

# Connect Four

The Connect Four program was developed by Granite Springs (CA) Church to provide opportunities for newcomers to get connected to the church and to help regular attendees and longer-term members get to know each other in a fun way. This is a casual and relationship-focused gathering that your church can adapt for your unique situation.

## Group Composition

Each Connect Four group typically is composed of four “units.” A married couple is one unit, and a single person is one unit. So groups can be as big as eight (four married couples) or as small as four (four single people). It’s nice to have a mixture of young and old, married and single.

## Gatherings

Connect Four is structured around four meetings, with the final meeting being optional. We suggest meeting in September, October, November, and December.

The length of each gathering is usually 90 minutes. The leader acts as “host” and keeps track of time (to ensure everyone gets time to share and that no single person dominates the time). The leader also typically shares first. By sharing first, the leader models honest storytelling and sets a tone of openness.

## Suggested Questions

Choose from the following questions (or questions of your own) to start conversation at Connect Four gatherings.

### Meeting 1: Personal Stories

- What do you enjoy doing?
- What kind of kid were you?
- If you could mark five or six significant events in your life, what would they be?
- If your life were a book, what might the chapter titles be?
- What are some stories or words that define your family?
- What are some stories that shaped you as a person?

### Meeting 2: Spiritual Stories

- What was the spiritual climate like in your home growing up?
- What has your experience of God been like?
- Where do you find yourself in the spiritual journey?
- What are your doubts or questions?
- Describe what your prayers are like.
- Does God seem real to you? Why or why not?

- Have you accepted Christ? If so, when and how? What does that mean to you?

### **Meeting 3: Stories of Your Experience at Our Church**

- What was your first visit here like? What did you notice?
- If this was your first experience with a church, what was that like?
- How is this church like or unlike previous church experiences you have had?
- When you come to church, what are you looking for?
- What is most important to you in a church community?

### **Meeting 4: Optional Meeting for Celebration and Socializing**

This optional fourth meeting can take several forms. Here are some ideas:

- A Christmas party
- A time where the group decides if they want to continue meeting together after the Christmas holidays with a new emphasis and regularity (sometimes we use Kevin Adam's book *The Book that Understands You* as a way to continue the "story" theme, but with an emphasis on the biblical story of creation, fall, redemption, restoration)
- A time to pray for each other and solidify bonded, caring relationships
- A place where a group conversation happens about what people's next steps might be. Membership? Profession of faith? Waiting for God to lead?