



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 22nd December 2024



### Conncting@Christmas—Connected Matthew 1:20-23 John 15:4-17

#### Warm Up

What are the things in our world and in our lives that lead us to being disconnected from God and each other?

#### Background and context

The world today is more connected than ever before. We can receive news from any part of the world almost instantly. We can see our friends and family on live video calls, wherever they live. Facebook, Instagram and all the others connect us to people and their lives, even if we've never met them! At the same time humans experience more loneliness, poor mental health and low self esteem than ever before. It seems we are connected to the wrong things!

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



##### Read Matthew 1 v 20-23.

1. **Read Isaiah 59:1-2.** Why does sin disconnect us from God?
2. Jesus was given His name **“because He will save His people from their sins.”** Do you think most people believe they need saving from their sins? How would you go about explaining to someone what this means?
3. Jesus is called **“God with us”** and also a mediator between man and God (**see 1 Timothy 2 v3-6**). How do these truths help us better understand what He did for us?

##### Read John 15:4-17.

4. Jesus uses a picture of branches on the vine to emphasise the need to remain connected to Him. What other examples from our world could be used as pictures to make this point?
5. **Read Galatians 5 v 22-26.** What does Paul mean by us bearing fruit in our lives?
6. **Read John 15 v 9-12.** How can we “remain” in Jesus?
7. We are called to love each other with a sacrificial love. What actions can we take as individuals, life groups, and church, to do this even more?

#### Discipleship and Application



8. The church is called the body of Christ, with Jesus as the head. Do you feel you have a part to play in the body? How can we, as a church, be a more healthy and effective as a body? (**see 1 Corinthians 12v12-31, Ephesians 4v15-16**).



#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together