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 March 18, 2018**

**Title: True Confessions**—Romans 7:14-25 (ESV)

**Read**: Romans 7:14-25

*For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.*

*21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.*

**Review**: Read the notes from Pastor Peppy’s lesson, *True Confessions,* and share what God revealed to you from his message.

**Question**: Some say that our text (Romans 7:14-25) could only describe an unbeliever or a carnal Christian who refuses to yield to the Holy Spirit. Pastor Peppy concludes that the Apostle Paul is describing himself and his own spirit-versus-flesh struggle at the time he wrote this letter to the Romans.

 Discuss from personal experience how this passage makes you feel.

 Does it or does it not describe your struggle as a follower of Jesus?

**Question**: Verse 17, *So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me,* sounds a lot like “the devil made me do it*.”*

Is Paul shirking responsibility for the acts of the flesh? Explain.

 How can we ensure that what we do is done in the spirit and not acts of the flesh?

**Question**: Paul writes in verse 18: *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.*

 If nothing good dwells in the fleshly nature, what about the good deeds people who are not Christians do?

 How would you characterize what everyone would agree is good, but done in the flesh? Is it sin?

**Question**: Paul confesses he serves the Law of God with his mind, but the law of sin with his flesh. It’s the epic civil war raging in each of us.

**Read**: Galatians 5:16-18

 When will the winner in your personal struggle be declared? And how important is the battle?

 Does the struggle itself against the flesh benefit the believer in spirit

 If so, how?

**Question**: When Paul writes in verse 24: *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?* he uses the image of a dead body chained to his. He is deeply distressed, because he wants to serve the Law of God, but the dead body of the flesh prevents him and he serves the law of sin.

**Read**: Romans 7:25 and Romans 8:31-37

 What is it about “Jesus Christ our Lord” that makes him the only one to free us? **Facilitator**: Ask group members to contribute what they have learned in past lessons about justification, salvation and sanctification.