses

**Acts 2:42 NIV**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

#### Discussion

Now that social media and other digital connections are so prevalent, many of us find ourselves more connected with less meaning. Our new normal has us constantly engaged and disconnected at the same time. So much so that when we see real people with whom we have a digital relationship, we struggle to know how to act or what to talk about. This isn't necessarily to bash digital relationships, but rather an attempt to intentionally engage beyond the surface to satisfy our desire for meaningful relationships.

1. Can you think of anyone in your life that you feel connected to based on digital interaction that would be awkward if you saw them in person? Do you have any stories of such interactions?
2. In what ways have you engaged with people (close friends and acquaintances) in the past 6 months?

Our minds tend to sort relationships similar to objects around the house: we forget about the ones we put away and regularly interact with the ones we use most often. The clash in "meaningful relationships" and "digital relationships" is that digital relationships come with reminders, comments, likes, etc that make them seem like they are front and center and most important. The tech side of digital relationships does the work for us and many of us get caught expecting the same from our physical relationships. Meaningful relationships require more interaction, intentional engagement, and regular maintenance much like a living organism. It takes one person taking initiative or as Hannah Brencher puts it in *Come Matter Here*, "be the invitation."

3. Who are some of your most meaningful relationships? How do you regularly engage with them as a community?
4. How might you be more intentional about being the person that takes initiative in your relationships? How can you "be the invitation?"

In Acts 2:42, the Bible describes meaningful relationships in the early church as ones that break bread together and pray together. Essentially, the early church shared life, laughter, stories, and fruits of their labor together, as well as, deeper conversations, support, and a spiritual connection. While our digital "friends list" may keep growing, it is our job to ensure we have a meaningful community that embodies the elements of sharing life and spiritual connection.

5. Describe your ideal community. Who is a part of it? What are the characteristics of it?
6. What would sharing a meal or intentional conversation with a group of people you care about mean for your life?

#### What's Next?

This week as you follow your faith, we challenge you to be the invitation. Go out of your way to reach out to your friends, family, and community to share a moment together. Take one action this week that would move you closer to your ideal community or help maintain the one you currently have. Whether you are sharing a meal, spending time outside together, or you are connecting virtually, make the effort to check in with the people in your life. Chances are they need it as much as you do!

\*\*\*You can find a template of our 5-minute faith journal at [faithinfive.com](http://faithinfive.com) to further engage your goals and connect them with your faith.\*\*\*