



MorningStar

Online 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, purifies us from all sin.

Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

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

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INTRODUCTION:

One of the main emphases of our Online Connect Group Ministry and Morningstar Fellowship Church is to encourage everyone, everywhere to cultivate a relationship with Father, Son, and 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 compiled, updated and edited by Dr. David Bohannon, with credit given to Pastor Ron Phillips, Randy Watson, Catherine Martin and Bob Chang. This manual can be used anywhere and by anyone who desires to lead an Online Connect Group.

May our Lord, the Shepherd of the flock, use you to build His Kingdom for His glory and your joy! I pray you learn the power of connecting with believers around the corner and around the world with true Koinonia with God and one another.

Online Connect Groups are for those who clearly want to be a part of what God is doing through Morningstar Fellowship but don't geographically live in the Fort Mill, SC area. This is your opportunity to connect, grow, and receive the anointing and covering of Morningstar via the internet.

MorningStar online connect groups began in January of 2018 as an answer to prayers by a handful of believers. As of this writing we are in 41 nations of the world, and 34 states.

The purpose of this manual is to train leaders so many more groups can be formed and we can fulfill Hab. 2:14 *"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."*

To appropriately define Connect Group ministry, we need to focus on the basics.

Acts 2:42-43 *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. "*

In service of the Online Connect Group Ministry,

Dr. David & Connie Bohannon D. Min.

Global Connect Group Directors

(2026 updated version)

GUIDELINES FOR FUNCTIONING:

- Online Connect Groups are those groups that connect via the internet. They do not have a venue based at the church building but rather individuals connect using WhatsApp or other platforms for video chats and meetings. This is done by using smartphones, tablets or computers on a weekly or biweekly schedule at a set time and day.
- Each group has a designated shepherd leader who attends monthly leadership meetings for input and oversight. The shepherd leader directs the group through prayer, discussion of MS service (live or archived), Bible study, discussion of one of Rick Joyner's many books, praise or testimonies depending on how the Holy Spirit leads.
- These groups operate online but share the same MorningStar DNA that local groups have. The Morningstar DNA is what defines us and makes us unique and a valuable part of the Body of Christ.
- Allow ample time for the group session. Your members are important and deserve time for sharing and prayer. Most of the groups allow 1 ½ - 2 hours but this can vary. Meetings should always be at the same time of day and day of the week.
- The groups should be kept small – 2 to 12 members maximum plus the leader. This encourages interaction among all group members. Don't worry if the group is smaller, the goal is for everyone to be able to participate
 - o *Matthew 18:20 (NIV)* For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."
- Assure people the group is a safe place. As people get to know each other, they should feel secure their situations will not be discussed with others outside the group unless permission is given.
- Encourage members to keep in touch during the week by WhatsApp or other available platforms.
 - o ***Proverbs 27:23*** "Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;"
Understand and empathize with them in the details of their lives.

- Pray for each member of the group regularly and ask them to pray for each other consistently. Prayer support is very important. Someone once said, *“You become close to the Person you pray to and the person you pray for.”*
- Take spiritual authority before sessions and after sessions. It important to pray for a covering over equipment and against problems with computer connections.
- Encourage all to contribute to the discussion and to relate what God is saying specifically to them. Ask the quiet members questions that they cannot answered with just a “yes” or “no” and do not allow a few members to monopolize the conversation.
- Gifts and ministries are most effectively nurtured in small group settings (safe place to grow)
- Train future Shepherds in your group as you prepare now for the harvest.
- Invite the Holy Spirit into the meeting at the beginning and close with thanksgiving for what God has done in the group.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SHEPHERD LEADER

- The NUMBER 1 characteristic of a Connect group shepherd/leader is be in relationship with Father God and with one another expressing Koinonia love.
- Shepherds/Leaders should: **LOVE GOD! LOVE PEOPLE!**
 - o be facilitators – stewarding the meeting, not controlling it
 - o be encouragers – building each one up in the spirit of love, stay positive
 - o be shepherds of their flock, truly caring for the people God has given you.
 - o be individuals who truly care about the people God has given you
 - o create an atmosphere for Holy Spirit to move by being sensitive
 - o create an atmosphere where each individual is able to exercise spiritual gifts without fear of “getting it wrong.”
 - o have an active Prayer Life and regularly intercede for your flock
 - o be a spiritual Mother/Father in a fatherless generation

- Praying leaders have the healthiest and most evangelistically effective groups for these reasons:
 - o Group members and guests sense genuine care from leaders who consistently pray for them.
 - o Praying leaders receive direction from God for their group and their group meetings. Be sensitive to the needs of your sheep...
 - o People experience God's presence in a small group soaked in prayer. As we take time with God His empowering and healing presence is released. Be sensitive before closing to pray for those with special needs.
 - o Deliverance ministry, if possible, should be taken care of outside the group session.
 - o A Word the Lord once spoke to me: *"If you will spend private time with Me, I'll spend public time with you."*
- When you lead a small group your relationship with God has an impact on how others in the group experience Him.
- Fruitfulness has everything to do with our relationship with Him. We cannot go into a small group with our hearts unprepared week after week and expect to see the results we hope for.
 - o John 15:5 NLT *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them will produce much fruit ..."*
 - o Make room to exercise the spiritual gifts, encourage members to prophesy, give words of knowledge, etc. (1 Corinthians 14:3)
 - o While being spiritually gifted, it's important to intentionally cultivate the fruit of the Spirit as well. Note: there are 9 fruit of the Spirit and well as 9 gifts of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:8-10). The root is Love.
- Let's not forget our main directive from Jesus himself: **Matthew 28:18-20**
*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
 - o Our goal is to help each member in our group to make disciples.

- On a final note, do not allow divisive debates about religion, politics, or anything that would cause division. It's NOT worth it!

MORNINGSTAR SPIRITUAL DNA

MorningStar Ministries - Spiritual DNA	
• Prophetic Revelation (Dreams, Visitations, Revelation) <i>Acts 2:17-18¹⁷ And it shall come to pass in the last days, God declares, that I will pour out of My Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy [telling forth the divine counsels] and your young men shall see visions (divinely granted appearances), and your old men shall dream [divinely suggested] dreams.</i>	
• Word in Due Season (Issachar Anointing, Discerning Seasons and Timings) <i>1 Chronicles 12:32³² And of Issachar, men who had understanding, of the times to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs; and all their kinsmen were under their command;</i>	
• Revival Culture (Spiritual Movement, Momentum and Renewal) <i>Acts 1:8⁸ But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.</i>	
• Koinonia (Love, Family, Fellowship) <i>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.</i>	
• Teaching/Training (Education Mantle, Equipping to Send) <i>2 Timothy 3: 16-17¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God^[a] may be complete, equipped for every good work.</i>	
• Worship (Creative Song Writing, Spontaneous Flow) <i>Psalms 149:1 PRAISE THE Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, praise Him in the assembly of His saints!</i>	
• Freedom (Physical Healing, Inner Healing, Deliverance)	

Galatians 5:1 In [this] freedom Christ has made us free [and completely liberated us]; stand fast then, and do not be hampered and held ensnared and submit again to a yoke of slavery [which you have once put off].

- Gathering Anointing (draws people to receive living word for activation and impartation for service)

Matthew 13: 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast in to the sea and gathered some of every kind, ...

- MorningStar has each of these spiritual facets and components incorporated into every aspect of church life and each Online Connect Group has a healthy embodiment of this spiritual DNA. We are family!
- DNA contains the blueprint, schematic and pattern of life, and there are no two patterns that are the same.
- Online Connect Groups have a spiritual DNA that by design provides the same spiritual blueprint and foundation while allowing a wonderful uniqueness in prophetic expression thrive in each gathering.

CORE VALUES

➤ The Harvest is upon us:

John 4:35 Do you not say, 'It is still four months until the harvest comes?' **Look**, I say to you, raise your eyes and **look** at the fields and **see**, they are white for harvest.

Matthew 9:36 When he **saw** the crowds, he had **compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "**The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers (shepherds) are few.**"

- If we could say that there was one problem or dilemma that was close to God's heart, it would be the lack of laborers for the harvest field.
- Simply put, compassion is an expression of the unlimited and undying Love of God in response to a human need.
- The implication is that people who are scattered (directionless, aimless) will lack spiritual strength and stamina.

➤ The Lord promises:

- To pour out His Spirit in the last days. His heart is towards the harvest.

- The Lord will draw multitudes into His kingdom through those who lift up their eyes and SEE the harvest all around them.
- Farmer prepares for the harvest ahead of time.

➤ **The Great Commission Discipleship**

Matt. 28:19-20 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always [remaining with you perpetually—regardless of circumstance, and on every occasion], even to the end of the age."*

- The mandate is to make disciples in the image of Jesus, not just converts
- O C G provides the opportunity for every believer, worldwide to be actively involved in sharing their faith in their own community.
- O C G provide the atmosphere for training and equipping to occur in the safety of the individual's own home.

Built-in Shepherding 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 and allow room to grow.

➤ **Building Trust and Relationships**

The Online Connect Group:

- Trust God who is our source.
- Trust others with whom we serve and are related to.
- Become greenhouses to build root systems that encourage, strengthen trust and relationships among God's people.
- As a greenhouse is a place that is conducive to growth, blooming and bearing fruit.
- It is like a tree that is nourished and held up by the underground root system.

- Is where God builds living stones together through the mortar of healthy relationships.

Ephesians 4:16 (MSG)

He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

➤ **Empowering God's People**

John 14:12 *I most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.*

- Jesus promised His disciples, “you will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.” As his disciples we are included in that promise.
- He has empowered us to do the works of God in our generation.
- Wise Connect Group Shepherds empower their OCG members.

Shepherd/leaders enjoy seeing the Lord using others to minister by His Spirit as you coach and mentor them. It's when we hold on to something as if it is ours that it dies. Allow others the opportunity to serve!

➤ **Raising up Spiritual Parents**

There are thousands of teachers today, but few spiritual fathers and mothers.

- Spiritual fathers and mothers are needed to actively live the life as to:
- Nurture young Christians with grace and forgiveness
- Guide them into truth, the Word is truth
- Teach way of life in Christ based upon Christ-like character
- Teach victory and authority over the wicked one.
- Become spiritual families similar to natural families.
- 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.

1Cor.4:15-16 *After all, though you should have ten thousand teachers (guides to direct you) in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the glad tidings (the Gospel). So, I urge and implore you, be imitators of me.*

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.”*

- Old wineskins resist new expansion and the fresh change that comes with new wine, 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.
- Online Connect Group ministry embraces this demand.
- As a result, we are able to change and transition with the fresh flow of new wine.
- 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 new wine because they are already stretched to capacity.
- 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.

Our Online 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, and eliminates the "unnecessary"

- It focuses on empowering people to grow in purpose, spiritual gifts, and maturity.

The Online Connect Group ministry as a model is structure without restriction, operating in an environment of freedom while promoting growth and gifting.

It is adaptable and flexible in the exploration of sound biblical doctrine and in the worship of God in Spirit and in Truth. While at the same time being transitional and mobile during seasons of change.

***Acts 19:8-10** And he went into the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, persuading and arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God. But when some became more and more stubborn (hardened and unbelieving), discrediting and reviling and speaking evil of the Way [of the Lord] before the congregation, he separated himself from them, taking the disciples with him, and went on holding daily discussions in the lecture room of Tyrannus from about ten o'clock till three.*

Love that Never Fails

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

***1 Corinthians 13:8** Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].*

- Love doesn't just succeed sometimes or occasionally; it is always successful!
- This means success is guaranteed when ministering to people as long as there is a high value on Grace and the goal is to Love.
- As a body, we desire spiritual gifts and prefer the prophetic, but we are always in pursuit of love.

***1 Corinthians 14:1** Follow the way of **love** and **eagerly desire** spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.*

- 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 in ministering spiritual gifts is to bring people into an encounter with God's love.

- 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.

WHAT'S IT TAKE TO BE ONLINE 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!"*

- Online Connect Group Shepherds are those individuals who hear the call, "Whom shall I send?" and respond, "**Send me!**"
- The Great Shepherd left no question on what it takes to follow His example in caring for the sheep He left us to care for:

**** Ezekiel 34:11-16** ¹¹ *"For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.*

Please don't just run through these scriptures. They are the life-blood of why we exist. Our mandate for being involved in the OCG.

- Jesus commissioned Peter three times to "**Feed and take care of his sheep**" He requires the same today of us who respond to His call to be under-Shepherds. (**John 21:15-17**)
- Once you have heard and answered the call, and have committed to serving in this capacity, then it's time to Shepherd a group.

➤ **We need to answer these questions:**

- **Who** will I invite to the group? We must not rely solely on MS to supply interested people. Spend some time in prayer, identifying who He would have you and members of your group invite to join you. Think outside the box how you can reach people around the corner and around the world. Don't limit yourself. We have something worth sharing.
- **When** will we meet? Day, time, frequency, length, etc.
- **How** will I communicate with the group? Chat room, text, etc.
- **What** internet platform will I use? We suggest WHATSAPP. It works for us now.
- **Why** are we meeting? Prayer, worship, bible study, MS book study, MS services, etc. Clarity of purpose is essential.
- **Do Not** create an Online Connect Group schedule that places undue stress on your family. Remember that your family must be a priority.

The primary purpose of Connect Group should always be Acts 2:42 "teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. All soaked in Koinonia with Father and one-another.

- Our Father sent His son to die on the cross for one purpose only, to re-establish koinonia/fellowship with His creation. Therefore, koinonia is an eternal precedent and paramount in God's heart.

Keys to a Successful Meeting

- In any Connect Group meeting, there are four primary keys to a successful gathering.

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

- o **Preparation-** Focusing on prayer before the event produces an environment conducive to the manifestation of heaven. It requires the Shepherd to have an overall idea of the agenda and practical needs of the meeting. Understand that Holy Spirit ultimately has complete control and freedom to do as He pleases within the gathering.

- o **Dialogue** - This is potentially the greatest secret weapon in Online Connect Group ministry. The best way to engage open dialogue is to present questions to the group that can't be answered with a "yes" or "no." Without dialogue you are left with another church service. Make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to share.
- o **Facilitation** - requires the Shepherd to be cognizant of Holy Spirit and the environment. To be aware of God and people in that moment. Having 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.
- o **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

Development is forward progression and movement. The act or process of creating something over time. In nature, if there is no movement, no growth, then there is no life. If there is no development or growth in ministry, then no life! The GOOD NEWS is that Jesus came to solve that problem.

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have **life**, and **enjoy life**, and have it **in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)**.*

John 7:38 *Believe in me so that **rivers of living water** will **burst out** from the depths within you, **flowing from** your innermost being just like the Scripture says!."*

It's all about receiving the abundant life of Jesus, and releasing that life in its fullness onto others. *And we get to do this!*

- Developing covenant relationship with each other, through koinonia, is a core value in Connect Group ministry.
- Connect Group ministry developmental are as follows:
- **Being Together** - 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** - Growth is the goal of all relationships. If we are not growing together, then the relationship has no purpose. Relationship is not dependent upon Connect Group organization, but on a spiritual connection.
 - **Doing Together** - This is where activity springs out of relationships that are fostered outside of the group setting.
- 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 *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.*

- We are NOT spectators, but participators! From foreigners to citizens.
- The "foundation" is a basis upon which something stands or is supported. The OCG ministry has a solid foundation laid by those who pioneered this work and our founder Rick Joyner.
- All buildings require a proper foundation to support the structure. The "building" will not remain erect in the absence of a proper foundation (Apostles and prophets). We are the building that is being built upon a solid foundation. Very few marvel at a foundation, but are rather impressed with the building that is being built. Without the building (you and I) there would be no **capstone** to rejoice (Zech. 4:10).

Prophetic Culture

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

Revelation 19:10 "... For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- The prophetic creates an environment for all the spiritual gifts to flourish.
- Paul reveals that Timothy received spiritual gifts through prophecy. (1Tim. 4:14)

- The prophetic is a transportation mechanism that is pregnant with spiritual possibility. This is part of MS-DNA!
- Creating a prophetic culture establishes an environment where spiritual possibilities go from “potential” (I hope) to “manifestation” (I know).
- The 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, the supernatural becomes natural. Remember, everything you lack, He has an abundance of. Simply ASK and RECEIVE. You are NOT alone!

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 Apostolic means “sent one”, or “one who is sent on a mission”. The Apostolic anointing at its core is a “sending anointing”,
- The Apostolic creates an environment for divine calling and destiny to emerge.
- One way to incorporate the Apostolic into an Online Connect Group environment is to focus on discipleship and developing people.
 - Spiritual fathers are people orientated who have a passion for seeing people walk out their calling and destiny.
 - Pray to God to receive the heart of a father so that the Apostolic instincts will begin to develop and the apostolic dimension will begin to emerge in the 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.*

- 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, then 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.
- In the New Testament, the word Koinonia is typically translated into four key words:
- **Fellowship**, doing life together
 - **Participation**, ministering together
 - **Partnership**, joining spiritually together
 - **Communion (Common Union)**, oneness together.

These terms express the characteristics of Koinonia when it is alive and thriving in community, becoming a spiritual family.

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**."

Acts 1:4-5

... "Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait** for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."... But **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes

on you; and you will **be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

➤ You can't do this on your own! We first need to **COME** unto Him, **WAIT** for the promise, and then **GO** and **BE** His witnesses.

- 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 12 with varying personalities and experiences. Then 70, then 120.
- This motley, and seemingly inconsequential, group of men would later go on to change the world. Because they spent time with Him!
- He released His Connect Group to "Go and make disciples of all nations", or simply do what He 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. 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.

GROWTH and the FUTURE

- We are believing for growth in online groups. For each Shepherd/leader to reproduce themselves.
- We are not looking for larger groups but more of them. We want every MorningStar Ministry online viewer to be able to join a group wherever they are located in the world.
- For this to be possible, every OCG Shepherd must raise up other shepherds within their group that is trained and qualified to launch their own group in preparation for the harvest that is NOW, not just coming.
- When you are given a potential member's name, please make contact with the person promptly, give a brief testimony and details about your group (meeting details, etc.), and ask them to share, in brief, their story.
- Make them feel welcomed and a part of what Father is doing. Treat this as a Divine appointment, as it is.

- Remember, we are not after large groups, but multiple small groups to allow all members to actively participate in each meeting.
- This is a MorningStar OCG and perspective members are interested in joining because they identify and want to be a part of the Mantle that MorningStar carries.
- Therefore, we are not to bring our own teachings and ideas but help people apply what they learn viewing MorningStar Ministries services, conferences, prophetic chronicles, Rick's books and more.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 *SO YOU, my son, be strong (strengthened inwardly) in the grace (spiritual blessing) that is [to be found only] in Christ Jesus. And the [instructions] which you have heard from me along with many witnesses, transmit and entrust [as a deposit] to reliable and faithful men who will be competent and qualified to teach others also.*

- We share what we have learned to pass on to those that will then teach others through their spheres of influence and through multiple online groups.
- The connect group shepherd/leader needs to continue to give a clear vision to the group that it will multiply (growth = life).
- Then as the group gets larger the people begin to talk about birthing a new group (*because this is their mindset*).
- This is the reason you as a mentor are constantly looking for potential shepherds to be trained and equipped to be new shepherd/leaders for the multiplication effect.
- Encourage each of your members to freely invite friends to join the groups; they can invite those friends into the members home to join the call or they can connect through their own WhatsApp account in their own home.
- Encouraging this type of growth is important within the group, as people in small groups can easily become comfortable fellowshiping with the same group of people and enjoying the comfort and security that brings.
- Note: when new members join us in this way, please include it on your quarterly report and make the admin aware of this.

- We are not head counting, but making sure no group is over extended when we get new inquiries from MorningStar.
- *Knowing the size of your group helps us to place new people.*

Dealing with Technology

- Connections can be made on smartphones, laptops, computers, chrome books or even a TV if it has a camera. A video link helps to bring a closeness to the group that does not happen with an audio only link.
- Whatever device you choose to connect with make sure the microphone, the speakers and the camera are working before you make the call. Don't wait until the last minute to do that.
- Set up the call early to be sure you can add each member to the call. Then make the call at the appropriate time.
- Our experience has taught us many online connections have been disrupted by the enemy. Pray each person connecting will be successful and take authority over the enemy attempting to disrupt any connection.
- At the end of the call pray any influence that would attempt to affect your environment will be bound and cast out of your home in the name of Jesus. We have seen the importance of this especially as we meet together over national borders and from a variety of areas.
- Most leaders currently use WhatsApp for their meetings. WhatsApp was chosen to begin with because it is free and that seemed to be an important factor as we were keeping the groups small and knowing their numbers would increase.
- It can be used on the web or as an app. Having used both versions, the app has been a more reliable option. WhatsApp is one of the most popular video and voice chat services on the internet.

VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

Prophetic Word received 12/11/24 revealing from Psalm 67 God's passionate purpose and vision for our future:

Psalm 67:2-7 (TPT)

2 Send us out all over the world so that everyone everywhere will discover your ways and know who you are and see your power to save.

3 Let all the nations burst forth with praise; let everyone everywhere love and enjoy you!

4 Then how glad the nations will be when you are their King. They will sing, they will shout, for you give true justice to the people. Yes! You, Lord, are the shepherd of the nations!

5 No wonder the peoples praise you! Let all the people praise you more!

6 The harvest of the earth is here! God, the very God we worship, keeps us satisfied at his banquet of blessings.

7 And the blessings keep coming! All the ends of the earth will give him the honor he deserves and be in awe of him!

Open your spiritual eyes and SEE what God sees, ***Sheep with no Shepherds***. You've been called to be His Disciples. To follow Him and be who He is and continue His pattern for your life.

Matthew 9:36 "When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd."

We aren't primarily called as leaders, but servants and shepherds who love those Father sends us to care for!

I envision a day when every person in our OCG family is trained and qualified as an OCG shepherd and servant leader in preparation for the greatest harvest of the end times. Each ready to train and make disciples in an atmosphere of KOINONIA and CONTINUOUS ENCOUNTERS within their own group.

An Encounter with God will change YOU!

Continuous encounters will change the WORLD!

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."

We prayed... and YOU responded to an Apostolic call...

- 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.

Ephesians 4:12 His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [***that they should do***] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),

- We need to employ and deploy believers, and we believe this Online Connect Group manual is a tool for just that.
- ***Come to Me ... Wait for Power ... Go and Make***

***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.

Will YOU respond?

Take time to complete the OCG Shepherd/Leader Commitment Form (below):

Return the form to: OnlineCG@MstarM.org

COMMENT FORM:

Please return this page at completion to: OnlineCG@MstarM.org

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

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)

- **What** social media platform will you use for these gatherings? (WhatsApp, Zoom, etc.)

- **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.*

Signature

Date

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____