

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Facilitator: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

CONNECT Group study questions for September 17, 2017

Title: Abandoned by God—Romans 1:24-32

Announcement:

Children:

Read: Romans 1:24-32

Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Review: Read through the outline from Pastor Peppy's sermon: Abandoned by God, and share what God revealed to you from the message.

Question: Pastor Peppy taught us that the phrase "God gave them over" means "abandoned by God." Discuss the implications of being "given over" or abandoned. What would it be like to no longer have God's grace to restrain us from practicing sin?

Question: The passage outlines a gradual, three-stage withdrawal of God's grace as a person sinks deeper into immorality. What does this tell us about God and his desire to bring us to repentance? Read 2 Peter 3:9.

Question: How does each stage of immorality lead to the next—widespread sexual immorality to homosexuality to unrestrained evil? What drives people deeper into immoral behavior? What restrains them?

Question: Although God ultimately abandons—removes his restraining grace—is there ever a time when he would reject a repentant person? Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. How do the sins listed follow the stages of immorality leading to abandonment? What does verse 11 tell us about the grace of God?

Question: Pastor Peppy gave us three things we as Christians can do to influence our culture: pray, share the gospel, and live the gospel. Discuss how we should pray; what is the gospel and how best can we share it; and what it means to live the gospel.