

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: TNC#13 - "HEART"

CONNECT IN with one another

Ask people in the group to say something that they admire about someone else in the group. [This is a fun going-deeper question, but it also tees up the discussion about life change.]

Now ask those people how they developed the attributes that others admire in them. Were they just born that way, or have they some kind of story about how God has changed them?

CONNECT UP with God

- **Read Acts 26:12-18**. What do you think Paul means by our being "*sanctified*"?
[Help for leaders: Make sure that people know the difference between *justification* (being *declared* righteous before God, ie forgiven for our sins) and *sanctification* (being *made* righteous before people, ie set free from our sins.)
- What do you think Paul means when he says that we are sanctified "*by faith*"?
[Help for leaders: Make sure that people do not think that we justified by faith in the death and resurrection *for us*, but have to then work hard to sanctify ourselves. Make sure that they understand that we are sanctified by faith in the fact that *we have been crucified, killed, buried and raised with Jesus* in his death and resurrection.]
- Split into pairs and give people some time to look at the following Bible passages:-
Romans 6:1-14
Galatians 2:19- 3:5 & Philippians 2:12-13
Colossians 2:20-3:14
- Give each of the three pairs or small groups a chance to feed back on what they have learned from their passage which is relevant to the question of how we are sanctified.
[Help for leaders: You will no doubt want to talk about baptism while discussing the verses Romans 6. If we disobey the first command that Jesus gives his followers, we shouldn't be surprised if we find it hard to follow his other commands. Baptism in water is absolutely key to this concept of having died and been raised with Christ.]
- So let's be honest with one another, as friends who all want to follow Jesus – which areas of sin are you struggling with in your life right now?
[Help for leaders: Or – worse – not struggling with at all, because they've lost faith that there is any other way.]
- Let's lay hold of these promises together for each person who has shared. Let's spend some time praying that they will be "*sanctified by faith*" in the crucified and risen Jesus.
- After spending time praying together, turn to worship. **Re-read Acts 26:12-18** as a reason to praise God for his gift of new life in Jesus.

CONNECT OUT with the non-church people around you

- Christmas Carol Services are the biggest opportunity of the entire year to persuade nonbelieving friends to come to church. List friends by name and pray for courage to invite them, diligence to remember to invite them, and salvation when they come.