

## CONNECT GROUP MATERIAL

# Connect Group Material

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- \*Local outreach is taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. Sign up!
- \*Divorce care - sign up on Whatsapp bulletin
- \*SCAS Craven Week Mission (guys only) – Message Vibert (076 154 2949)

## CONNECT

5 min

# Connect

### **Warm-up question:**

What is the most embarrassing thing you have ever done in public?

### **Testimony:**

Share a testimony of something God has done in this past week? How has he revealed himself to you this past week?

## THE WORD

10 min

# The Word

### **Key scripture:**

### **The ROAD method:**

**R** - Read (Ask someone in your group to read the chosen piece of scripture out loud and then ask everyone to read it quietly to themselves one or two more times. Encourage multiple translations [For English the NIV / ESV / NLT, or for Afrikaans the “NLV / 1953 vertaling / 1983 vertaling / 2020 vertaling”])

**O** - Observe (Ask everyone to take about 5mins to write down their observations from the scripture. For example, what makes sense? What doesn't? What stands out to you? What do you find most interesting about what is said or about something that took place in the story? Is there a command to obey, or a promise to believe in?)

**A** - Ask questions (Ask everyone to take about 5mins to write down any questions that arise from the text and to try and think of the answer. For example, what is the main message being communicated from the text? What did this mean to the original audience it was written for? What does this mean for us today? What does this tell us about God?)

**D** - Discuss and Do (Share your observations, questions, and answers as a group. Then ask and decide on how you will apply this to your life. What will you do based on the truth that you have heard?)

## Scripture: Romans 10:10-13

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<sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

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## Scripture: Psalm 25:1-7

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- <sup>1</sup> In you, LORD my God,  
I put my trust.
- <sup>2</sup> I trust in you;  
do not let me be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- <sup>3</sup> No one who hopes in you  
will ever be put to shame,  
but shame will come on those  
who are treacherous without cause.
- <sup>4</sup> Show me your ways, LORD,  
teach me your paths.
- <sup>5</sup> Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.
- <sup>6</sup> Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love,  
for they are from of old.
- <sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth  
and my rebellious ways;  
according to your love remember me,  
for you, LORD, are good.

## PERSONAL APPLICATION 15min

*Personal Application*

### Inward Application:

1. Identify any areas of your life where you are still struggling with shame or guilt.
2. What do you think is the reason why you are not accepting forgiveness in these areas?
3. What are some consequences of this and how is it affecting you?
4. What do you think will change/improve if you are delivered from this shame/guilt?

### Outward Application:

1. Discuss how you can get rid of what is preventing you from experiencing the fulness of Christ's forgiveness.
2. Identify the lies that the devil uses to condemn you and what truth you will use to

counter these lies.

3. Commit to accepting the totality of Christ's forgiveness and discuss what you will do next time you are faced with shame/guilt.

## PRAYER 10min

*Prayer*

Take some time to pray for each other to experience Christ's freedom from shame and guilt, to have an increased understanding of the perfect forgiveness that he provides, and for the loosing of any lies, fears, or sources of shame/guilt that you have not experienced freedom from. Thank God for his forgiveness, his justification, and his promises and truth.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Three signs of shame/guilt-based thinking:

1. You are vulnerable to perfectionism
2. You are critical of yourself which drives you to be critical of others
3. You use self-defeating thoughts to shield yourself from disappointment

Three practical strategies to counter this:

1. Choose joy (Psalm 34:5)
2. Take refuge (Psalm 71:1)
3. Putt off sinful behaviour (Psalm 119:39)