

## Connecting and Reflecting | 12/29/24 | Geldart | Tru

**Theme:** Reflecting on God's faithfulness over the past year, sharing testimonies, and focusing on the theme of "CONNECTING" for spiritual growth in 2024.

### 1. Welcome & Announcements

- a. Connect Cards (new slide with QR!)
- b. Giving
- c. EOY Giving
- d. Family Sunday
  - i. Welcome 1-5<sup>th</sup> graders! (random candy for those who participate!)
- e. EOY Plans
  - i. No all church event this yr
  - ii. Youth Lockin

### 2. Joke Intro

- a. [1] Today we'll be primarily in the book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Hesitations.
  - i. We're going to end the year with a deep dive on the various original Hebrew words for transubstantiation.
  - ii. We're going to compare and contrast the etymological roots of each and memorize them for a test at the end.
- b. .... Just Kidding
- c. [2] Who REMEMBERS about WOTYs? ...
  - i. What did that stand for? Woman of the Year?

### 3. WOTY Recap

- a. Brief reminder of what WOTYs are
  - i. [3] (Spiritual Growth) WORD OF THE YEAR tool
- b. Individual WOTYS & Church WOTY
- c. Let's start with CHURCH first
  - i. Who remembers what our CHURCH spiritual growth WOTY was for 2024?
  - ii. [4] CONNECTING

4. **Introduction to the Theme:** Introduce the theme "Connecting and Reflecting" and explain the importance of reflecting on God's work in our lives and church.

5. **Remind WHY** Connecting was our 2024 Tru WOTY

- a. Our desire and need to deepen our relationships within our Body.
- b. To move from pockets of connection to a broader norm of significant connection
- c. Because the scripture is clear that the organic interconnected and FUNCTIONING church life is the vehicle for testifying to the Good News to a lost world.
  - i. And fulfilling the functions and mission he's called us to
  - ii. Mere meeting attendance won't be enough
  - iii. We have to actually become a family that functions together in love

6. **Connecting with One Another:** Discuss the importance of building and strengthening relationships within the church community.

- a. **[5] Acts 2:42-47** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer..."
  - b. **Romans 12:4-5** - "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."
  - c. **John 13:34-35**<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."<sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
  - d. **Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."
7. 2 Other aspects of CONNECTING:
8. **Connecting with God:** Emphasize the importance of deepening our relationship with God through prayer, worship, and study of His Word.
- a. **[6] James 4:8** - "Come near to God and he will come near to you."
  - b. **John 15:4-5** "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; 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."
9. **Connecting with our Neighbors:** Highlight the need to reach out and connect with those outside the church, sharing the love of Christ.
- a. **[8] Matthew 28:19-20** - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
  - b. **Matthew 5:16** - "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
10. **Today we want to spend some time together reflecting on God's Works - His Faithfulness – What he's done – over the past year.**
- a. It's appropriate. An act of worship to remember and honor God. Celebrate what he's done in and through our midst.
  - b. **[9] Psalm 66:5-6** - "Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind! He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot—come, let us rejoice in him."

#### 11. **[10] Reflecting on God's Works 2024**

- a. **Survey Says:**
  - i. CONNECTING WOTY...
  - ii. 64% indicate they connected well to very well within the church this year!
  - iii. 36% indicate Sunday mornings as their primary connection sphere, especially connecting with others after church and during the mingle time.
    - 1. 29% LG – really getting to know ppl, sharing life together
    - 2. 14% 1 on 1 Get togethers

- 3. Rest = Womens Min, misc others
- iv. Most Impactful Sermon Series of 2024
  - 1. Multiply 39%
  - 2. Followed by tie for 23% each for Advent and Parables
- b. Baptisms (10)
  - i. Rhett Johnson
  - ii. Jaina Hackerott
  - iii. Jaelynn Young
  - iv. Mya Helton
  - v. Emersyn Garcia
  - vi. Sinjarta Garcia
  - vii. Yndilon Garcia
  - viii. Jesus Garcia
  - ix. Kylie Cuchy
  - x. JJ Altman
- c. Babies Dedicated
  - i. Marshall Donsbach
  - ii. Mazie Jackson
  - iii. Josiah & Blake Helton
  - iv. A few More born
    - 1. Maelie Talarico
    - 2. Haven Oglesby
- d. Tru-ers besides me preach God's word in our Gatherings
  - i. Kayla
  - ii. James
  - iii. Brian Smoller
  - iv. Dilan Oglesby
- e. 10 yr anniversary!
- f. Jenn joined out staff as part time Kids Director
- g. Membership
- h. New Website and Podcasting
- i. Suppers of 6
- j. Pie & Karaoke Night
- k. Sending out ppl well
  - i. Lindleys, Brooke
- l. Youth event, decisions
- m. Kids Min teaching through the whole Bible!
- n. Steps of faith with Giving
- o. Focus on Multiplication
  - i. Discipleship and Disciplemaking
  - ii. Establishment of our first LG
    - 1. Talks about starting our 2<sup>nd</sup> LG

- 2. Other Groups like Guys Group, currently studying through Isaiah
- 3. Women's Ministry gatherings and monthly lunches
- 4. New Bible Study Group for women starting in January
- p. Xmas Bureau – incredible job led by Erin Pittenger
  - i. So many families served and provided for in our area

### 12.[11] Reflecting and Sharing

- a. **Psalm 107:1-2** - "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe."
- b. **TESTIMONIES!**

### c. [12] Open Questions:

- i. Now what has he done in our church to help us grow in CONNECTING?
- ii. And what has he done in your life over the past year to help you grow in your WOTY?

## 13. Practical Application: Embracing the Word of the Year

- a. Reflect and Celebrate – what God has done. Worship. Gratitude.
- b. Lean in to WOTY as a tool for your personal growth this next year. Pick 2025 WOTY!

### c. [13] WOTY WORKSHEET

- i. **WOTY Worksheet (Online @ [tru.church/woty](http://tru.church/woty))**
- ii. **Grace-based Goal Setting**
- iii. **Curiosity! Be curious first.**
  - 1. Where might God be wanting to work in your life? Ask Him. Ask those closest to you.
  - 2. Could be from a clear sense of God's work and leading in your life.
  - 3. Or could be something you sense you'd like to grow in this next year.
  - 4. Grow in godliness
  - 5. Not perfection! But real progress
- iv. **Remember, grace-based!**
  - 1. Have fun with your WOTY.
  - 2. [14] Ideas list on the back of your worksheet
    - a. Rest. Joy. Self-Control. Patience. Gentleness.
    - b. Me 2023 → confident
      - i. 2024 – EMPOWER (letting my power come from God – but mostly me seeking to empower others)
    - c. Think outside the box!
    - d. Jenn → lit (I've also heard mojo, quiescence, and splagnon)
    - e. Include your kids and extended families.
- v. [15] **Rationale for Choosing this Word: Why are you choosing this growth word (over all the others)?**
  - 1. What might the Spirit of God be up to in your life?

2. How do you long to grow in godliness next year?
- vi. **Key Scripture:** What passage will you chew on this year that relates to your desire to grow in this way? Memorize and meditate on it!
- vii. **Group of People Cheering You On:** Whose in your corner, spurring you on to love and good deeds? Spouse, friends, family, LIFE Group, mentor --someone who is good at what you want to grow in, etc.
- viii. **Plan for growth:**
  1. **Knowledge**—What do you need to know? Book or resource.
  2. **Character**—How does your heart need to change?
  3. **Skills**—What do you need to learn how to do?
  4. **Vision**—What will growth look like in this area?
- ix. Learn from those around you who can help you grow in this area. Ask people to speak into your life. Glean from what they've learned already. Receive input about recommended resources. Share your ideas with those who you're close with.
  1. You won't finish your growth in this word in one year, I promise you. But, you can grow in significant ways. Because it's GOD ultimately doing the work.
- d. Extra credit: BHAGG
  1. BHAGG = Big, Hairy, Audacious, God-sized Goal (connected to your WOTY)
  2. Different from NYRs --- GOD SIZED
  3. Not perfectionism!, Grace based
  4. Yet still also requiring work on our end
  5. If it happens, we'll praise God!
  6. If not, our hope doesn't hang upon it
  7. SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable (with God's help), Relevant, Time Bound)
  8. If it happens, God did it! But there are things you do!
    - a. Prayer
    - b. Conversation
    - c. Invitation...
- ii. Taking the step
  1. Even the act of working to discover and develop your WOTY and BHAGG is a good work that is a part of your training for godliness (Paul → Timothy).
- e. Prayerfully consider what a good 2025 CHURCH WOTY might be

14. **[16] Closing Prayer:** End with a prayer, thanking God for His faithfulness and asking for His blessing as the church enters the new year.

15. **COMMUNION** – Celebrate our connection with God AND ONE ANOTHER through HIS WORK on the Cross for us.



## **2<sup>nd</sup>** **HESITATIONS**

W  
O  
T  
Y



**Word Of The Year**





**CONNECTING & REFLECTING**

# CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

**ACTS 2:42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...

**ROMANS 12:4-5** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.



# CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

**JOHN 13:34-35** A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

**HEBREWS 10:24-25** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.



# CONNECTING WITH GOD

**JAMES 4:8** Come near to God and he will come near to you.

**JOHN 15:4-5** 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; 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.



# CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS

**MATTHEW 28:19-20** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

**MATTHEW 5:16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



# REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORKS

**Psalms 66:5-6** Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind! He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the waters on foot—come, let us rejoice in him.



# REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORKS '24

- Survey: 64% Connecting well
  - 36% Connect on Sundays
  - 29% Connect at Life Group
  - Multiply Sermon Series, Advent, Parables
- Baptisms (10)
- Babies born & dedicated
- Multiple members Preaching
- 10 yr anniversary!
- Jenn & James joined Staff Team
- Membership
- New Website and Podcasting
- Suppers of 6
- Pie & Karaoke Night
- Sending Out members well
- Youth event, decisions
- Kids teaching through the Bible
- Steps of faith with Giving
- Focus on Multiplication
- Discipleship and Dmaking
- Establishment of 1st LG
- Christmas Bureau



# REFLECTING & SHARING

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# REFLECTING & SHARING

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1. What has God done **in our church** to help us grow in **CONNECTING**?
2. What has God done **in your life** over the past year to help you grow in **your WOTY**?



# GRACE-BASED GOAL SETTING

## WORD OF THE YEAR WORKSHEET

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

What's your growth word?

Why are you choosing this word?

What's a helpful Bible verse?

Who's cheering you on this year?

TRU.CHURCH/WOTY

Identify specific next steps of growth in each of the areas below related to your WOTY:

**KNOWLEDGE** – *What do you need to know? Book or resource.*

**CHARACTER** – *How does your heart need to change?*

**SKILLS** – *What do you need to learn how to do?*

**VISION** – *What might growth look like in this area?*

\*What's a BHAGG (Big, Hairy, Audacious, God-sized Goal) related to your WOTY?



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[illegible]

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**CONNECTING & REFLECTING**