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 November 5, 2017**

**Title: The Power of Your Story**—Galatians 6:10-17

**Read**: Galatians 6:10-17

*10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

*11 See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. 12 Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh try to compel you to be circumcised, simply so that they will not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 For those who are circumcised do not even keep the Law themselves, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. 16 And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.*

*17 From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.*

**Review**: Read the four strategies and Scripture passages from Tristan Ford’s lesson, *The Power of Your Story,* and share what God revealed to you from his message.

**Four Strategies to a Powerful Testimony**

 **Do good**

 **Keep your focus on the cross**

 **Realize you are not the same anymore**

 **Be willing to wear your scars**

**Read**: 1 John 1:2-3

*2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ*.

**Read**: John 9:25

*25 He then answered, “Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”*

**Read**: John 4:29

*29 “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?”*

**Read**: John 15:27

*27 and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

**Read**: 2 Corinthians 5:17

*17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

**Question**: Tristan’s first point is “do good.”

 How does that translate in practical terms? Does the sacrificial love of “agape” apply here? Why do good “especially to those who are of the household of the faith,” as Paul writes in verse 17 in our text?

**Question**: If we are to keep our focus on the cross while telling our story, what is it about our story that should not be our focus? What happens at the cross that is the focus of our testimony?

**Question**: How does realizing we are not the same after becoming new creations in Christ affect our judgement of others? If it has no effect, explain why. If it does, what is the effect?

**Question**: Tristan says we should be willing to wear our scars. The Apostle Paul wore the scars of persecution from beatings and stoning.

**Read**: 2 Corinthians 11:24-33. Also note how Paul suffered under the pressure of not knowing if any in his churches were weak when he was not weak, or were falling into sin without his “intense concern.”

 Do you or people you know have scars or wounds as a result of their testimony for Christ? Are the scars always physical or even visible?

**Facilitator**, read:

*Hast Thou No Scar*

*by Amy Carmichael*

*Hast thou no scar?*

*No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?*

*I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,*

*I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star,*

*Hast thou no scar?*

*Hast thou no wound?*

*Yet, I was wounded by the archers, spent.*

*Leaned me against the tree to die, and rent*

*By ravening beasts that compassed me, I swooned:*

*Hast thou no wound?*

*No wound? No scar?*

*Yet as the Master shall the servant be,*

*And pierced are the feet that follow Me;*

*But thine are whole. Can he have followed far*

*Who has no wound nor scar?*