Connect Group Guide - March 15, 2020

CONNECT

Hans shared some home ownership stories about walls that looked normal but actually had unwanted things behind them (rats, a lack of insulation). What stories do you have about troublesome or unusual things found behind the walls of a home?

GROW

- 1. This past week has been unprecedented in U.S. history. From the speeches of public leaders to the hype on social media, some feel anxious and scared. Others want to downplay everything. Take a minute to check-in with everyone in your group or your family. How are you, honestly?
- 2. You don't have to look far in the news to see we are faced with many uncertainties right now. Have there been moments where you weren't really sure what to feel? Why is uncertainty sometimes more frightening than certainty?
- 3. Hans suggested that behind the walls of our lives, we all have messages and stories that grab a hold of us. We say to ourselves, *If people only knew...* Read these three Bible stories about Noah (Genesis 9:1,18-23), Peter (Mark 14:27-31,66-72), and Paul (Galatians 1:11-24). Their lives clearly weren't as neat and shiny as we make them out to be, but the mess behind their walls didn't deter God. What did you notice about these Bible characters as you read these stories today?
- 4. Sometimes, walls in our lives hold us back from our fullest potential. Do you have walls that simply need to be knocked down? What would demolition look like and feel like?
- 5. As these Bible stories show, God used unexpected people to change the world-regardless of what "stuff" was behind their walls. How might God use you to make a difference during this strange season we are living through? How might God use the people in this group?

PRAY

God, it's easy to live in fear right now. We are anxious and uncertain. But God, remind us that you are faithful, you have confidence in us, and you will walk alongside us. Help us to support one another and to care for our community. Help us to live out your love. Amen.

