WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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Series Title: WHERE TO LOOK IN 2026
Key Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3
Recorded Sermon:
https://youtu.be/Ar6k_HIrkJI?si=suuLTE4nhC6CB-Xp&t=3138
Date + Speaker: Pastor Mark Scarr – January 4th, 2026

Starter:
As you start the new year, what is one small or simple thing you find yourself looking forward to—even something ordinary that makes you smile?

Discussion:

1. According to Hebrews 12:1, what does it mean for believers to be "surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses"?

2. In what ways can remembering past examples of faith help strengthen believers?

3. Hebrews 12:1 calls believers to throw off what hinders and entangles. What kinds of things might hinder spiritual growth?

4. Why is it sometimes difficult to recognize what is slowing spiritual growth, and how can inviting God to search one's heart be helpful?

5. What does it look like, practically, for a believer to "run with perseverance" rather than give up when the race feels long? *(Hebrews 12:1)*

6. How might keeping God's calling in view help someone stay focused instead of discouraged about the future?

7. Hebrews 12:2 encourages believers to fix their eyes on Jesus. Why is it sometimes necessary for believers to intentionally look away from circumstances and fix their eyes on Jesus?

8. Why is Jesus uniquely qualified to be both the pioneer and perfecter of faith for believers?
   (Hebrews 12:2-3)

9. How does considering what Jesus endured help believers respond differently to opposition, discouragement, or hardship? *(Hebrews 12:2-3)*

10. In Matthew 14, what changed when Peter shifted his focus from Jesus to the wind and waves? *(Matthew 14:29–30)*

11. How does Peter's cry, "Lord, save me," reflect both human weakness and faith, and what encouragement does this offer believers moving into a new year?
    (Matthew 14:30–31)

Reflection:
As you step into the new year, choose to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, trusting Him to give you strength, direction, and hope for the road ahead.