

## **Discipleship Tip: Fellowship, Prayer & Community**

"Everyone wants fellowship, whether you're in church or out of church..." So get connected with people and they will get connected with God and church!

Check out Julie Maconachie's chat to Heidi Wysman about her connect groups vision and growth for more ideas:  
<http://www.myc3church.net/node/1014>.

## **Connect Group Notes 5 September 2010**

### **Conquering the Divided Heart – Ps Rick Shelton**

#### **Matt 14:27-31 (NKJV).**

##### **Doubt is not a sin**

When the disciples are scared by the appearance of Jesus walking on the sea, He commands Peter to walk on the water to Him. Peter is able to do this until he begins to doubt. "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" Jesus confronts Peter's doubting, but does not condemn it.

We all naturally begin to doubt most things that we are taught. This is because God has designed us to doubt so that we can wrestle with the truths we are told (by parents, teachers, pastors etc.). This process of mental struggle is vital to embedding the truths of what we are told so that WE believe them and do not just rely on them as true because others in position of authority tell us they are. We should encourage doubting and all questions, however hard, to feed this God-intended process of personal revelation and affirmation.

##### **Do not avoid hard questions**

By instinct or perceived convention, we have a tendency to try and avoid this. We must challenge this thinking. When we don't have the answer, we should say that we don't know, but be confident that the answer will be available to us in the Word. The Bible will NEVER disappoint us. There is no question that will not prove its truth. Any question will be answered through the Bible and will confirm its truth and our faith.

##### **Doubt is not a position**

Faith is a firm conviction that something is true. Unbelief is a firm conviction that something is NOT true. Doubt is not a position, but a state of being unsure where we are in relation to the two positions of faith or unbelief. Unquestioning acceptance is not good. The more we question, the deeper we dig, the greater is will be our conviction in the truth that we discover. Authentic faith is not built on a plastic perfection. It is based in our belief in God – whatever our doubts, God wants us to work at it. But we must work alongside God in our questioning. If we do not surround ourselves with God, the Word and good fellowship when we question, a void can develop into which bad influences can gain purchase, leading us to create false answers to our questions that push us away from God's light. We must bring our questions to God. He will answer them and in so doing also strengthen our faith.

##### **Truth as a synthesised end is a distorting contemporary concept**

The German philosopher Hegel introduced the concept of relativism in the early C18. Prior to this, there was a universally accepted view across all faiths and philosophies that right was right and wrong was wrong. Hegel espoused that truth is synthesised – i.e. there is some evil in good and some good in evil, meaning we really can't know which bit of good is good and which bit is evil, which in turn enables us to justify or disallow pretty much anything. This is symbolised in the yin and yang symbol that shows dark and light intertwined sinuously with curves and within each dark/light shape, a small dot of the opposite.

##### **God's symbol is the Cross**

But God's symbol is the cross! It is absolute and clear and hard-edged. Much of contemporary morality then is framed on a lie, but God's truth is absolute and enduring. His is the only truth and the only way. **John 14:6:** I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

## TALK ABOUT

- **Do you doubt?**
- **Has doubting helped to deepen your walk with God or to push Him further away?**
- **How can you better position yourself to doubt in a safe, supported place?**
- **How can the cross help?**

PLEASE REPORT! <http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

### **\$4 Group Entry @ Kidz Connexion**

Are you looking for a new venue to hold your connect group? Kidz Connexion has delicious food (the new menu includes lots of organic goodies), amazing coffee and a fantastic playground for your kids. Plus, connect group leaders and connect group members get a special discount when they are hosting their connect group at Kidz Connexion: \$4 entry per child (that's half the price)! Just make sure you mention that you are there for connect group when you pay. Kidz Connexion is open Wed to Fri, 9.30am to 5pm, and Sat, 9.30am to 4.30pm. Bookings are essential, so contact Nicky on 9972 8746.