



Connect Group Manual

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Acts 2:42 *And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles, to the breaking of bread [including the Lord's Supper] and prayers.*

PREPARING THE BODY OF
CHRIST FOR THE
HARVEST THROUGH
CONNECT GROUP
MINISTRY!

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INTRODUCTION

One of the main emphases of our Connect Group Ministry and Morningstar Fellowship Church is to encourage everyone to cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit in their everyday lives, and with one another.

The Holy Spirit is the administrator of the will of the Godhead on earth, therefore, a relationship with Him is required for growth and maturity in the Kingdom of God. This manual was written by Randy Watson, a Connect Group pastor who has lived out everything in its pages, and he is a proven man of God with much fruit. He is a great blessing to my life and ministry, and it is my honor and privilege to introduce a work that is anointed and simple, yet contains profound content and revelation that will cause you to rejoice. It is also my honor to make this introduction to the manual that will become the training manual for all Connect Group ministry in Morning Star Ministries. This manual can be used anywhere and by anyone who the Lord has called to build a connect group, small group, or home church ministry.

May the Lord bless you as you read this anointed work, inspired by the precious Holy Spirit. And may our Lord, the Shepherd of the flock, use you to build His Kingdom for His glory and your joy! I pray you will learn the “The Art of Connection.”

In the service of the Connect Group Ministry,

Pastor Ron T. Phillips

Connect Group Pastor | **Elder** | **Overseer**

TWELVE SCRIPTURAL VALUES FOR CONNECT GROUPS

Core Values

We can take the values we have learned from cultivating spirit led connections and build anywhere.

The core values in our lives determine what we really believe. Unless these values are based in scriptures, we find ourselves just trying another idea. These twelve scriptural values give us a foundation for the cell-based church, which we call Connect Groups (CG). Our vision comes from our values, and our values come from the Word of God.

1. Preparing for Harvest

The Lord promises to pour out His Spirit in the last days. A harvest is coming when the Lord will draw multitudes into His kingdom. What does a farmer do in the winter? He prepares the harvest!

God is calling His Church to prepare **NEW WINE SKINS** for the new wine of His harvest. (Matt. 9:17, 37; John 4:35).

2. The reward of loving our Lord and others.

Community is the reward of loving our Lord and others. It requires hard work and commitment to maintenance. Many people know about the Lord, but He wants us to know Him intimately, and then help others to know Him (John 17:3). Connect Group ministry provides a proper spiritual atmosphere for believers to know Him and one another.

3. Reaching the Lost (Evangelism)

Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost (Mark 1: 17). The primary purpose of the Connect Group is to reach out beyond

ourselves (Matt. 9:38; 2 Tim. 4:5). CG's whose focus is only inward become stagnant; focusing outwardly brings life.

4. **The Great Commission (Discipleship)**

The mandate from our Master is to make disciples, not just converts (Matt. 28:19-20). Connect Groups provide the opportunity for every believer to be actively involved in making disciples. Evangelism alone will not fulfill the 'Great Commission'.

Built-in Shepherd training occurs in Connect Groups as the Holy Spirit anoints different ones with gifts and callings, and they emerge to lead and train others. Each Shepherd must be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in each person's life.

5. **Seeing the Church as People – Not a Building**

We must resist the "holy building myth". People are the Church (the called out ones). Every person is important and chosen by the Lord. Jesus told us He will build His Church, and we must constantly be sensitive to how the Holy Spirit wants to do that through us. He was not talking about a physical building as you know, but a company of anointed, called out ones. The Church meets house to house and publicly (in the temple). (Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:20)

6. **Called to Do the Work of the Ministry**

We must also resist the "holy man myth." Thinking that the "holy man" (Leader of the church) should do all the work of the ministry is a myth. God has given each of His children gifts, talents, and ministries that He wants to use to build His Church. Many, and I would say most, of these gifts and ministries can only be effectively nurtured in small group settings.

Believers need to be released to train others. When all members are functioning properly in their gifts and ministries, the church will

grow and prosper. The pastors and elders will no longer be held up as “holy men” on pedestals doing all the ministry. Instead, they will be released to train each believer to be a minister. (Eph. 4:11-12)

7. **Building Trust and Relationships**

The New Testament Church is built on trust and relationships, not on meetings and programs. First and foremost, we need to trust God. Then we need to trust others with whom we serve. Connect Groups become greenhouses to encourage and strengthen trust and relationships among God’s people. A greenhouse is a place that is conducive to growth, blooming and bearing fruit!

When “underground” relationships are strong in CG’s, they will be strong in the entire church. It is like a tree that is nourished and held up by the underground root system. God builds living stones together through the mortar of healthy relationships. (1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 4:16)

We all need three types of relationships:

- Paul relationships: those who oversee us
- Barnabas relationships: our peers in ministry and Leadership.
- Timothy relationships: those we are training to be future Shepherds.

8. **Expecting Spiritual Multiplication**

We are commanded to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. Everything with life will multiply! Believers who lead others to Christ multiply, and in the same fashion, Connect Groups multiply. A key to experiencing spiritual multiplication is to expect it to happen. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Gen. 1:28; Acts 9:31)

Train as many assistant Shepherds as possible as you prepare now for the future Connect Group multiplication.

9. **Encouraging Flexibility and Creativity**

God values flexibility and creativity, and we need to do the same. No two snowflakes are alike, and no two biological cells are the same. We all use the same biblical principles, but how they function varies from culture to culture, church to church, and Connect Group to Connect Group. Expect the Lord to give you wisdom to stay creative. Sameness produces boredom. Creativity releases life!! The same biblical values can be expressed differently through different people and Shepherds. (2 Cor. 3:17-18)

10. **Empowering Gods People**

Jesus promised His disciples they would do greater works than He did, and we are included in that promise. He has empowered us to do the works of God in our generation. Wise church Shepherds empower Connect Group Shepherds as ministers of our Lord Jesus Christ, and wise Connect Group Shepherds empower their CG members. (John 14:12; 2 Tim. 2:2)

Un-employ yourself as a Leader; do nothing someone else can do. Enjoy seeing the Lord using others to minister by His Spirit as you coach and mentor them. If you work yourself out of a job, you will always have plenty to do. It's when we hold on to something as if it is ours that it dies. Allow others to serve!

11. **God is Building Teams in His Church Today**

Team work is modeled and learned in a healthy Connect Group. We have been created to be interdependent (to need one another). Independence is a trap. Connect Groups are excellent places to encourage each other as we work together. (2 Thess. 1:1; 1 Cor. 12:28; Amos 3:3)

The four components of a healthy team are:

- **Common vision**

- **Common values**
- **Common procedures**
- **God given healthy relationships**

12. **Raising up Spiritual Parents**

There are thousands of teachers today, but few spiritual fathers and mothers to nurture young Christians. Connect Groups are spiritual families, and just like natural families, they also have parents. (1 Cor. 4:15-17; 1 John 2:12-14)

Release them! We must not only raise up spiritual fathers and mothers, we must release them, encourage them, and equip them to start their own Connect Groups and churches. To not release them would make us dysfunctional spiritual parents.

Final Thought

The cell-based church is a “Wineskin” for these twelve scriptural values to be encouraged and experienced!

CONNECT GROUP DEFINITION

WHAT IS A CONNECT GROUP?

Connect Groups are the “small group” or “gathering” ministry within Morningstar Ministries. It is an ever-growing, ever-expanding, and ever-emerging subset of a dynamic prophetic culture within Morningstar’s local body. God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, has designed creation to exist with a basic unit structure that scientist have coined as Deoxyribonucleic Acid or DNA. This basic unit contains the instructions needed for the organism to develop, survive and reproduce. DNA contains the blueprint, schematic and pattern of life, and there are no two patterns that are the same. There

may be similar DNA strands, but all are different and unique in God’s disposition and arrangement of life.

SPIRITUAL DNA

The body of Christ is a spiritual organism that touches every facet and walk of life on the earth. Psalms 19:1-4 and Romans 1:20 reveal to us that God has revealed Himself through creation. Therefore, there are dimensions and attributes of the body of Christ that are revealed in the natural realm.

One of these attributes is the revelation of Spiritual DNA. Just like there is a natural DNA, there is also a spiritual DNA that performs the same function in the spiritual realm. Each local body has a Spiritual DNA that contains the blueprint and schematic and pattern of local church life, and these patterns determine the uniqueness of that body. In summary, God has developed every local spiritual organism (local body) with a unique spiritual DNA that makes them different, unique, and special in its own way.

MorningStar Ministries – Spiritual DNA (8-9)
1. Prophetic Revelation (Dreams, Visitations, Revelation)
2. Word in Due Season (Issachar Anointing, Discerning Seasons and Timings)
3. Revival Culture (Spiritual Movement, Momentum and Renewal)
4. Koinonia (Love, Family, Fellowship)
5. Teaching/Training (Education Mantle, Equipping to Send)
6. Worship (Creative Song Writing, Spontaneous Flow)
7. Freedom (Physical Healing, Inner Healing, Deliverance)
8. Gathering Anointing (draws people to receive living word for activation and impartation for service)

WHAT MAKES MORNINGSTAR UNIQUE?

Morningstar Ministries has a spiritual DNA that defines it. This DNA makes it unique, viable, and valuable to the body of Christ. Each Connect Group incorporates and embodies this DNA in every facet of Connect Group ministry.

These are the Spiritual DNA sequences that compose the fabric of Morningstar Ministries:

- Prophetic Revelation (Dreams, Visions, Revelation)
- Word in Due Season (Issachar Anointing, Discerning Seasons and Timings)
- Revival Culture (Spiritual Movement, Spiritual Momentum and Renewal)
- Koinonia (Love, Family, Fellowship)
- Teaching/Training (Education Mantle, Equipping to Send)
- Worship (Creative Song Writing, Spontaneous Flow)
- Freedom (Physical Healing, Inner Healing, Deliverance)
- Gathering Anointing (Receive living word, activation, impartation for service)

Morningstar has each of these spiritual facets and components incorporated into every aspect of Church life and each Connect Group has a healthy embodiment of this Spiritual DNA.

SMALL GROUP DEFINITION

Small group ministry can be historically traced back to the inception of the New Testament Church. In the letters of Paul, he uses the term “ekklesia”, which meant “a gathering of God’s people”. These gatherings were usually small, so the early church was essentially made up of small groups combining to create a whole.

In the 21st century, there are specific words that are used universally to define small group ministry. Here are a few words that commonly come to mind:

- ❖ Cell Group
- ❖ House Church
- ❖ Small Gathering
- ❖ Microcosm

To appropriately define Connect Group ministry, we need to focus on the basics. Fundamentally, a Connect Group is a Sphere of Influence. That's it.

Acts 2:42-43 list four things the early church devoted themselves to.

It's a Sphere of Influence. It doesn't matter the context of the influence. Do you have influence in the marketplace? Do you have a group of friends that follow you to the tennis court? Do you have family members that seek you out for advice and counsel? Do you meet up with friends for coffee? Do you have a group of friends that you conference call with over the phone?

Once we dismantle the definition down to the foundation, we see an underlying reality that is present for everyone. This truth is simple; since everyone has a sphere of influence, then everyone has a Connect Group.

There is a move of God within our fingertips. In Matt. 3:2, John the Baptist made this unusual and powerful declaration, "Repent (change your mind) for the Kingdom of Heaven is at HAND (close proximity)." The Kingdom of Heaven is very close and is longing for release.

Who is "At Hand" within your current relationships? Who are the people that are drawn to you? These people make up your Connect Group, and this is where Heaven is waiting for you to dispense the Kingdom. This is the essence of Connect Group ministry!

NEW WINESKIN

Matt 9:17 (NLT) "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would **burst from the pressure**, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. **New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved.**"

Jesus said that old wineskins will rupture if new wine is poured into them. During biblical times, it was an ancient practice to use animal skins to store liquid. Fermented liquid expands after containment. Old wineskins are ineffective in storing wine, because they are already stretched to capacity. Their structure lacks the necessary qualities inherent in new wineskins that enable adaptability and malleability. As a result, old containers will burst from pressure, spilling out the precious wine.

Jesus said that new wine is stored in new wineskins **"so that both are preserved."** God places just as much importance on the container as the content. The church has a tendency at times to focus exclusively on the wine while neglecting the wineskin, and yet, scripture reveals that Jesus prioritizes both the same.

Seven Principles of Spiritual Wine and Wineskin:

- 1) New wine is the movement of God in the earth.
- 2) The Church needs new wine and a new wineskin.
- 3) Old wineskins will not contain new wine.
- 4) New wine is stored in new wineskins "so that both are preserved."
- 5) The Church tends to neglect the new wineskin when focusing on the new wine.
- 6) God prioritizes both the new wine and the new wineskin.
- 7) Connect Group contains new wineskin qualities that preserve new wine.

CONNECT GROUP MODEL AND THE NEW WINESKIN

Our Connect Group model contains the spiritual qualities of the **New Wineskin** (structure), to effectively contain the **New Wine** (move of God), so that the wine can achieve the purpose of the **Winemaker** (Jesus). This model is effective, because it simplifies ministry, eliminates the "unnecessary" while focusing on empowering people to grow in purpose, spiritual gifts and maturity.

Connect Group ministry as a model is a **Structure without Stricture** that is adaptable and malleable (flexible) enough to be **Transitional and Mobile** during seasons of change.

1. Structure without Stricture

- a. Connect Group provides an environment of freedom that covers and protects people without stifling or restricting spiritual creativity, growth and gifting.
- b. Connect Group provides an environment that values spiritual gifting and exploration at the same level as sound biblical doctrine, understanding that we worship God in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24).
- c. Connect Group allows people to practice spiritual gifts in a safe environment that celebrates the attempt, regardless of success or so-called failure.
- d. Connect Group places a high value on grace, while lovingly holding one another accountable to a biblical standard of holiness that rejects sin and emphasizes redemption.

2. **Transitional and Mobile** (readily change function and/or move or occur in diverse locations).
- a. **Connect Groups are transitional in nature**; readily able to change in function or form.
 - i. Paul transitioned from a temple to a school (Acts 19:8-10).
 - ii. Paul always ministered with a team (Connect Group).
 - iii. All of the province of Asia heard the Gospel.
 - b. **Connect Groups are mobile in nature**; readily able to move or occur in any location.
 - i. House to house (Acts 20:20).
 - ii. Synagogues (Acts 19:8).
 - iii. Public (Acts 20:20).
 - iv. Temple (Acts 2:46).
 - v. School of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9).

STRUCTURE WITHOUT STRICTURE

Connect Group provides a structure of freedom that enables everyone to practice and grow in spiritual gifts. In practicing spiritual gifts, we celebrate the attempt regardless of the outcome. Sometimes the outcome doesn't meet our expectation and desire. That's not a problem when the ultimate goal is to love God and His people. This type of wineskin allows people to practice spiritual gifts in safety without fear of rejection or failure.

Practicing spiritual gifts and ministering to people is simply an outward expression of God's love. So there is never any failure! Some may question this, because we've all witnessed error in prophetic and healing ministry, which we tend to deem as failure. As a Church, we have not fully understood the love of God and how it applies to ministry.

LOVE THAT NEVER FAILS

The Apostle Paul told the church in Corinth that **love never fails** (1 Cor. 13:8). Love doesn't just succeed sometimes or occasionally, but is always successful! This means success is guaranteed when ministering to people, as long as the goal is to love. In fact, what others call failure, we call an exciting opportunity to love again!

Let me explain. As a body, we desire spiritual gifts and prefer the prophetic, but we are always in **pursuit of love** (1 Cor 14:1). This pursuit ensures that ministry is always headed in the right direction and success is inevitable. We desire to grow in spiritual gifting and prophetic accuracy, but that's not our pursuit.

Our pursuit is always to love God and His people. Our pursuit in ministering spiritual gifts is to bring people into an encounter with God's love. We practice for accuracy, because it is important for our spiritual development. In fact, God wants us to excel in this area, but we acknowledge the fact that accuracy does not guarantee effectiveness. So, in a sense we can be accurate failures if our motivation is wrong. Love is what makes ministry effective, and the greater the love the greater the impact.

Once the goal (pursuit) of ministry is to bring people into an encounter with God's love, then failure is impossible and success is inevitable. If our heart (motivation) is pure, then our hands (ministry) will be clean. That's why it's good to routinely perform a heart check of underlying motives to ensure we are functioning in love.

- ✓ We function in love when the motive is to love people into an encounter with the love of God.
- ✓ We function in love when the motive is to love people by edifying, exhorting and comforting.
- ✓ We function in love when the motive is to love people by releasing power and peace.

TRANSITION (THE ABILITY TO READILY CHANGE FUNCTION AND FORM)

Change and transition is a very important factor to be successful in ministry. God is immutable, but His seasons are not, and each season requires a difference in task and function. Therefore, we must be able to adapt, change and transition, so that we are just as effective in Winter as in Spring. Consider the natural realm. In nature, the absence of change is not just an indication creation is dying; but that it's already dead. It's the same in the spiritual realm. Churches that are unable – or unwilling – to change are either dying or dead. So, it's important, now more than ever, that the structure of ministry (organization and function) is malleable and adaptable enough to transition with the seasons.

Transition and change is vital for success in ministry. Paul discovered this during a challenging season in Acts 19:8-10. Paul ministered for three months in the temple without any success, until he transitioned to the school of Tyrannus. Paul's ministry transformed from pulpit preaching in the temple to systematic equipping through education. As a result of that change, the entire province of Asia received the Gospel. The fruit of success did not blossom, on the tree of ministry, until there was a change in form and function. Thus, new wineskins enable transition in changing seasons.

NEW WINESKIN

Old wineskins resist new expansion and the fresh change that comes with new wine, and it ultimately erupts from pressure. New wineskins, however, are elastic and versatile. They can adapt, expand and conform to the demand of the new wine. Connect Group ministry does not resist this demand, but embraces it. As a result, we are able to change and transition with the fresh flow of new wine.

MOBILITY (THE ABILITY TO READILY MOVE OR MINISTER IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS)

In Morningstar, we do not place a "home group label" on our Connect Groups. They are "small groups" (not home groups), because our ministry is not exclusively limited to homes. In fact, we are able to fellowship and engage heaven in a variety of locations, such as homes, church campuses, outdoors, restaurants, the work place, etc. We love the spiritual agility and versatility of fellowship and function within diverse environments! This is necessary to exist as a church without walls. Ministry also needs the ability to readily move locations when necessary, which is more important than some may think.

Consider the children of God in the Old Testament. Israel had to follow the Spirit of the Lord as a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night to reach the Promised Land (Exodus 13:21-22). This means they had to be ready and willing to transit when God was ready. They had to move when He moved. We believe The Holy Spirit is demanding the same requirement of the Church.

HEAVEN'S BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN (BCP)

Every successful businessman knows the importance of having a Business Continuity Plan (BCP). A Business Continuity Plan outlines how to continue operations during

unplanned disruptions at the primary location. A successful (BCP) addresses the following questions:

1. How to respond if our primary location experiences an unplanned disruption?
2. How to continue providing services to our customer base?
3. How to stay in communication with employees?
4. How to maintain a successful operation during a natural disaster?

Connect Group ministry, in essence, is Heaven's Business Continuity Plan. In other words, it's God's plan to ensure "On Earth as in Heaven" in the event of expected or unexpected disruptions. The Church can never shut down when ministry can function at any time and any place, and there can never be a padlock placed on the door if there is no door to lock. This is the benefit of having a new wineskin in preparation for the harvest.

CONNECT GROUPS AND THE HARVEST

Matt. 9:35-38 (NKV) 35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. 36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and Scattered (opposite of gathered), like sheep having no shepherd (no Leadership). 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers (shepherds) are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers (shepherds that gather) into His harvest."

Morningstar Ministries believes that the harvest is a priority in God's economy. It's not a preference, but an imperative. As such, there is a divine plan to reap the harvest that will not be altered or circumvented in any form.

In Matthew chapter 9, we see a profound illustration of three perspectives concerning God's heart towards the harvest. These perspectives are as follows:

- God's heart towards the harvest
- God's dilemma within the harvest
- God's solution for the dilemma

GOD’S HEART TOWARDS THE HARVEST

“He was moved with compassion towards them.”

Simply put, compassion is an expression of the unlimited and undying Love of God in response to a human need. In Matthew chapter 9, God looked upon the state of his people and felt compassion towards them because they were as “sheep without a shepherd”. They were “scattered”. One translation says that the people were faint. The implication is that people who are scattered (directionless, aimless) will lack spiritual strength and stamina.

GOD’S DILEMMA WITHIN THE HARVEST

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”

If we could say that there was one problem or dilemma that was close to God’s heart, then it would be the lack of laborers for the harvest field. In the Gospel of Matthew, we learn that the harvest is plentiful, but there is a deficit of laborers in the field. Thus, God’s people are scattered, or in a directionless state lacking spiritual strength.

GOD’S SOLUTION FOR THE DILEMMA

“Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

The good news is that God has a solution to this dilemma; the answer is not complicated or convoluted. His plan is to send forth laborers into the harvest field. The important factor that is sometimes overlooked is not the need for laborers, but the identity of the laborers. Who are they?

When Jesus surveyed the state of the harvest field, He said the people were as sheep without a **shepherd**. So, the laborers are shepherds who are commissioned to gather and strengthen the sheep.

Three Perspectives Concerning God’s Heart Towards the Harvest
1. God’s Heart – Compassion towards His people who are scattered
2. God’s Dilemma – Deficit of laborers in a field of scattered men and women

3. God's Solution – Pray to the Lord of the Harvest for laborers

THE GREAT SHEPHERD

Hebrews 13:20 (NET) “Now may the God of peace who by the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead the **Great Shepherd** of the sheep, **our Lord Jesus Christ**”

Isn't it interesting that in Matthew 9 the multitudes were with the “Great Shepherd”, and yet Jesus surveyed the field and perceived they were as “sheep without a shepherd”? How can that be possible when they were gathered in mass with the Great Shepherd? Because the body of Christ needs more than the mass congregating to “Grow up into Him” (Eph. 4:15). Sunday services are good, but not sufficient in themselves. Conferences are great, but the people need more. It is imperative that shepherds within the body are constantly gathering (connecting) the sheep “in His name” (Matt. 18:20).

WHO ARE CONNECT GROUP SHEPHERDS?

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV) Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Just because everyone has a Connect Group (sphere of influence), it does not mean that everyone is a Connect Group Shepherd. Connect Group Shepherds are those individuals who hear the call, “Whom shall I send?” and respond, “**Send me!**” They combine the calling to shepherd the flock, along with intentionality and commitment.

Connect Group Shepherds are committed to the following:

- Shepherding the Body (Pastoral heart)
- Gathering the Body (in groups)
- Serving the Body (providing a safe place to grow spiritually)

See also Ezekiel 34:11-16 and John 21:15-17

CONNECT GROUP FORMATION

HOW DO I START A CONNECT GROUP?

Matt 22:14 (ESV) "But many are called but few are chosen."

Once you have heard and answered the call, and have committed to serving in this capacity, then it's time to start a group. To start a Connect Group, there are five questions that need to be asked and answered:

1. **Who** will I invite to the group?
 2. **When** will we meet?
 3. **Where** will the gatherings be held?
 4. **How** will I communicate with the group?
 5. **Why** are we meeting?
-

WHO TO INVITE?

First – Pray about who to invite to your group? Be led by the Holy Spirit. Is there anyone that the Lord is highlighting to you? Make a note to contact these individuals first.

Second – Identify your key relationships. Who are the individuals in your sphere of influence? Who do you feel connected with and who is drawn to you?

Third – Make a list of names of personal relationships and of individuals Holy Spirit has highlighted. Write them down. Pray over the list prior to making contact.

WHEN WILL WE MEET?

Once you've identified the individuals to invite to your Connect Group, you can establish meeting timeframes, such as the day of the week, start and end times, frequency, etc.

1. Will we meet on a weekday or weekend?
2. What time will we meet?
3. Will we meet weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc.?
4. What's the duration of the meeting?

Each question needs to be prayerfully considered to make the correct decision. Paul informs Timothy that an overseer must look after his family well (1 Tim. 3:4). Keep in mind that your personal family is a priority over your spiritual family.

Do Not create a Connect Group schedule that places undue stress on your family. Remember that your family must be a priority.

WHERE WILL WE HAVE CONNECT GROUP?

One of the greatest aspects of the Connect Group model is the inherent flexibility in location. Connect Groups can meet in a variety of places and settings. This ministry can work just as well over skype or at a café. Choose a location and setting that works best for you and your group.

HOW WILL I COMMUNICATE WITH THE CONNECT GROUP?

This is an important question to answer. What will be the communication medium? Here are a couple of suggestions:

- Facebook Group
- Facebook Messenger
- Text
- Phone Call
- Email

Make sure to use the medium that works best for the group. Although some people may respond better to text communication, it's still much wiser to find what works best for your group.

WHY ARE WE MEETING?

Clarity of purpose is essential to the Connect Group. Understanding why we meet (purpose) will determine what we do (activity). So, what should be the primary focus and purpose?

The primary purpose of Connect Group should **always** be fellowship and koinonia. For too long the church has existed without making koinonia a priority. Thus, we have majored on the minor. The truth is that in God's order, koinonia is of utmost

importance. Jesus did not die to establish five-fold offices or spiritual gifts/ anointing. These are all very important, but are also minor in the full scheme of Heaven. God had another plan in mind.

Our Father sent His son to die on the cross for one purpose only, and that is to re-establish koinonia/fellowship with His creation. Therefore, koinonia is an eternal precedent and paramount in God's heart. Establishing koinonia as a priority in the Connect Group is **majoring on the major**.

Many Connect Groups have a secondary purpose or specified theme. For example, there are groups that meet to intercede for prodigal sons, and those that meet for prayer walking. Others may meet to edify marriages and/or business development. Sometimes the theme will shift depending upon the leading of the Holy Spirit, but the primary purpose will always be koinonia.

DO NUMBERS MATTER?

Matt 18:20 (NLT) For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.

There are many questions concerning the size of the Connect Group. For example:

- How many people do you need to start a Connect Group?
- What is the appropriate size of the Connect Group?
- Does the number of attendee's matter?

The answer to these questions is found in Matthew 18. Do numbers matter? Sure, it does. The collective number that matters is two. Once you have **at least two** people, then you have a group. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there." Connect Group ministry occurs when two or more people gather together for a Kingdom purpose.

CONNECT GROUP ADMINISTRATION

CONNECT GROUP ACTIVITY

In Connect Group ministry, the activities will change based upon the direction of Holy Spirit. What we did yesterday may not necessarily be the same today. What we do today may change tomorrow. Why? Because our Father is a God of change and transition. He mandates us to follow the fire by day and cloud by night (Exodus 13:21).

Change is a good thing; it keeps the Connect Group culture vibrant and life-affirming. A prophetic culture expects to stay spiritually in tune with the directional flow of Holy Spirit. Ministry is never dull when it's balanced on the edge of prophetic expectation.

DEVOTION TO THE ASSIGNMENT

Acts 2:42 (ESV) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

The Greek word used for devotion is *proskartereō* (Strong's 4342), which means "to devote oneself to, to keep on, to persist in". Whatever God has laid upon your heart to do within your Connect Group will require your devotion. Whether it's prayer walking, prophetic training, or bible study...do it to the best of your ability! Be consistent and persistent in your Connect Group assignment. Do not stop or change unless you are led to do so. Be devoted!

KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL MEETING

In any Connect Group meeting, there are four primary keys to a successful gathering. Learning, practicing, and development in these keys will result in a positive ministry experience. The four keys to a successful Connect Group gathering are the following:

- Preparation
- Dialogue
- Facilitation
- Evaluation

CONNECT GROUP PREPARATION

Ezekiel 38:7 (NLT) "Get ready; be prepared! Keep all the armies around you mobilized, and take command of them."

Preparation is probably the most important key to the success of any Connect Group gathering. Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying, "An ounce of preparation is worth a

pound of cure.” Samuel Taylor Coleridge was an English poet and a literary critic and philosopher in the 1700’s who said, “He who is best prepared can best serve his moment of inspiration.” Both men were profoundly accurate in their statements.

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

It is important to saturate yourself, home, and family in prayer prior to the Connect Group meeting. Focusing on prayer before the event produces an environment conducive to the manifestation of heaven. It will also release divine protection for the family of the Connect Group Shepherd. Prayer releases glory, so a saturated prayer life is a life that is infused with the glory of God.

PREPARATION IN PLANNING

Proverbs 21:5 (ESV) The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

Luke 14: 24 (NIV) “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

There is an adage that goes, “He who fails to plan, plans to fail.” This is not only true, but it is prophetic in its essence. Ultimately, a lack of planning prophesies failure.

Laborious activity does not have to be the by-product of Connect Group planning. It simply requires the Shepherd to have an overall idea of the agenda and practical needs of the meeting.

Three basic questions to successful small group planning:

1. What do we need?
 - Activity supplies
 - Food
 - Accessories
2. What will we do?
 - Message
 - Training
 - Activities
 - Games
3. How will we proceed?
 - Start and End Times

- How to transition between activities

Planning does not mean control; planning simply creates a framework of preparation and understanding of how to proceed at the event. Understand that Holy Spirit ultimately has complete control and freedom to do as He pleases within the gathering.

PREPARATION IN FAMILY

Make sure your family is prepared for the gathering. As previously stated, Connect Group ministry is certainly a priority, but it is **NEVER** a priority over the family; they always come first and foremost, and they need to KNOW they are a priority.

Make sure your family is an integral part of the Connect Group ministry; give them a role and a voice, and ask their opinion. Receive their input, and pray together for divine direction over the meeting.

Perform what can be coined as a “Family Pulse Check” by asking how they feel about the Connect Group. Are they overburdened? Are they feeling stressed? Burn-out is predominantly the result of an imbalance between ministry and family- time, so make sure they come first.

CONNECT GROUP DIALOGUE

Dialogue is potentially the greatest secret weapon in Connect Group ministry. The term dialogue is comprised of two words; “Dia” and “logos”. In Greek, the word “Dia” means “across”, but in Greek religion the word means “heavenly” or “divine”. The word “logos” means “utterance”. Dialogue literally means “God Speaks”. Once we engage in open dialogue, God begins to speak through the conversation and minister to His people.

John 1:14 says, “The Word became flesh ...” During a Connect Group dialogue, there is a tangible manifestation or materialization of glory within the conversation. This occurs because the dialogue increases in “Kabod”, which in Hebrew means “weighty presence”. God materializes in the word!

The best way to engage open dialogue is to present questions to the group. For example, if you are teaching on “Growing in the Prophetic”, you could ask the group, “What are some ways we can improve our spiritual hearing?” If there is a reluctance to respond, then present the question to specific individuals. For example, “Hey John, how do YOU think we can grow in hearing God’s voice?” This is one way to pull participation out of the people.

INVOLVEMENT = ACTIVATION = DISCOVERY = DEVELOPMENT

Open dialogue is important because it gets the Connect Group involved by participating in the ministry. This participation activates their anointing and creates an environment where spiritual gifts can flourish. No involvement means no activation, and you are basically left with just another church service. People are tired of sermons and they have been to enough services. After activation, they'll WANT to function in their gifting and calling.

If there's no activation, then there's no spiritual discovery. Once people are activated, they begin to discover latent gifts and anointing that reside on the inside.

If there is no discovery, then there is no spiritual development which comes through use and practice.

<i>No Spiritual Involvement = No Spiritual Activation</i>
<i>No Spiritual Activation = No Spiritual Discovery</i>
<i>No Spiritual Discovery = No Spiritual Development</i>

FACILITATING DIALOGUE

The average woman uses 7,000 words a day and five speech tones, while the average man uses 3,000 words a day and three speech tones. The reason why facilitation skills are needed in Connect Group dialogue is because some will try and use all their words in this moment! Some people will attempt to talk over others; don't allow it! Make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to share, and gently remind people to be concise and firm when necessary. Navigate the conversation away from any unfruitful discourse.

FACILITATING MINISTRY

Ministry facilitation requires the Shepherd to be cognizant of Holy Spirit and the environment. We need to be aware of God and people in that moment. Have an idea of how you want to facilitate the body-to-body ministry time including, but not limited to, prophesying and praying for the sick.

CONNECT GROUP EVALUATION

It is important to do an honest evaluation and ministry appraisal at the end of each Connect Group meeting. What were the high and low points of the evening? What were the successes, and opportunities for improvement? Evaluation is important because it enables consistent progress.

CONNECT GROUP DEVELOPMENT

FOUR PHASES OF CONNECT GROUP DEVELOPMENT

The word “development” means:

- a) the process of being developed
- b) the act or process of creating something over time
- c) the state of being created or made more advanced

Development is forward progression and movement. In nature, if there is no movement, then there is no life. This is the same in ministry. If there is no development or growth in ministry, then the ministry is in a dismal state of spiritual lifelessness. The good news is that Jesus said He has come so we can have abundant life (John 10:10). This means there is always an opportunity for development.

Developing covenant relationship with each other, through koinonia, is a core value in Connect Group ministry. Over the years, we have observed four progressive phases in covenant relationship that correspond with the stages of Connect Group development.

Connect Group ministry developmental phases are as follows:

1. Being Together
2. Growing Together
3. Doing Together
4. Going Together

The word “together” is not a physical but spiritual union. If one Connect Group member is away on a mission trip, then we are still “together” and will support them with our prayers and finances.

BEING TOGETHER (LIFE ON LIFE)

This is the first phase of Connect Group development. People start fellowshiping and getting to know each other, resulting in true relationship. This is where the commitment to “life on life” begins.

GROWING TOGETHER (SPIRITUAL GROWTH)

This is the second phase of Connect Group development. Growth is the goal of all relationships. If we are not growing together, then the relationship has no purpose. In this phase, close bonds are established and Connect Group members are gathering outside of meeting times. Why? Because the relationship is not dependent upon Connect Group organization, but a spiritual covenant. Groups within the group start to form and develop.

DOING TOGETHER (MINISTRY TEAMS)

This is the third phase of Connect Group development, and it’s where activity springs out of covenant relationship. Connect Group members start to do ministry together by either being sent out, or engaging in ministry on their own. While some people will be drawn closer to you than others, relationships will continue to develop synergistically and symbiotically, from which teams will be formed. These individuals will form your Apostolic & Prophetic teams inside and outside Connect Group.

GOING TOGETHER (CALLING AND DESTINY)

This is the fourth phase of Connect Group development. “Going together” occurs when people:

- Know their calling
- Are equipped in spiritual gifts
- Become active in their ministry

Everyone has a destiny, and Connect Group ministry is one of God’s mechanisms to empower people to reach it.

APOSTOLIC & PROPHETIC MINISTRY

Ephesians 2:19-20 (NIV) Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with **GOD’S PEOPLE**, and also members of his

household, BUILT on the FOUNDATION of the APOSTLES and PROPHETS, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

The definition of the word “foundation” is a basis upon which something stands or is supported. All buildings require a proper foundation to support the structure. The building will not remain erect in the absence of a proper foundation. Paul informed the church at Ephesus that Apostolic & Prophetic ministry is the foundation of the body of Christ. Therefore, the ministry must be built and developed on a healthy understanding of Apostolic & Prophetic principles. Connect Group ministers require this understanding to be successful.

PROPHETIC CULTURE

1 Corinthians 14:1 (KJV) Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

The environment of the New Testament church in Corinth was described as chaotic at best. There was a serious need for religious, social, and spiritual order. In addressing the spiritual aspect of the church, the Apostle Paul made an illuminating and informative statement. Paul tells us to desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Why would Paul say, “desire spiritual gifts”, but make prophecy a priority? Because the prophetic creates an environment for all the spiritual gifts to flourish. Paul reveals that Timothy received spiritual gifts through prophecy (1 Tim. 4:14 NIV). The prophetic is a transportation mechanism that is pregnant with spiritual possibility. Creating a prophetic culture establishes an environment where spiritual possibilities go from “potential” to “manifestation”.

Understanding this nature of prophetic ministry creates a heightened sense of responsibility for the Connect Group Shepherd to activate the people in the prophetic. Prophetic activation establishes a prophetic culture that energizes the environment with spiritual possibilities. Dreams, visions, revelations, and spiritual gifts will become the norm. Frankly, the supernatural becomes natural.

APOSTOLIC CULTURE

1 Corinthians 9:2 (KJV) Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The word for Apostle in the Greek is Apostolos, which means “sent one”. It means “one who is sent on a mission”. The Apostolic anointing at its core is a “sending anointing”, and the Apostolic “instinct” is to equip and to send delegates on God-ordained missions.

It’s interesting that when Paul was challenged to prove his Apostolic authority he did not point to spiritual exploits and experiences. His response in 1 Cor. 9:2 was “you are the seal of my apostleship”. Ultimately, he was saying you are the “evidence” of my Apostolic ministry. Why? Because while the Prophetic creates an environment for gifts to develop, the Apostolic creates an environment for divine calling and destiny to emerge.

One way to incorporate the Apostolic into a Connect Group environment is to focus on discipleship and developing people. Spiritual fathers are people orientated. They have a passion for seeing people walk out their calling and destiny. Pray to God to receive the heart of a father. Apostolic instincts will begin to develop and the apostolic dimension will begin to emerge in the ministry.

An Apostolic & Prophetic culture is an environment where people are equipped and spiritual gifts are developed. This culture is the foundation of the Body of Christ, and what’s needed in Connect Group ministry.

WHAT IS KOINONIA?

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship (koinonia) with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Earlier we explained how Koinonia is a priority in Connect Group ministry. People desire real connection through relationship and fellowship. They need a rejection-free environment where they are accepted and honored. A place where sin is never tolerated but people are always welcome and loved.

Biblical koinonia is a supernatural grace that flows out of the love of 'God the Father' - from His heart to the Church - and then manifests in the form of fellowship. Koinonia is not simple fellowship that occurs when two or more people enjoy each other's company. It is a supernatural endowment that flows from the Father and brings us into communion with Him and each other. Once we embrace the revelation of God as Father, we are able to walk and grow in fellowship (koinonia) with Him and others.

Real koinonia does not only connect us to God, but also to each other. It brings us into unity and establishes communion (common-union) with Christ and His body of believers. Through this unity, the blood of Jesus is allowed to flow and supernaturally cleanse us from sin and its effects (1 John 1:7).

FALSE GODS = FALSE FATHERS

Psalm 103:13: "The Lord is like a **father** to his children, tender and compassionate to those who fear him."

The world has a vacancy or emptiness in the soul which can only be filled and satisfied in relationship with a good Father. This desire identifies the need for relationship with God the Father. We need Him even when we do not know Him.

In scripture, this need takes the form of idolatry when people lack a revelation of the true and living God. In fact, biblical idolatry, or the pursuit of false gods, is simply an attempt to fill this void with a false father. False gods (idols) are simply false fathers we use to fill the hole. This void can only be filled by Abba, our true Father.

YOU ARE A GOOD FATHER

Communities and neighborhoods with a high percentage of fatherless homes tend to be the most profligate in resources. This, by definition, means the people are "recklessly extravagant or wasteful in the use of resources". Spending and consumption is out of control. Why? Because they are searching for the love of a good Father to nullify the feelings of loneliness and emptiness. Unfortunately, many are simply anesthetizing the pain with idols of extravagance and waste. **But these are false fathers that come bearing false promises and produce false results.** God is the true and only good Father, as there is no one good except God alone (Mark 10:18). Only the love of Abba Father can truly heal the soul and fill this void.

CHARACTERISTICS OF KOINONIA

In the New Testament, the word Koinonia is typically translated into four key words: **Fellowship, Participation, Partnership and Communion (Common Unity)**. These terms express the characteristics of Koinonia when it is alive and thriving in community. It also affords a way to measure its reality in any type of environment (home, church, small group, etc.) Understanding these distinctions provide an excellent way to gauge if Koinonia is present within a small group setting:

1. Fellowship in Connect Group is expressed as:
 - Doing life-on- life together.
 - Developing friendships.
2. Participation in Connect Group is expressed as:
 - Assisting in activities (cleaning, organizing, etc.)
 - Participating in open discussion.
 - Participating in ministry.
3. Partnership in Connect Group is expressed as:
 - Individuals taking on greater responsibility.
 - Partnering together in ministry (as a Shepherd).
4. Communion (Common Unity) in Connect Group is expressed as:
 - Understanding we are a spiritual family.
 - Holy Spirit establishing unity.

DISCIPLESHIP IS THE FRUIT OF KOINONIA

Mark 1:17 (Good News) Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I will **TEACH YOU TO CATCH PEOPLE.**"

Matt 28:19 (NIV) "Therefore **GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATION**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

One of the first actions in the ministry of Jesus was not to preach to large crowds, but to start a Connect Group (small group). In Mark 1:17, we see Jesus calling four men into a relationship with Him that would drastically change their lives and the world around them. The initial group of four increased to a mixed assembly of twelve with varying

personalities and experiences. This motley, and seemingly inconsequential, group of men would later go on to change the world.

The first word that Jesus spoke to His small group of men was to “Come” and the last command given was a directive to “Go”. “Come with me” and I will teach, train and equip you to “catch people” which means to make disciples. Once Jesus completed His assignment on Earth, which included raising up Shepherds, He released His Connect Group to “Go and make disciples of all nations”, or simply do what they were equipped to do. Jesus arrived promising to train others on how to make disciples, and then He released them to disciple nations. The question is, how did He train the group to make disciples?

The words “**Come with me**” is not just a promise to teach and train Shepherds, but also an invitation to a relationship that would change them into the Shepherds they needed to become. It was a promise of a relationship that would transform the direction of their life and the course of history. “Come into fellowship (koinonia) with Me and you will become like Me and disciple others.”

CONNECT GROUP AND DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is the natural by-product of koinonia. In fact, if discipleship is a fruit, then koinonia is the tree and the Love of God is the root system. Consider that Jesus is the biblical model of the Christian life and He only discipled those He has fellowship (koinonia) with.

There are many Church discipleship models that fail by mistakenly planting the wrong tree which produces unintended fruit. Most only focus on how and/or what to teach people who they intend to disciple. As a result, they end up planting the tree of education and only harvest students (not disciples) as a fruit. Teaching is an aspect of discipleship, but its foundation is relationship. The foundation determines the focus. We can only instruct those who are ignorant. So, if teaching is the core of the relationship, then the focus is on the insufficiency of knowledge. This works well in a university model, but it's harmful in discipleship where the healthy focus should be on building relationship.

Successfully training others in making disciples will require a focus on developing meaningful relationships. The emphasis is on establishing fellowship with the goal of transformation through Christ. Discipleship, in essence, is serving others in a way that brings healing, growth and forward momentum in life. Discipling the harvest is a priority for the Body of Christ. Connect Group as a model is uniquely positioned to disciple the

harvest, because our focus is on establishing koinonia with God and others, while allowing Christ to transform the lives around us.

IN CONCLUSION

Matthew 9:37-38 (ESV) Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Church, the harvest is now! One of the great misconceptions about the harvest is the idea that God is directing a vast ingathering headed towards the Church. That is contradictory of what Jesus confirmed in the book of Matthew. Jesus said for us to pray to the Lord to "send out laborers into His harvest." He did not say pray for God to send the harvest to the laborers. Therefore, it is past time for the Church to equip the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:12). We need to employ and deploy believers, and we believe this Connect Group manual is a tool for just that.

Connect Group is a model of Heaven's New Wineskin in preparation for the New Wine being poured into the earth. **So, let's get ready to drink!**

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

How will YOU respond?

Take time to complete the Connect Group commitment form on the last page in the Workbook (below) and turn it in.



Connect Group Workbook

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Acts 2:42 And they steadfastly persevered, devoting themselves constantly to the instruction and fellowship of the apostles, to the breaking of bread [including the Lord's Supper] and prayers.

PREPARING THE BODY
OF CHRIST FOR THE
HARVEST THROUGH
CONNECT GROUP
MINISTRY!

* CONNECT GROUP WORKBOOK *

INTRODUCTION

What is one main emphases of MorningStar Connect Group Ministry?

TWELVE SCRIPTURAL VALUES FOR CONNECT GROUPS

Core Values

Name 12 Values with one supporting Scripture:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11. _____

12. _____

Built-in Shepherd training occurs in Connect Groups as the Holy Spirit anoints different ones with gifts and callings, and they emerge to lead and train others. Each Shepherd must be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit in each person's life.

What is the: "Holy building myth." (*from Value 5*)

What is the: "Holy man myth." (*from value 6*)

Explain: "NT Church model." (*from value 7*)

**When "underground" relationships are strong in CG's,
they will be strong in the entire church.**

What are Two keys to experiencing spiritual multiplication? (*From value 8*)

1. _____ 2. _____

What did Jesus promise His disciples? *(from value 10)*

Un-employ yourself as a Leader; do nothing someone else can do. Enjoy seeing the Lord using others to minister by His Spirit as you coach and mentor them. If you work yourself out of a job, you will always have plenty to do. It's when we hold on to something as if it is ours that it dies. Allow others

Name the four components of a healthy team. *(from value 11)*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

There are thousands of _____ today, but few spiritual _____ and _____.

“Connect Groups are”: *(from value 12)*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Release them! We must not only raise up spiritual fathers and mothers, we must release them, encourage them, and equip them to start their own Connect Groups

and churches. To not release them would make us dysfunctional spiritual parents.

Final Thought

The cell-based church is a “Wineskin” for these twelve scriptural values to be encouraged and experienced!

CONNECT GROUP DEFINITION

Briefly describe what is a Connect Group in your own words:

SPIRITUAL DNA (8)

The spiritual DNA of the local body contains what three items?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List MorningStar Ministries – Spiritual DNA	
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

5.
6.
7.
8.

WHAT MAKES MORNINGSTAR UNIQUE? (9)

Each Connect Group _____ and _____ this DNA in every facet of Connect Group ministry.

Morningstar has each of these _____ and _____ incorporated into every aspect of Church life and each _____ has a _____ embodiment of this Spiritual DNA.

SMALL GROUP DEFINITION (9-10)

Small group ministry can be historically traced back to the inception of the N. T. Church.

Define the term "ekklesia

What four things did the early church devote themselves to? (Acts 2:42-43)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

In your own words define "Sphere of Influence" and list at least three:

-
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

NEW WINESKIN (11)

God places just as much importance on the _____ as the _____.

Principles of Spiritual Wine and Wineskin:

New wine is the _____ in the earth.

The Church tends to _____ the new wineskin when _____ on the new wine.

CONNECT GROUP MODEL AND THE NEW WINESKIN (11-12)

New Wineskin speaks of _____

New Wine speaks of _____

Connect Group ministry as a model is:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Connect Group places a high value on: (circle one)

1. Grace
2. People

3. Accountability
4. All the above

Give an example of Connect Groups being transitional in nature from Acts 19:8-10:

Give three examples Connect Groups are mobile in nature and supporting Scriptures:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

STRUCTURE WITHOUT STRICTURE (12-13)

_____ gifts and _____ to _____ is simply an outward expression of _____.

So, there is never any failure? (circle one)

- True
- False

LOVE THAT NEVER FAILS (13)

The Apostle Paul told the church in Corinth that **love never fails**

How is success guaranteed?

We are to desire _____.

But always in the _____.

Our pursuit is _____ to _____ and _____.

What causes us to be accurate failures?

What makes ministry effective?

We function in love when the motive is to love:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

TRANSITION (THE ABILITY TO READILY CHANGE FUNCTION AND FORM) (14)

Two very important factors to be successful in ministry are?

1. _____

2. _____

Dying Churches are _____ or _____ to change.

After three months of temple preaching without success, what did Paul do?
(Acts 19:8-10)

1. Went home
2. Blamed the Leadership
3. Transitioned to teaching in school (Connect Group)
4. None of the above.

MOBILITY (THE ABILITY TO READILY MOVE OR MINISTER IN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS) (15)

How are Connect Groups different than Home Groups?

How did the children of God in the wilderness model for us mobility? (Ex. 13:21-22)

HEAVEN'S BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN (BCP) (15)

Explain "Business Continuity Plan:

Explain how the Connect Group ministry is "Heaven's Business Continuity Plan?"

CONNECT GROUPS AND THE HARVEST (15-16)

Morningstar Ministries believes that the harvest is: Circle one

- preference
- imperative.

In Matthew 9:35-38, what are the three perspectives concerning God's heart towards the harvest.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

GOD'S HEART TOWARDS THE HARVEST (16)

Compassion is an _____ of the _____ and _____ Love of God in response to a human need.

GOD'S DILEMMA WITHIN THE HARVEST (16)

What is the one problem or dilemma that is close to God's heart?

GOD'S SOLUTION FOR THE DILEMMA (17)

What is the identity of the laborers. Who are they?

THE GREAT SHEPHERD (17)

The body of Christ needs _____ than the _____ congregating to "Grow up into Him"

According to Matthew 18:20, how many are needed for Jesus to be in their midst?

WHO ARE CONNECT GROUP SHEPHERDS? (18)

Connect Group Shepherds are those individuals who _____ the call,
“Whom shall I send?” and _____, “Send me!” (*Isaiah 6:8*)

Connect Group Shepherds are committed to the following:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

CONNECT GROUP FORMATION

HOW DO I START A CONNECT GROUP? (18-21)

Match the following:

Who will I invite to the group?

When will we meet?

Where will the gatherings be held?

How will I communicate with the group?

Why are we meeting?

Social media, phone, text, etc.

Purpose determined activities

Pray, identify, list

Location, inherit flexibility

Day, time, frequency, length

Do Not create a Connect Group schedule that places undue stress on your family.
The calling of God will never damage or divide your home.
To avoid this, remember that your family must be a priority.

WHY ARE WE MEETING? (20)

The primary purpose of Connect Group should **always** be _____ and _____.

Our Father sent His son to die on the cross for one purpose only.

Many Connect Groups have a secondary purpose or specified theme.
Name a few:

DO NUMBERS MATTER? (21) (CIRCLE ONE)

YES

NO

The answer to these questions is found in Matthew 18.

Connect Group ministry occurs when _____ or _____ people gather together for
a _____.

CONNECT GROUP ACTIVITY (21)

In Connect Group ministry, the activities will change based upon the
direction of Holy Spirit.

Why Change is a good thing;

DEVOTION TO THE ASSIGNMENT (21-22)

The Greek word used for devotion is proskartereō (Strong's 4342), which means:

KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL MEETING (22)

The four keys to a successful Connect Group gathering are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

CONNECT GROUP PREPARATION (22-24)

What is the most important key to the success of any Connect Group gathering.

List the three main areas most important in preparation.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Describe "Family Pulse Check" in your own words:

CONNECT GROUP DIALOGUE (24)

Define the Greek word for “Dialogue”.

What is the best way to engage open dialogue

INVOLVEMENT = ACTIVATION = DISCOVERY = DEVELOPMENT (24-25)

Finish the statements:

If there's no activation _____.

If there is no discovery, _____.

FACILITATING DIALOGUE (25)

The average woman uses _____ a day and _____ speech tones,

The average man uses _____ a day and _____ speech tones.

Facilitating dialogue is needed!

FACILITATING MINISTRY (25)

What does ministry facilitation require?

CONNECT GROUP EVALUATION (25-26)

Why are Connect Group evaluations important?

CONNECT GROUP DEVELOPMENT

FOUR PHASES OF CONNECT GROUP DEVELOPMENT (26-27)

List four phases of Connect Group ministry development:

1.

2.

3.

4.

APOSTOLIC & PROPHETIC MINISTRY (28)

Based upon Ephesians 2:19-20, why are the Apostolic and Prophetic ministries so important to the church?

PROPHETIC CULTURE (28)

Why would Paul say in 1 Corinthians 14:1, “desire spiritual gifts”, but make prophecy a priority?

The prophetic is a _____ that is _____ with spiritual possibility.

APOSTOLIC CULTURE (29)

According to 1 Corinthians 9:2 what was Paul’s seal of his Apostleship?

The Apostolic creates an environment for _____ and _____ to emerge.

One way to incorporate the Apostolic into a Connect Group environment is to focus on _____ and _____ people.

WHAT IS KOINONIA? (29-30)

Biblical koinonia is:

Real koinonia does not only connect us to God, but also to each other.

True or False

FALSE GODS = FALSE FATHERS (30)

The world has a vacancy or emptiness in the soul which can only be _____ and _____ in _____ with a good Father.

False gods (idols) are simply false fathers we use to fill the hole.

True or False

YOU ARE A GOOD FATHER (30)

Spending and consumption is out of control. Why?

What can truly heal the soul and fill the void in lives?

CHARACTERISTICS OF KOINONIA (31)

What are the four key words Koinonia is typically translated into? Give a brief description of each.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

DISCIPLESHIP IS THE FRUIT OF KOINONIA (31-32)

What does "Discipleship is the fruit of Koinonia" mean to you?

The words "**Come with me**" is not just a promise to teach and train Shepherds,

but also an invitation to:

It was a promise of:

CONNECT GROUP AND DISCIPLESHIP (32)

Discipleship is the natural by-product of koinonia.

In fact, if discipleship is a _____,
then koinonia is the _____
and the Love of God is the _____.

The foundation determines the _____.

Successfully training others in _____ will require a _____ on
developing _____.

IN CONCLUSION (33)

What is one of the great misconceptions about the harvest?

Connect Group is a model of Heaven's New Wineskin in
preparation for the New Wine being poured into the earth.

So, let's get ready to drink!

Matt 22:14 (ESV) *"But many are called (invited) but few are chosen (respond)."*

Once you have heard and answered the call, and have committed to serving in this capacity, then it's time to start a group.

To start a Connect Group, answer these five questions:

- **Who** will I invite to the group? (Pray, identify, list)

- **When** will we meet? (Day, time, frequency, length)

- **Where** will the gatherings be held? (Location, inherit flexibility)

- **How** will I communicate with the group? (Social media, phone, text, etc)

- **Why** are we meeting? (Purpose, determined activities)

Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send? And who will go for Us? Then said I, here am I; send me. **Will YOU respond?**

Signature

Date

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: Connect@mstarm.org