

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

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 for October 2, 2016

Title: What Else is New?

Read John 13:31-35 *“When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Question: From the world’s perspective, there’s something different about Christians. They who are not Christians don’t always know what to make of those who are.

Those in the group who came to faith in Christ as adults share your thoughts about the Christians you knew who may have contributed to your decision to follow Jesus. Did you think you could never be like them? Did you wonder what changed them? Discuss your answers.

Question: Review the three things Pastor Peppy taught us a Christian needs to know when they come to faith in Christ.

Facilitator: They are: 1) You have a new perspective for a new way of looking at life. 2) You enter into a new relationship. 3) You have a new commandment to love one another.

Would it be helpful if a person knew these three things before they make a decision to follow Jesus? Would they make any sense to them? How would their understanding of these three things change after their decision?

Question: Have you ever had an unbeliever tell you, “I don’t know how you do it,” referring to your endurance in a difficult situation? Or maybe your willingness to forgive, right a wrong, or seek reconciliation? Discuss how the first of the “three things a Christian needs to know” answers: “I don’t know how you do it.”

Read: *“...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2), and “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).*

Question: What is Jesus’ perspective as revealed in the Hebrews 12:2 passage, and how does this perspective become ours as it was the Apostle Paul’s in Romans 8:18? What exactly was the joy that gave Jesus reason to endure the cross?

Read: *“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:1-5).*

Question: Examine the first five verses of Romans 5 and itemize all that is ours in our new relationship in Christ.

How can it be that each item leads to another, ultimately ending in agape love? What becomes of God’s love once it is being poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit?

Children's Questions:

What are ways can we love other people (parents, brothers and sisters, classmates, friends) as Jesus loves us?

Did you feel different when you asked Jesus into your heart? How?

Did your relationship with others change?