



## With: Who With | September 11, 2019

### Discussion Guide

#### The Scoop

One of the most powerful words we can use is the word “with.” We all want to be included, we all want to be in on something, and we were designed to be connected. Read more about this and how it relates to your faith below.

#### Key Verses

##### Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV)

*“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”*

#### Discussion

One of the best parts about moving from one season of life to another, is that you often have both the time as well as the opportunity to reflect. Specifically, it can be powerful to reflect on the people in our lives – the way they have impacted, encouraged, supported, and shaped us as human beings. More often than not, these people play a significant role in our lives. They’re not just friends, they’re more like “framely.” When we reflect, we typically think about the people we’ve journeyed with way more than the specific successes, failures, wins and losses.

1. Identify a specific season in your life. What do you think about more when you reflect on that season – the people who were part of the journey with you, or the successes and failures?
2. How often do you take the time to reflect on the impact other people have had on your life?

The reason that we tend to remember the people we’ve journeyed through life with more than the specific things that happened is because we are designed to be connected. From the beginning, God designed us to do life alongside one another. And the most important people in our lives are the people that we get to do life with. It’s often through these people that we get to meet and experience God. This is true for people who aren’t exactly like us as well. God uses other people to expand our vision for the kingdom and his people.

3. What is one way you’ve seen or experienced God through someone you’re connected to?
4. Has God ever used someone different than you to show you something about his character or nature? Explain.

In Philippians 1:9-11, Paul writes a letter to the Philippian church. In his letter, he talks about how to do life well alongside other people. He tells the people to live a “lover’s life,” a life that Jesus would be proud of. Jesus lived his life with several key people around him. He didn’t attempt to go it alone. And not only that, but he lived life with them as if they were “framely.” He loved them deeply. Paul writes this letter not only to model what it looks like to do life connected to others, but also to share the strategy of Jesus – that this community of love would overflow, until more and more people want in.

5. What does a “lover’s life” look like? Who in your life lives this way?
6. Why is it important for us to love others as we live in community? What does this teach us or reveal about the character of God?

#### What's Next?

In this series, we are going to take a closer look at the people in our lives that we do life with. In Genesis, at the very beginning of creation, God says that it’s not good for man to be alone. We are designed to be connected to one another. And when we do this right, when we love our neighbors as ourselves, it’s contagious. It starts to spill over into the rest of the world.

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, think about 4-5 key relationships in your life (family, friends, etc.). These are people that you lean on when you are struggling, and celebrate with when things are going well. Take time to reflect on people in the past, people in your current network, and then think through the future. Who do you want to be, and who would you like to be connected to in order to continue growing in your relationship with Christ? Commit to tell one person in your network how they’ve shaped and encouraged you this week.