

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 January 21, 2018

Title: Amazing Love—Romans 5:6-11

Read: Romans 5:6-11

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Review: Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *Amazing Love*, and share what God revealed to you from his message.

Question: We learn from our passage that without Christ we are weak, ungodly, sinners, and enemies of God. Some might agree with a nervous chuckle that they have weaknesses in certain areas, sometimes behave in ungodly ways, and sin occasionally, but draw the line at being God's enemy.

Why can't a person say, "I can ignore God and he can ignore me," and call it a standoff? **Read:** Matthew 12:30

Why is being the enemy of God an "impossible dilemma," as Pastor Peppy calls it?

Is it God who makes us his enemy, or is it us?

Question: Verses 6 and 7 of our passage demonstrate how man's love exceeds God's love. **Read:** John 15:12-14 and note that these "greater love" verses refer to the "friends" of Jesus Christ who do what he commands.

If a person purposely and courageously gives up his life for his friend, as in John 15:12-14, would this be the "compassionate solution" to his "impossible dilemma?"

Is it man's love or God's love that provides the "compassionate solution?" (Acts 4:12)

Question: Look closely at the two "much more[s]" in our text and examine what they teach about salvation. **Read** and discuss: Galatians 2:20; Philipians 1:2; John 11:25; Ephesians 2:1-7.

Is there a difference between "saved from God's wrath" and "saved by his life?" How are we saved by his life?

Question: Time to ask yourself: Do I "rejoice in God through [my] Lord Jesus Christ, through whom [I] have now received reconciliation?"

In what ways do you rejoice in your reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ? **Read:** 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Colossians 1:20-23

Facilitator: We respond in joy as "ambassadors for Christ" by seeking reconciliation with one another and by showing others the way to reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ.