

CONNECT:

- What is the most significant thing that has happened in your life (good or not so good) since we last met?

PRAISE:

- How have you seen God's goodness in your life this past week, answers to prayer, etc.?

SCRIPTURE:

- Read Philippians 1:12 - 18

CONVERSATIONS

1. What has been the biggest disappointment of "plans" changing that you have experienced this past year?
2. Do you have an example of someone you have watched follow Jesus through disappointment or suffering?
 - a. What did you notice or learn, from watching them?
 - b. How did their faithfulness impact you?
3. Are disappointments and suffering something that we should embrace as followers of Jesus or try to avoid if at all possible? Why?
 - a. In what ways is suffering and disappointment valuable and even important in your discipleship to Jesus?
4. Read Hebrews 4:14 - 16.
 - a. When you consider the temptations and sufferings of Christ, how does it change the way you view your own suffering?
 - b. What does it mean in v. 14, that Jesus is our 'great high priest'?
 - c. What does it mean to 'hold fast our confession' (v. 14)?
5. Do you find it hard to invite people into your disappointments and suffering? Why or why not?
 - a. What is the value of inviting someone into your suffering?
 - b. What are the 'dangers' of inviting someone into your suffering?
 - c. If there was a time that you did, what was the result?

PRACTICE (decide for yourself an area you commit to grow in this week or semester and share with your Community)

- **Lament** - Read, reflect, and meditate on **Psalm 42**. Allow yourself to, as the Psalmist puts it, **pour out your soul**, and to trust that God will receive you, your pain, and your struggle. Try journaling out the areas or situations that you need to lament, then write out, just as the Psalmist does - the work and character of God that you have seen in your life to remember his grace.

- **Community** - Reach out to someone you care about and offer to “bear one anothers burdens”. Allow them to share what they have lost through the last year, listen to their experience, mourn with those who mourn, pray for them, share words of encouragement and comfort.
- **Unity** - Reach out to someone with different secondary theological views than yourself. Ask them to share why they believe what they believe and actually listen to them share. Try to resist the urge to argue, debate, or correct. Simply listen and look for common ground (specifically love for Jesus).

PRAYER

- For those in your group who are walking through a difficult season in their life
- For the maturity of our Community, that we would commit to grow in our faith this season.
- For folks signed up for Starting Point and Truth & Evidence that they would grow in their faith.
- For our healthcare professionals, for their safety endurance and grace as they care for those battling COVID.
- For our nation’s leaders as they serve, guide and protect us.
- For our construction crew working on the building, for their safety and endurance in completing this project.

