


C O N N E C T F O R T Y

COMMUNITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE



CONNECT

40 DAYS OF FAITH

L I N K E D U P N O R T H . C O M

PERSONAL DETAILS



NAME:

DATE STARTED:

CONNECT GROUP MEMBERS:

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WHY 40 DAYS?

In just 40 days, a lot can happen! It may seem short, but the Bible tells us that during this time, God has used 40 days to work miracles, change people's hearts, and help them become better in big ways.

Here are a few examples of how God has shown Himself powerful in just 40 days.

- *Genesis 7:12* | Noah and his family were on the ark while God was remaking the earth via the rain and flood over 40 days.
- *Exodus 34:28* | Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai where God released the Ten Commandments.
- *Numbers 13:25* | The ten spies spent 40 days in the Promised Land.
- *1 Samuel 17:16* | Young David was challenged and transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge.
- *Jonah 3:4* | The city of Nineveh was changed by the teaching of the prophet Jonah about what the next 40 days had in store for them should they not repent.
- *Luke 4:2* | Jesus was empowered for ministry by spending 40 days in the wilderness.
- *Acts 1:3* | The disciples were transformed by spending 40 days with Jesus after the Resurrection.

These stories from the Bible teach us that when a group of people gather and have faith in God—through times of testing, purifying, and preparing—He can and does change them.

Our focus for *40 Days of Faith* is twofold: first, to water the seeds of faith in your life, and second, to guide you toward spiritual growth. Both are essential to your faith becoming stronger and living a life full of hope and determination. Are you ready to take the next step? Let's start this 40 day spiritual journey together and discover how to nurture our faith.

WHY CONNECT GROUPS?

The Connect Groups ministry at Linked UP North has a simple purpose – to make life-changing relationships relevant and accessible. We believe God created us to live in community—not isolation—building heartfelt relationships with one another.

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25 NLT

When we come together, we make each other feel loved, and we're better together! So, we shouldn't get into a habit of being together only when we are listening to a speaker on Sundays. We can encourage each other in many ways. By gathering in Connect Groups, we can confidently hold fast to the teachings of our Lord and Savior without wavering.

Real-life change is most effective when it happens within a group of people who support and encourage each other.

To fully experience biblical community, it is important to have meaningful and intentional relationships with other believers. Connect Groups play a significant role in "being" the church rather than just "going to" church.

Being part of a Connect Group helps us build dynamic relationships and provides:

- **A place to connect.** An opportunity to reach people on common ground—whether that be interests, demographics, or studying the weekly messages. God does his best work relationally.
- **A place to protect.** Spiritual covering by creating a safe and supportive environment where people can share their faith journey, ask for advice, find encouragement, and pray together.

WHY CONNECT GROUPS?

- *A place to grow.* In Connect Groups we find inspiration and motivation to become the best version of ourselves. Like iron sharpens iron, being in a group provides edification and accountability.

At Linked UP North, we believe our church must grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time.

At Linked UP North, we grow larger because we want to reach as many people as possible with the life-giving message of Jesus. We grow smaller as we gather in Connect Groups to build community, care for people, and help each other grow in Christ.

On Sundays, we come together to worship God and learn from His Word, but the most special and important ministry happens in groups outside of Sunday services. God wants us to live and do life together every day because that's where He is and where He often works. Connect Groups give us the chance to share what God is doing inside us and figure it out together with others. It's a way for us to grow and connect with God and each other beyond just Sunday.

We are designed for relationships.

We are meant to have friendships and connections with others. In Connect Groups, we find fun and creative ways to spend time together in our everyday lives. We engage in activities such as reflecting upon Sunday's teachings, joining in prayers, sharing meals, and, above all, cultivating robust and significant relationships.

We need each other. Connect Groups help us stay involved and they are the most effective way of maintaining a healthy and growing church.

CONNECT 40 ACTION STEPS

USING THIS GUIDE

This *40 Days of Faith* book contains six weekly discussion guides that align with Pastor George's teachings during Connect 40. These guides provide the weekly study material for our Connect 40 Groups consisting of a sermon summary to help you remember important insights to discuss within your group. The guide also includes fill-in excerpts to test your recall of the sermon message, along with scriptures to study and reflect upon. Ultimately, it is intended to lead your Connect Group conversations and provides action steps to encourage you to apply what you've learned.

HOW TO JOIN A CONNECT 40 GROUP

We invite everyone to join and enjoy the advantages of being part of a community through Connect Groups during *40 Days of Faith*!

There is a Connect 40 Group for you. The groups will be published on the website at LINKEDUPNORTH.COM.

CONNECT 40 ACTION STEPS

06

HOST

HAVE A GROUP. OPEN YOUR HOME. SERVE A SNACK. TALK IT OUT

HOW TO H.O.S.T. A CONNECT 40 GROUP

Gather people from your network and reach out to newcomers. Meet outside the church (if possible) in homes, libraries, conference rooms, recreation centers, parks, or cafes. Provide snacks. Encourage open conversation, with members speaking most of the time. Keep discussions positive, focused, and inclusive. Adjust the meeting (if needed), prioritizing a loving environment.

For more details on H.O.S.T.ing a group, check the *Additional Resources* resources on page 35.

Register a Connect 40 Group



- **SUBMIT ATTENDANCE**

We're asking hosts to submit their group attendance every week during Connect 40. Once registered, we'll add your group to the system and send a confirmation email with detailed instructions on how to submit attendance. Attendees do not need to submit attendance because hosts track their attendance for them.

Thank you for helping to make Connect 40 impactful!

STUDY GUIDE

WEEK ONE

CONNECT 40

WEEK 1: JUMPSTART YOUR FAITH

Recap

This week, Pastor George kicked off *40 Days of Faith* to help us grow in understanding the power of God's Word. In his first message, he encouraged us to take on a "faith project" and boldly declare the Word of God over it. We learned that by doing so we release God's miraculous power.

The Word of God is the raw material for miracles. Inside each of us—our spirit—is the processing center that brings forth the promises of God: prosperity, peace, healing, deliverance, and wholeness. To manifest His promises, we must approach the Word by believing, diligently studying it, and developing our own understanding. When we plant His word in our hearts, we gain the courage to boldly proclaim that His Word always accomplishes its purpose and never returns empty (Isaiah 55:11).

God is faithful and always by your side, ready to show his strength and shower you with His incredible blessings.

Message Recall

The _____ is the raw material for your miracle.

Your _____ is the processing center for your miracle.

Your _____ is the delivery mechanism for your miracle.

Scriptures

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. | Isaiah 55:11 NKJV

CONNECT 40

WEEK 1: JUMPSTART YOUR FAITH

My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. | Proverbs 4:20-23 NKJV

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." | Mark 9:23 NKJV

Talk About It

1. As we embark on this 40-day faith journey, what are your expectations for experiencing God's miraculous power?
2. Proverbs 4:20-23 speaks about protecting our hearts. Why is this so important? What are some of the ways you can protect your heart?
3. How does genuine belief in God's power influence our willingness to speak about our faith?
4. How does Isaiah 52:10 help you understand how strong God is? How does it make you feel about God's power and how He saves people? Does it make you want to trust in His strength more in your own life?

Developing Your Faith Project

- Scripture tells us to write the vision and make it plain (Habakkuk 2:2-3). Take a moment to write down your faith project on a piece of paper.
- Connect your project with scriptures that align with and support your end result, committing those impactful verses to memory for ongoing inspiration and guidance.

STUDY GUIDE

WEEK TWO

CONNECT 40

WEEK 2: FAITH TO OVERCOME

Recap

What is the substance and purpose of faith? Faith helps us overcome challenges and makes our hopes and dreams become reality. Having it is like wearing special glasses that change how we see things. By growing our faith and trusting in God's promises, we can find the strength to face any situation and believe that good things will happen.

Pastor George discussed this in Connect 40: Week Two, sharing five fundamentals of faith. We learned that faith is believing for something and expecting a result. We can have faith for things such as healing, help, and protection because God gave us all faith to overcome these circumstances. We need to develop our personal faith to make it stronger and apply it in different situations.

We have all heard the saying, "I'll believe it when I see it." That's "natural faith." As born-again believers, we are called to have a different kind of faith—one that believes even when we can't see it or when things don't look favorable. As our faith grows, we can more confidently speak about what we believe and trust that it will happen. Having faith in our hopes and dreams is crucial for believers because it helps us connect with God's power and provision.

Faith keeps us encouraged and charged up. It enables us to remain confident in our desired outcomes. With faith, we can look at any situation and declare, "God, no matter what happens, I know You are in control. I believe You have been with me before, and You will make a way for me." It takes energy to stand—to stand in faith. We are supercharged by studying and knowing God's Word that we speak over any challenge. So let's charge up our spiritual batteries and get ready for the amazing things that our loving and caring Father has planned for us!

CONNECT 40

WEEK 2: FAITH TO OVERCOME

Message Recall

Faith is always supposed to have an _____.

It is our responsibility to _____ and _____ our measure of faith.

Faith is unwavering _____ in God and His Word.

Feed your faith by _____ and _____ God's Word.

Scriptures

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. | Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. | Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. | Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

One day the apostles said to the Lord, "How do we increase our faith?" The Lord replied, "If you had faith no bigger than a tiny mustard seed, you could say to this large mulberry tree, 'My friend, uproot yourself and replant yourself in the sea,' and it would obey you!" | Luke 17:5-6 TPT

CONNECT 40

WEEK 2: FAITH TO OVERCOME

Talk About It

1. How is your faith project going?
2. In Acts 14:9, Paul knew that a man in the crowd had strong faith and could be healed. How do you think the man's belief that he would be cured affected his encounter? Can you think of any situations where having a positive expectation from your faith made a difference in your own life or someone you know?
3. What does it mean to trust in something “with all your heart” (Proverbs 3:5)? How can relying solely on our own understanding hinder our ability to trust in the Lord?

Faith Project Reflection

- Feed your faith through consistent reading and hearing of God's Word, allowing it to nourish your spirit.
- To stay built up, ensure your spiritual battery remains charged by incorporating daily prayer and devotions.
- Additionally, engage in the practice of meditating on God's Word and make it a habit to confess it daily, reinforcing your beliefs and affirming your connection to Him.

STUDY GUIDE

WEEK THREE

CONNECT 40

WEEK 3: FOUR FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

Recap

During this week's message, we focused on constructing strong faith projects by delving into four pillars of faith. The first pillar emphasizes believers growing their hopes into solid faith by believing in God's existence and accepting the Bible as His written Word. Knowing His Word equips us with a thorough faith vocabulary applicable to any situation. Therefore, solely holding onto hope for the fulfillment of God's promises alone is inadequate. By integrating belief in God's Word with hope, we become righteous in God's eyes, fulfilling this crucial aspect of faithful believers.

The second pillar to strengthen our faith is talking about our beliefs and desired outcomes. True faith that brings deliverance, freedom, and wholeness goes beyond reading and thinking about God's promises. It's about having complete trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. When we truly believe in our hearts, we naturally want to share our hopes and God's Word with others. By confidently speaking and aligning our words with God's promises, we can make things happen according to His plan. Just like God created things by speaking, we have that same power.

The third pillar explains that when we truly believe in something, we prove it through our actions. Faith is not just about believing but also about what we do. Our actions don't try to make God do things for us because He has already done everything. Our works are a way of honoring what God has done for us and to build strong faith that can endure tough times. We can learn more about living faith by studying the stories of Rahab (Joshua 2:8-13) and Abraham (Genesis 15:6).

CONNECT 40

WEEK 3: FOUR FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

The fourth pillar of faith emphasizes the vital role of love in our lives. According to Galatians 5:5-6, when we walk by faith, love becomes a priority because faith works through love. Love serves as the motivator for our faith, just as electricity powers our mobile phones. The stronger our love, the stronger our faith becomes.

In conclusion, by incorporating these four pillars of faith—believing in God's Word, speaking about our beliefs and desired outcomes, demonstrating faith through actions, and prioritizing love—we can construct strong faith projects that withstand the tests of life. Let us embrace these pillars and nurture our faith, knowing that our beliefs, actions, and love work together to strengthen our connection with God and fulfill His purpose for us.

Message Recall

_____ gives substance to our hopes and dreams.

Real biblical faith engages our _____ and _____.
_____ the end result.

Your actions must _____ with your faith for manifestation to occur.

Scriptures

And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness. | Genesis 15:6 NKJV

"For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved." | Romans 10:10 NLT

CONNECT 40

WEEK 3: FOUR FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

We have the same Spirit of faith that is described in the Scriptures when it says, "First I believed, then I spoke in faith." So we also first believe then speak in faith." | 2 Corinthians 4:13 TPT

Talk About It

1. How is your faith project going? In what ways do the elements of believing, speaking, acting, and loving contribute to strengthening and reinforcing your project?
2. What is the difference between believing *in* God and *believing* God? Explain your answer.
3. Why is it essential for our actions to align with our beliefs and strengthen our connection with God?
4. Abraham's obedience fulfilled his righteousness. In what areas are you fulfilling God's promises through your obedience?

Faith Project

- Evaluate your faith in your project and ensure that your belief is unwavering, based on James 1:6-8.
- Once you are sure you believe in your faith project without any doubts, spend the whole week making confessions that reinforce your belief.
- If you have any unforgiveness or strife with someone, take steps this week to resolve it. By operating in forgiveness and love, you ensure that you do not impede progress with your faith project. Remember, faith works by love.

STUDY GUIDE

WEEK FOUR

CONNECT 40

WEEK 4: THE GOD KIND OF FAITH

Recap

Believers possess the power to intervene in their circumstances through faith-filled words. These spoken words impact the spiritual realm before manifesting in our lives. Our choices and words directly influence our present situations.

In addition to seeking God's intervention through prayer, we can also learn from Jesus' example in Mark 11:14. Rather than petition God through prayer, He used his authority to boldly speak to a fig tree and change took place within a day. This demonstrates that faith, resembling God's nature, is not a passive belief. It is an active force available to each of us that allows us to release God's power into our circumstances by speaking faith-filled words.

God has provided us with clear instructions on exercising His kind of faith. He commands us to decree things aligned with His will, make strong and bold faith declarations, place a demand on God's Word, and command that it comes to pass. Finally, rejoice that His will is done in your life, in Jesus' name!

As we remain consistent in our confessions of faith, we can take comfort in knowing that our remarkable and glorious High Priest, Jesus Christ, intercedes for us in the heavenly realm. Therefore, with faith and patience we can inherit all of God's promises.

Message Recall

_____ is our ultimate example to model in exercising the God Kind of Faith.

_____ and _____ are in the power of the tongue.

CONNECT 40

WEEK 4: THE GOD KIND OF FAITH

Our words affect the _____ world first before they effect the world.

When you confess the Word of God, you are filling your _____ with faith.

Scriptures

The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. 21 Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, "Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!" Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God." | Mark 11:20-22 NLT

Your words are so powerful that they will kill or give life, and the talkative person will reap the consequences. | Proverbs 18:21 TPT

The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. 25 Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?" The disciples were terrified and amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!" | Luke 8:24-25 NLT

Jesus replied, "Let the faith of God be in you! Listen to the truth I speak to you: Whoever says to this mountain with great faith and does not doubt, 'Mountain, be lifted up and thrown into the midst of the sea,' and believes that what he says will happen, it will be done. | Mark 11:22-23 TPT

CONNECT 40

WEEK 4: THE GOD KIND OF FAITH

Talk About It

1. How has having faith as your guiding principle influenced your actions and decision-making process in your faith project?
2. Share a faith-filled declaration that you have made for your faith project.
3. From a faith perspective, what is your belief regarding the impact of sarcastic words on your present circumstances?

Faith Project Action Steps

- Speak faith-filled words everyday along with corresponding actions that demonstrate you have an expectation for your end result.
- Study the biblical accounts in Luke 4:39, Luke 8:24-25, Mark 1:25-26, and John 11:43-44 that show how Jesus used faith to command deliverance, healing, and wholeness. Reflect on these examples and contemplate how you can assert your authority by commanding the fulfillment of God's promises.

STUDY GUIDE

WEEK FIVE

CONNECT 40

WEEK 5: FAITH IN ACTION

Recap

Having faith and taking action are crucial! This week's message reminded us about the importance of faith in overcoming challenges and winning spiritual battles. As believers, we have an advantage because we know that faith, not just willpower or intelligence, leads us to victory. Our Savior has already conquered the world, giving us peace and confidence that it can no longer harm us (John 16:33).

We learned that we can overcome the difficulties in this world by using the faith that God has given us. Faith is not merely a belief—it requires action. Like a car needs all its parts to function, faith needs belief, speaking, acting, and loving to work together. Without action, our faith becomes useless (James 2:17). In fact, action is so crucial that without it our faith is lifeless (James 2:26). When we hear the Word through sermons, personal study, or from other believers, we need to believe, speak, act, and walk in love. Applying these four pillars of faith ensures that our belief remains strong and our blessings flow freely.

Message Recall

Faith is an _____ word.

Faith without _____ is _____.

Whenever we hear the Word of God proclaimed, we must _____ that Word with _____.

Who were the two men who led a generation into the Promised Land?

- _____
- _____

CONNECT 40

WEEK 5: FAITH IN ACTION

Scriptures

My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can! For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up in you the power of endurance. And then as your endurance grows even stronger, it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking. |

James 1:2-4 TPT

So then faith that doesn't involve action is phony. James 2:17 TPT

Wasn't our ancestor Abraham found righteous before God because of his works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? Can't you see how his action cooperated with his faith and by his action faith found its full expression? | James 2:21-22 TPT

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." | Numbers 13:31-33

Talk About It

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how active is your faith regarding the areas you are believing God for? Explain your answer.
2. True or False: Faith without actions is incomplete faith.
3. True or False: Dead faith can still get living results.
4. True or False: If I truly believe God, I will act on my faith.

CONNECT 40

WEEK 5: FAITH IN ACTION

Faith Project Action Steps

- It's time to step out on faith! Commit to some action this week that clearly demonstrates that you believe God. For example, if you are believing God to be debt free, make a list of all your bills and start paying them off from the smallest to the largest.[1]
- Decide in your heart that you will not quit even when your faith is tested, and you will continue until you reach your desired result.

[1] Enroll in Financial Peace and learn the proven plan to pay off debt fast and save more money for your future. Registration is currently open for the session launching Aug 29.

STUDY GUIDE

WEEK SIX

CONNECT 40

WEEK 6: HOW TO PRAY & LIVE BY FAITH

Recap

During the sixth week of the *40 Days of Faith* journey, the focus was on the power of prayer and living by faith. Praying in faith involves:

- Finding a promise in God's Word that aligns with our specific needs.
- Bringing that Scripture to God in prayer.
- Receiving His answer.
- Expressing gratitude for His provision.

When we live by faith, it becomes the assurance of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality (Hebrews 11:1 AMP). When we walk by faith and not by sight, we rely on confidence in the Word of God and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, thereby avoiding doubt. The Bible encourages us to walk, stand firm, live, overcome challenges, grow in sanctification, and experience justification through faith. Even in trials, we should demonstrate genuine faith by remaining strong and trusting in God. Thomas doubted Jesus' resurrection until he saw proof, highlighting the importance of walking by faith, not by sight.

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes the significance of faith. For example, the saints are commended for loving God without demanding visible proof of His existence by choosing to walk by faith instead. The story of Abraham and Sarah, an inspiring example, tells how they conceived a child despite natural impossibilities.

Walking by faith entails hearing God's Word, believing it in our hearts, confessing it with our mouths, and acting upon it. It is a comprehensive approach that involves aligning our thoughts, words, and actions with God's Word allowing us to experience God's grace and witness His miraculous power.

CONNECT 40

WEEK 6: HOW TO PRAY & LIVE BY FAITH

Message Recall

A lifestyle of faith involves consistently doing these four things:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Sarah received strength to _____ by faith.

We overcome the _____ by faith.

Scriptures

Since we have this confidence, we can also have great boldness before him, for if we ask anything agreeable to his will, he will hear us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we also know that we have obtained the requests we ask of him. | 1 John 5:14-15 TPT

Keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic and real, honorable and admirable, beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind. And fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God, praising him always. | Philippians 4:6 TPT

By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. |

Hebrews 11:11-12 NKJV

CONNECT 40

WEEK 6: HOW TO PRAY & LIVE BY FAITH

Talk About It

1. Did you complete an action that clearly demonstrates that you believe in God? Have you committed to not quitting until you receive the promise of what you're believing God for?
2. How did Abraham and Sarah show their strong belief in God's promises? How can we follow their example?
3. The Bible teaches us to live our lives guided by faith. What does it mean to you when the Bible says to "live by faith?"
4. How does having faith affect the way you see things, make choices, and treat others every day?

Faith Project Action Steps

Our focus for *40 Days of Faith* was twofold: first, to water the seeds of faith in your life, and second, to guide you toward spiritual growth by growing and developing your faith. As we conclude the spiritual concentration, whether your faith project manifested or not, you can keep building by consistently practicing these powerful principles to incorporate into your life.

- **Hear:** Take the time to listen attentively to what the Word of God says about your life and the promises God has for you. As Romans 10:17 NKJV states, faith comes by hearing the Word of God. The Bible is a rich source of wisdom, guidance, and encouragement. Regularly reading and studying the Word can deepen your understanding of God's character and His plans for your life.
- **Believe:** Once you have heard the promises of God, it's important to believe that those things will be done. Mark 11:22-24 NKJV encourages us to have faith in God and believe that what we ask for in prayer, according to His will, will be granted. Trust in God's faithfulness and His ability to fulfill His promises.

CONNECT 40

WEEK 6: HOW TO PRAY & LIVE BY FAITH

- **Confess**: Hold fast to your confession of faith. Speak out your beliefs and affirm them with your words. Hebrews 4:14 NKJV reminds us to hold firmly to our confession of faith, declaring our trust in God and His promises. Your words have power, so use them to align your thoughts and actions with the truth of God's Word.
- **Do**: James 1:22 NKJV reminds us not to be mere hearers of the Word but also doers. Faith requires action. Apply the teachings of the Bible to your daily life and live out your beliefs. Act in obedience to God's commands and His leading. Your actions should reflect your faith in God and His promises.
- **Thank**: Express gratitude to God for His faithfulness and for answering your prayers even before you see the physical manifestation. Philippians 4:6 NLT encourages us to approach God with thanksgiving as we present our requests to Him. Colossians 4:2 AMP urges us to be persistent in prayer and to maintain an attitude of thanksgiving. Trust that God hears your prayers and is actively working on your behalf.

By incorporating these practices into your life, you can cultivate a lifestyle of faith. Remember that faith is a journey, and it grows as you deepen your relationship with God and apply His Word in practical ways.

THANK YOU

Congratulations on completing Connect 40! We hope that you have gained valuable insights and tools to strengthen your faith and live a life filled with hope and determination.

Throughout the program, we believed that your interactions within your Connect 40 Groups inspired and motivated you to take the next step. Our desire was for you to connect with a spiritual family and continue in that commitment by joining a Connect Group in the upcoming semesters. Additionally, we encourage you to continue building your faith projects, even beyond the duration of Connect 40, until you witness God's miracles in your lives.

As we conclude this spiritual concentration, we invite you to reflect on your journey. Whether your faith project manifested or not, know that you can continue to apply the powerful principles you have learned. Consistently practicing and incorporating them into your everyday life will make faith a natural part of your lifestyle, propelling you toward spiritual growth and a deeper connection with God.

We would love to hear about your personal testimonies and how you witnessed God's movement in your lives during these 40 days. Please do not keep your testimonies to yourselves! Share your stories by emailing info@linkedupnorth.com or visiting linkedupnorth.com/connect40 to submit them. They will undoubtedly inspire and encourage others to keep the faith!

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. May you apply what you have learned and experience a future filled with faith, hope, and abundant blessings.

With heartfelt appreciation and anticipation,

- Pastors George and Carol Houston

NEXT STEPS

BECOME A MEMBER

If you believe the Spirit of God is leading you to become a member of Linked UP North Church, then we invite you to take your Next Steps classes to become a part of our family.

Next Steps is a series of four classes that help you grow and thrive in the life God created for you. Upon completing each class, you will become a member of Linked UP Church. Anyone from anywhere can take the classes offered in person (Sundays after service) and on-demand (Thursdays via Zoom).

JOIN A CONNECT GROUP FOR THE FALL SEMESTER

Life is better in a group. We believe God wants every person to experience abundant life here on Earth, and He designed us to find freedom and healing in relationships with others. Discover how lives are changed in Connect Groups and how you can get involved.

- Fall Semester begins Sunday, September 3
- 2024 Semester dates – COMING SOON!

NEXT STEPS

JOIN THE DREAM TEAM (Membership Required)

Discover your gifts and passions and join the team. The Dream Team is a group of incredible people that love God, love people, pursue excellence, choose joy, and make an eternal difference to build the body of Christ.

CONNECT 40

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

H.O.S.T.ing a Group

- **H**ave a Group
 - Start with people who are already in your sphere of influence (co-workers, friends, neighbors).
 - Find people around you who are new to the church, new believers, or have shown interest in getting involved.
 - Look for people who you think you can help draw out their potential.
 - Pray for God to send people to you who you haven't already discovered.
- **O**pen Your Home
 - We encourage all Connect Groups to meet outside of the church building if possible.
 - If you cannot meet in your own home, look for a host home (possibly the home of someone attending your group).
 - Other possibilities for meeting locations include:
 - Library
 - Conference Room
 - Recreation Center
 - Subdivision Clubhouse
 - Just a Park
 - Restaurant
 - Coffee Shop
- **S**erve a Snack
 - Have food and snacks available
- **T**alk it Out
 - Make time for talking and sharing ideas in your group. Follow the "70-30" rule, where members speak about 70% of the time and the host speaks about 30% of the time.

CONNECT 40

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Keep the conversation positive and focused. Bring the discussion back to the main topic if it goes off track. If sensitive or complex issues come up, address them privately after the meeting.
- Make sure everyone can join in the conversation. Remember that some people may not understand certain phrases or terms we use, like "spiritual warfare."
- Be ready to adjust the direction of the meeting if necessary. The most important thing is to create a loving and accepting environment for everyone.

Connect Group Meeting Agenda

- **Casual Fellowship.** A laid-back time for group members to talk and get to know each other or just fellowship if you're already acquainted.
- **Activity or Discussion.** This will vary based on what kind of group you're leading. It could be an activity like frisbee, outreach, or a discussion about a book or Sunday message. For Connect 40 we are studying the weekly messages delivered by Pastor Gregory during Sunday services.
- **Prayer.** Start by asking group members if they have anything to celebrate or if they need prayers. It's important to recognize and be grateful for the things God is doing. Make sure to include a time of prayer at the beginning or end of each group meeting.
- **Spiritual Component.** The special thing about Connect Groups is the spiritual aspect that sets them apart from regular gatherings. We make sure to include the word of God in our group, either through activities or discussions. During Connect 40, we do both. The discussion guide helps us have meaningful spiritual conversations, and the action steps guide our activities. As hosts, we start each new meeting by giving each member a chance to share their experiences with the action steps from the previous week.

CONNECT 40

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Four things we ask you not to engage in during meetings:

- Business
- Offerings
- Unapproved materials or speakers
- Controversial Topics

These resources are designed to help you learn how to host a group during Connect 40. Gathering together is the most important part, and these resources provide a brief overview of the leader training provided to Connect Group leaders. We believe that your experience during Connect 40 will give you a valuable understanding of the significance of Connect Groups in our ministry. We hope it will also ignite your desire to participate in a group during the upcoming semesters.

REFLECTION JOURNAL 37

ANSWER KEY

MESSAGE RECALL

WEEK 1

1. report of the Lord
2. Spirit
3. Mouth

WEEK 4

1. Jesus
2. life; death
3. unseen; seen
4. heart

WEEK 2

1. end result
2. grow; develop
3. trust
4. reading; hearing

WEEK 5

1. action
2. action; dead
3. mix; faith
4. Joshua; Caleb

WEEK 3

1. Faith
2. mouth; speaks
3. correspond

WEEK 6

1. Hear
2. conceive
3. world

CONNECT 40 DAYS OF FAITH

Have thoughts on Connect40? We'd love to hear your feedback! Scan the QR code below to participate in a quick survey.



For more information, visit our website!
www.linkedupnorth.com

C O N N E C T F O R T Y

COMMUNITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE

CONNECT
40 DAYS OF FAITH

L I N K E D U P N O R T H . C O M