

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of May 17, 2015

Matthew 11:25-30

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Common English Bible (CEB)

²⁵ *At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you've hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have shown them to babies. ²⁶ Indeed, Father, this brings you happiness.*

²⁷ *"My Father has handed all things over to me. No one knows the Son except the Father. And nobody knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.*

²⁸ *"Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for yourselves. ³⁰ My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light."*

Connection Questions:

1. Talk about fears, past or present, that you have experienced in your life and share the feelings you encountered.
2. In what ways can our fears take energy and life from our souls?
3. Discuss the idea that fear that goes unacknowledged can be a cancer to our soul.
4. In chapter 14 of the gospel of John the disciples don't understand Jesus' concept of the Kingdom of God. Thomas says, "We don't understand." Jesus' response is, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Convey your thoughts about what you think Jesus was trying to communicate to the disciples.
5. On a regular basis we all are confronted with fear. Discuss how avoiding our fears can be debilitating for us.

6. How can our fears dealt with in a negative way have long lasting effects on us?

7. Why is it important in our confrontation with fear that we acknowledge our fear and talk about it?

8. What does it mean to develop parameters around our fears and come up with strategies to address the issues at hand?

9. Why is it important that we resolve and heal from our fears as they occur?

10. What happens when we develop a pattern of letting our fears go unresolved?

11. How does our faith in God help us confront our fears?

12. Share a time when your faith has helped you in confronting a fear that you faced.