

Week 6: Connecting

Icebreaker

Gather everyone into a circle then ask one person to start with an opening sentence. The next person then adds a sentence, and so on. Each person needs to add something true from their life in order to build a story. The added sentence needs to make sense and give continuity. Go round the group several times, and see how a combined story develops. The unfolding group story can be serious or funny, or both!

Watch

Watch the introductory video together and consider the following:

1. Have you identified your 'resource of journey'?
2. Are you willing to give that gift to others?
3. Have you had a dream or vision that never came to fruition?
4. Think about your local community
5. Your commonality of experience

Memory verse

Read the week's verse (Luke 10:33–34) aloud as a group and then ask group members to share what it means to them.

Discuss

1. Discuss any aspects of the Sunday message ('Have you ever felt the need?'), particularly the Paraclesis concept behind the word 'entreat', and the prodigal son. (You could refer back to your notes in the *Daily Guide*.) Talk through the relationship between the three directives of Jesus: The Great Commission, the Great Commandment, and the Great Connection.
2. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, the Divine Paraclete, to empower the disciples to be witnesses (not to witness). Discuss the idea of what being witnesses might look like in relation to journeying and telling our story.
3. What struck you most from the account of the man by the beautiful gate, and the encounter with Peter and John?
4. Thinking about the Sunday sermon, share with each other what your 'such' might be, and how that could connect with someone else. How might that relate to the wider local community?

5. Think about the Bob Pierce story (Week 6: Monday). Do members of the group know of other stories, either in a Christian or secular context, where someone responded to a felt need that developed into a significant community impact? (See Matt. 10:42.)
6. Talk through the idea of humanising God (Week 6: Tuesday). Mother Theresa would be a significant example. Do you know any other people who have humanised God to others? What would humanising God look like for you? (See Phil. 2:4—8.)
7. What did the group think about the idea of flying a kite and building a bridge (Week 6: Wednesday)? What could this story mean for building a bridge into your community?
8. Looking back over the last six weeks, which week impacted you most? What do you feel you have gained, and what difference will it make to you going forward? Share together some of the stories you have to tell, and any significant entries you have made in your *Daily Guide* that you think will be helpful.

Do:

In this last week, the **Tips for journeying together** in the *Daily Guide* have been focused on the skills required to appropriately reflect back to people. Share together how you have been getting on with the tips this week and which ones have been most useful. You can then try this exercise in pairs: ask someone to share something with you for two minutes (time it), then reflect back to them in thirty seconds what you heard them say and ask them whether you missed anything important out.

Next as a whole group or in pairs, discuss any entries made in your **Daily Journal** that you think will be helpful to others and reflect on them together. How has your **Journeying Together Action Plan** with both people in your church family and in your local communities progressed in this last week? Has anyone experienced anything encouraging that they would like to share?

If your group has a **Kindness Box**, ask members to share whether they achieved their act of kindness in the last week. End the series by discussing the effect that these acts of kindness have had and how they have helped you to come alongside others.