

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read James 1:17-18 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, James 1:17-18**March 30, 2014****Title: God is Good ALL THE TIME**

Read to the group: As parents we all enjoy giving gifts to our children. Maybe it's the new bike on Christmas morning. Even if it's raining and the youngster's still wearing his pajamas, that bike has to go out for a spin. We love it when our children use and enjoy our gifts. But children, by nature, are immature, and before long that bike is on its side, in the rain, and getting rusty. As the adopted children of God, we give our Father in heaven joy when we take pleasure in His gifts—His good and perfect gifts. And as immature children we're prone to abuse or ignore those gifts. As we take a look at the gifts God has for us, let's receive them eagerly, use them joyfully, and treasure them for they were bought at a terrible price.

Question: What are some of your good and perfect gifts from above? This is a time for the group to brainstorm answers.

Question: Keep in mind that some gifts may feel unpleasant, even painful, for the moment, but every gift comes down from the Father of light. How does this reconcile with "God is good all the time, and all the time God is good?"

Question: Why is it important that God never changes?

Question: God's greatest gift, salvation, is offered freely to anyone who will receive it. Why do so few receive it?

Question: Verse 18 says He brought us forth by the word of truth. Which verse or which aspect of Scripture did God use to bring you to Christ?

Question: The firstfruits always belong to God. Verse 18 says we are a kind of firstfruits of God's creatures. What does this say about those of us "He brought forth by the word of truth?"