

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

## **CONNECT Group study questions, selected Scriptures**

### **Title: Do It Right**

**Question:** In 1969, Frank Sinatra released what became a hit song: *My Way*. I've copied it below. How does its portrayal of man's determination to follow his own way and not God's way reveal—from a biblical perspective—the reason for moral decline in our society?

*And now, the end is near;  
And so I face the final curtain.  
My friend, I'll say it clear,  
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain.*

*I've lived a life that's full.  
I've traveled each and every highway;  
And more, much more than this,  
I did it my way.*

*Regrets, I've had a few;  
But then again, too few to mention.  
I did what I had to do  
And saw it through without exemption.*

*I planned each charted course;  
Each careful step along the byway,  
And more, much more than this,*

*I did it my way.*

*Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew  
When I bit off more than I could chew.  
But through it all, when there was doubt,  
I ate it up and spit it out.  
I faced it all and I stood tall;  
And did it my way.*

*I've loved, I've laughed and cried.  
I've had my fill; my share of losing.  
And now, as tears subside,  
I find it all so amusing.*

*To think I did all that;  
And may I say - not in a shy way,  
"Oh no, oh no not me,  
I did it my way".*

*For what is a man, what has he got?  
If not himself, then he has naught.  
To say the things he truly feels;  
And not the words of one who kneels.  
The record shows I took the blows -  
And did it my way!*

*Yes, it was my way.*

**Question:** Peppy cited shifts in philosophy, media, education, and technology for the dramatic shift toward sexual immorality in our culture. Let's take another step back and find a more basic cause. What (or who) do you suppose is responsible for the shifts in these four areas? In what respect are these dramatic shifts without precedent in history? In what way have past cultures followed a similar path to sexual immorality?

**Question:** One impact has been spiritual: The Church has been rendered impotent. Why has the Church lost its power, and what or who is responsible?

**Question:** Read Genesis 1:27-28a—“God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply....’” If God created the man in His image—and He did—and the woman in His image also—and He did—in what way is His command to be fruitful and multiply also in the image of God as Creator? **Facilitator:** Ephesians 5:24-32 gives us a clue: Just as a man and woman become one flesh, Christ and His Church are united, and both work together to create new life. Here it is:

*But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body. For this reason [quoting Genesis 2:24] a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.*

**Question:** Read a quote from John Piper: “When it comes to human sexuality, the greatest display of God’s glory, and the greatest joy of human relationships, and the greatest fruitfulness in ministry come about when the deep differences between men and women are embraced and celebrated as complements to each other. They complete and beautify each other.” The feminist answer to the abusive male dominance of women is gender neutrality, the idea that any difference is only superficial and that women and men are basically the same. In what way do each of these positions differ from Piper’s quote above? Share from experience that God’s glory is

on display when the differences between men and women are embraced and celebrated.

**Question:** If there's a hot button issue in male-female relationships in our society, it's one of authority. Read 1 Corinthians 7:3-4— *The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.* How does this apply in every aspect of the marriage relationship, including sexual intimacy?