

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Give a 5-minute review of Peppy's sermon

Facilitator:

Please don't feel you have to cover every question. They become increasingly deeper and more thoughtful toward the end. It may help to highlight questions you want to be sure to cover, depending on the dynamics of your group and the time available. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

Service Opportunities: Operation Christmas Child volunteer sign up is online <http://crossroads-summerville.org/event/2016-11-13-operation-christmas-child-collection/>. Consider helping as a group or having your members each spend an hour whenever they can make it during that week.

Announcements: NEXT STEPS classes November 13, 2016 3-6 pm - Membership, Maturity and Growth, Ministry and Gifts. More information can be found online or by emailing jeremy@crossroads-summerville.org. You can sign up in the Connection Center or on our website <http://crossroads-summerville.org/next-steps/>.

CONNECT Group study questions for October 23, 2016

Title: Perfect Harmony

Read John 14:7-21 *"If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."*

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

For the Children

Question: To whom would you go for help? At school? **Facilitator:** Help kids think about how parents or teachers sometimes “intercede” for them to build an understanding of that word.

Question: Have you ever prayed for God’s help and had Him answer? For example, perhaps He gave you peace when you were afraid or helped you calm down when you were angry.

Question: How did it affect you knowing that God answered your prayer?

For the Group

Question: Pastor Peppy talked about how God the Father is our provider. We aren’t always conscious of the ways God provides in our lives, but the evidence is there.

Can you think back to time a when you saw God provide in your life?

Were you aware of it at that time?

If you were, how did it affect your life in that moment?

Is there a time when God is not providing your needs?

Question: The Holy Spirit has been given as our permanent helper in life. The Bible tells us that he can give us the right words to say in a moment or lead us down the right path when faced with a difficult choice.

Have you ever experienced His divine help in a situation?

How might we go about being more in tune with his leading in our lives?

Question: What does Jesus mean when he says, “*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father?*”

How can we do works greater than the works Jesus did?

Question: When Jesus says, “*Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it,*” it could sound like all we have to do is tell God what we want, follow it up with “in Jesus name,” and will be done.

What does it mean to ask in Jesus’ name?

What does “that the Father may be glorified in the Son” have to do with it?

Question: We learned that the unfinished work of Jesus on our behalf is His intercessory work before the Father. In 1 John 2:1, we see he is our advocate (defense attorney) with the Father.

What’s going on in heaven that we need an attorney to defend us before the judgement bar of God?

Aren’t we secure in our salvation once we believe in and confess Jesus to be our Lord and Savior? Is it possible that our defense attorney could lose our case before the Father?

Question: Pastor Peppy described the work of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in concert with obedient believers as a creation of “perfect harmony.” Yet all too often we hear dissonance (a lack of harmony) coming from the orchestra (the church).

What do we need to do to play out our lives in the right key and hit all the right notes on time? **Facilitator:** Remind the group: Before the concert begins, musicians are warming up and all we hear is dissonance. Then the concert master hits the music stand with his baton and—tap, tap, tap—all eyes are on him and waiting for instruction.

How does practicing their instruments, working together and reading their music sheets correspond to believers in the church?