

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 February 4, 2018

Title: The Tale of Two Men—Romans 5:15-21

Read: Romans 5:12-14

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— **13** for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. **14** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.*

***15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. **16** And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. **17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*

***18** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. **19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. **20** Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Review: Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *The Tale of Two Men*, and share what God revealed to you from his message.

Question: Pastor Peppy points out three contrasts between Adam and Jesus: Adam's trespass vs. Christ's free gift; Adam's sin brought condemnation, Christ's death brought justification; and in Adam death reigned, but those who receive Christ reign in life.

In short, quick answers—two words, if possible—brainstorm other contrasts you can think of that are true because of what Christ did for us. See if you can cite Scripture to support your answers. **Facilitator:** ie. hate vs. love, darkness vs. light, etc. For the Scriptures, try searching in Google the contrasting words you come up with (as in *hate vs love in the Bible*) and see what you get.

Question: When God tells us something—as he does in these verses—we can assume he wants us to know it.

Why is it important for us to know how the one sin of one man, Adam, infected the entire human race and how the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounds to all who will receive it?

Question: Citing verses 20 and 21 of our text, Pastor Peppy offered the principle: “In Jesus Christ we have gained so much more than we ever lost in Adam.”

What did we lose in Adam? And how did we lose even more when the law (Ten Commandments) was given? What is the “so much more” that we gain in Jesus Christ?

Question: Pastor Peppy taught us that God gave the Ten Commandments so that we might realize the depth of our own personal sinfulness.

What does knowing the depth of your own personal sinfulness say to each of you about the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness extended to you?

Share with the group your personal thoughts about the grace given to you and where you would be without it.