

*Made For*  
**CONNECTION**

**GROUP  
CURRICULUM**



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# OVERVIEW - MADE FOR CONNECTION

The theme for this curriculum is “Made for Connection.” We believe that God designed us to be connected—to our souls, to each other, to our kids, and ultimately to God. But sometimes it can feel like we are on our own—like no one understands what we are going through. This curriculum will help members dive deep into what it means to connect, especially when it is hard.

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## Connection With God When We Cannot Connect With One Another

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 'I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'"*

*John 15:1-5*

We all lived through the grueling reality of sheltering in place due to COVID-19. We all felt the pains of this in different ways, depending on our personalities and family dynamics. While there were moments of profound beauty for our family, there were also moments of extreme struggle *and angst*. Online learning took time we didn't have to begin with, and my autistic son lost a lot of the supports he had at school and with his team of therapists at home. We were *all trying to make sense of a novel reality without the emotional, physical and spiritual communities we had built*. These people and places were essential, and our ability to connect with them in a meaningful way was removed far too quickly from us all.

Our connection to the world never felt so tenuous. While I typically embrace such phrases as, "We're in this together!" it didn't feel true. When your kiddos aren't typical or their brains are different due to their traumatic backgrounds, much of your day is challenging. I missed Replanted, being with people who didn't look at me like I was crazy when I stated that our new reality wasn't pleasant. There were many days I didn't feel like I had the energy or strength to get through them on my own.

But I wasn't on my own and neither are you. We are with God, connected to Him in such a way that we don't need our own strength. We have His. We are only empowered to do what we do because of God. Because we abide with Him. Because we remain with Him. Because we are connected to the great Life-Giver, we are nourished and strengthened to do what He is calling us to do. We cannot go where He does not see us. We cannot fall without Him feeling the tug of our weight as we tumble.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**1. Our church receives communion every week, which helps me remember my connection with God and resets my thinking for the week ahead. What reminds you of your connection to God?**

**2. What do you think Jesus meant when He asked us to abide in Him?**