

Connect Group Guide

Who Are We? – Week 1

Our Culture of Prayer & Worship

Big Idea: We believe that pursuing the presence of God changes everything.

Main Scriptures: Isaiah 56:6–7; Psalm 27:4–8

Group Purpose

This guide is designed to help your Connect Group reflect on the culture of our church, specifically our commitment to prayer and worship. The goal is not only discussion, but spiritual formation—helping each person grow in intimacy with God and align their lives around His presence.

Leader Tip: You don't need to have all the answers. Your role is to create space—for Scripture, for conversation, and for God to move.

Opening

Icebreaker Question

- When you hear the words *prayer* and *worship*, what emotions or experiences come to mind?

(Encourage honesty—there are no right or wrong answers.)

Scripture Reading

Read Together

- **Isaiah 56:6–7** (have one person read aloud)
- **Psalm 27:4–8** (have a different person read aloud)

Encourage the group to listen for words or phrases that stand out.

Teaching Summary (Leader Read-Aloud)

At Connection Church, prayer and worship are not just activities we participate in—they are part of who we are. Scripture shows us that God's desire has always been to dwell with His people. Isaiah describes God's house as a *house of prayer*, marked by joy and open access to His presence. Psalm 27 reveals David's deepest longing—not for answers or outcomes, but for God Himself.

We believe that when we pursue the presence of God, everything changes: our hearts, our priorities, and the way we live.

Group Discussion

Understanding the Text

1. In **Isaiah 56:6–7**, how does God describe His house? What does this tell us about what matters most to Him?
2. Why do you think God connects joy with prayer in this passage?
3. In **Psalm 27**, David says he desires “one thing.” What does that reveal about his relationship with God?

Reflection & Personal Connection

4. Which phrase or verse from these passages stood out to you the most, and why?
5. How would you describe your current prayer life—routine, growing, struggling, or inconsistent?
6. What is the difference between *seeking God's presence* and *seeking God's help*? Have you experienced both?

Church Culture Connection

7. Why do you think it's important for prayer and worship to be foundational to a church's culture?
8. How can a group of ordinary people pursuing God's presence make a difference in a church—or a city?

Application

Encourage the group to move from discussion to action.

Personal Application

- What is one practical step you can take this week to pursue God's presence more intentionally?
 - (Examples: setting aside daily prayer time, worshiping outside of Sunday, sitting in silence before God, praying Scripture)

Group Application

- How can this Connect Group become a place where prayer is central, not secondary?
- Would the group be willing to set aside intentional time in future gatherings just to pray and worship together?

Prayer Time

(Leaders: keep this time unhurried. Let prayer be experienced, not rushed.)

Guided Prayer Option

- Begin with 1–2 minutes of silence, inviting group members to quietly ask God to help them seek His presence.
- Pray through **Psalm 27:8** together: “Your face, Lord, I will seek.”
- Allow time for voluntary prayers of surrender, hunger for God, and worship.

Closing Encouragement

Remind the group:

We are becoming a people who seek God first—not just for what He can do, but for who He is. When we pursue His presence, everything changes.

Encourage members to come back next week ready to continue discovering **who we are** and how God is shaping our church together.