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.

**Announcements**:

Check out our new Crossroads Family Ministries Facebook page when you get a chance!

The purpose of this page is to share resources and information that equip parents to raise their children in a biblical manner. Look for daily prayer challenges, share verses and testimonies

A great opportunity to support The Oaks Christian School is coming up! The OCS annual Silent Auction is coming up on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. Admission is $5 and gets you five food tickets to be used for concessions inside (hot dogs, drinks, popcorn, etc.) while you enjoy the fun, family-friendly, carnival-themed auction.

Also, if you come out early (5pm), KidsRoad is hosting a family fellowship on the yard next to the gym. We’d love for families to come out and decorate a pumpkin together, enjoy some tasty fall treats, hear a devotion shared by the preschool and children’s directors on “Cultivating Thankfulness in Your Kids,” and just play with other families! After the time of fellowship, we will offer additional kids activities for parents wanting to go shop the silent auction. If you register online at at crossroads-summerville.org and bring a Thanksgiving canned food side item, KidsRoad will supply a pumpkin for your family to decorate!

**CONNECT Group study questions for November 13, 2016**

**Title: The Benefits of Staying Connected**

**Read** John 15:4-17 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.*

**For the Children**

**Question**: How did Jesus show his Father’s love for you? (Facilitator: Draw attention to v. 13)

 What are some specific ways that you show love to others like Jesus showed his love for you?

 How does knowing Jesus help you to be a better friend?

**For the Group**

**Question**: Pastor Peppy tossed out a couple terms: “In the zone” and “Compartmentalize.” What do they mean?

 Describe a time when you were “in the zone.” Is “in the zone” a good place to be?

 Is it right or wrong to “compartmentalize” areas of your life?

**Question**: How do these terms fit into Jesus’ word picture of branches that “abide” in the vine?

 Are the branches “in the zone” or “compartmentalized” in relation to the vine?

**Question**: Review the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23: *“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*

 How do you suppose these “fruits” can help us be more productive in each area of our life? **Facilitator**: Suggest a look at work, marriage, family, parenting, recreation, friendships, etc.

**Question**: When Jesus says, *“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you,”* he is giving us a conditional promise to do what we ask as long as we “abide.” Facilitator: Also look at Psalm 37:4.

 Are some of us more “abiding” than others?

 Are there times when we are more abiding and times we may be less abiding?

 How can we ensure his words abide in us?

**Question**: How does abiding in Christ, the vine, make it easier to “love one another?” Facilitator: Proverbs 18:24 and 2 Corinthians 6:14

**Question**: What does Jesus mean by: *“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends?”*

 Does it only mean to die for someone? Can it mean something else?

 Have you had someone lay down his life for you?