

What is a Connect 4 Group?

- A Connect 4 Group is a group of 4* people who read together, pray together, and connect together to become the love of God for one another and the world.
- *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16–19)*

Who is a Connect 4 Group for?

- A Connect 4 group is for anyone and everyone. If you want to be strengthened with the power of the Holy Spirit, to be rooted and established in love, and to connect with other Christ followers on a deeper level, a Connect 4 group is for you.

Why so small?

- The point of a Connect 4 group is the depth and quality of discipleship possible in a small group. We hope to provide a space for opportunity for these very small groups of people to be vulnerable, express their truths, and support each other in ways that a larger group cannot.
- These Connect 4 Groups are designed to be an ever-growing space of safety, where shame can be shed and truth can be told. Anything that could hinder that should try to be avoided.

How do we connect?

- The primary way that your group will stay connected is via text message, but there are a few other connect points as well.
- At the onset of your group, we recommend that you schedule a group zoom meeting to talk with the rest of your group "face to face." During this first meeting, you will each share:
 - Your key relationships currently
 - Your key relationships growing up
 - Your story of faith and the role the church did or didn't play in it
 - What you hope to get out of a Connect 4 Group
- This will provide a foundation for your group to continue over the coming weeks without necessarily meeting via Zoom.
- Each week, your group will receive an email with the scripture for the week as well as any other related materials for the week.
- Then throughout the week you will text within your group sharing insights from the scripture provided, struggles from the week, wins from the week, and prayer requests. This is a time to chat honestly, even via text message, and speak the truth of the Gospel over your other group members.

Can I choose my own group or am I assigned to a group?

- Either!
- If you decide to form your own Connect 4 group, consider the types of people you would like to be in your group. You should consider those who are peers, spiritual mentors, and spiritual mentees. It could be people you've known for years or it may be people you have only known for a short time. If you choose to form your own Connect 4 Group, have all group members sign up for the Connect 4 Groups at [this link](#) and have one person email ashleyr@churchbcc.org to inform her of the people in your group.
- If you are looking to be placed in a Connect 4 group by yourself or maybe with one other person, simply sign up for the Connect 4 Groups at [this link](#) and you will be thoughtfully assigned to a group of four people by Bethany staff.

How long is the commitment?

- The initial commitment for this iteration of Connect 4 groups is for the 2021 season of Lent. However, we will support and encourage your group to go longer if you wish! Deep relationships happen over a period of time and at the end of forty days, it will be very likely that you have only begun to scratch the surface of some of the wisdom you can glean from this group format.

What if I'm already in another small group?

- You are still welcomed and encouraged to join a Connect 4 group as well! Our hope is that your Connect 4 group could be complementary to other groups you are involved with. Likely, this group will be smaller than those other groups and with a different focal point. By the nature of being small, it gives greater opportunity for you to share about your life more personally.
- Some who are already in a larger group may choose to form Connect 4's within that larger group, which can be an effective way to go deeper as a group as a whole.

How do we get started?

- The way to get started is EASY! Just follow [this link](#) and sign up to be in a Connect 4 group! Someone will be in touch with you regarding the other members of your group and Connect 4 Groups will officially launch on February 17th, Ash Wednesday. If you have any questions, feel free to email Ashley at ashleyr@churchbcc.org.