



Design: Connected | March 21, 2018

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

What if I told you that some of the most commonly known TV show theme songs are actually a perfect picture of the way we are designed to be?

Key Verse

John 1:14 (NIV)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Discussion

"Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name. And they're always glad you came. You want to be where you can see the troubles are all the same. You want to be where everybody knows your name." Sound familiar? Feel like you want to sing along? These lyrics from the theme song of the popular TV show, Cheers, and are just one example of many TV theme songs that talk about being friends.

1. What is your favorite TV show theme song? Why?
2. What are some themes in the lyrics listed above? Why do you think it's so easy for us to relate to them?

Often times, our experience with faith and with church can be pretty transactional. We show up on Sunday, sit down quietly, take in the message, and then slip out as soon as it's over. We walk through the rest of the week without experiencing meaning or connection. Many of us recognize that something is missing. Instead of feeling connected, we end up doing life kind of like a Jenga tower...doing our thing with a fear that it could topple at any moment. When we live this way, we are coexisting alongside people but not living interconnected.

3. Describe your personal experience with church. Does it sound a little like the above description? Why or why not?
4. What do you think is "off" about the way we often experience faith and church? What is missing?

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve to live interconnected. This need for connection is in our human DNA; it's how we are designed. Instead of living like Jenga pieces, God's intention is for us to live more like a Lego tower. Connected to one another, through a common belief in Jesus. He is the way that God connects with us. And because of that, when we are connected to one another through Jesus, there is more value and meaning in life. We start living more in line with the way we are designed to live.

5. Are you living out your faith more like a Jenga (disconnected) or Lego tower (connected)? Explain.
6. What are some of the benefits to living life more connected to those around us who believe in Jesus? What might it have the potential to do in our own lives as well as in the church as a whole?

What's Next?

This week, take a look at your faith journey, examine how God created us to be connected, and look for Jesus as the glue that connects us and gives our lives meaning.

First, ask yourself: Am I connected to Jesus? That's where we need to start to find connection points. Second, ask yourself: Am I interacting with and connected to other people and doing life with them? Sharing the good and the bad and the beautiful and the ugly? You can't really have one without the other to be living the life we are designed to live. Take one step forward to deepen your connection to Jesus and/or to others this week.