Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer

2. Welcome any newcomers

3. Read John 4:31-42 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, John 4:31-42**

**April 26, 2015**

**Title: The Lord’s Favorite Meal**

**Read to the group:** Crossroads members from the days when our church was barely outgrowing the living room it met in will remember Bob and Sylvia Crowe. I met Bob and Sylvia at Summerville Baptist Church, where I was a learn-by-doing adult Sunday school teacher and Bob, a Navy chaplain, was in my class. I used to take delight in joking that I was Bob’s Sunday school teacher when in reality Bob, an accomplished Bible teacher, was mentoring me. For a time, we had an agreement that Tuesday nights were set aside for the two of us to sit at his kitchen table and go verse-by-verse through the Book of Hebrews. Some evenings after a day at work I could hardly make myself drive to his house, but when we were done, I left refreshed. Later I learned from Sylvia that when I would call to ask if I could come over, it was all Bob could do to get off the couch and face an evening digging into Hebrews with me. But by the time we finished and I left for home, the cares and frustrations of Bob’s day as a chaplain were gone, she said, and he felt invigorated, eager to face his next day at the base. I think we both found nourishment in accomplishing the task of the evening, which was to keep our weekly agreement and feast on the Word of God. It’s a valuable lesson the Lord taught his disciples—and us in this passage—that body, soul and spirit are connected and interdependent in a way that doing the will of the Father will builds us physically, enriches us mentally, and strengthens us spiritually.

**Question**: Jesus gained great nourishment from doing the will of the Father to the point that he called it his “food.” In this passage they were all hungry, but somehow Jesus was noticeably and physically nourished by the time the disciples returned with food. How do you suppose it happens, that doing God’s will and accomplishing his work becomes a temporary replacement for food? Share with the group an experience you might have had when doing God’s will and accomplishing his work nourished you physically, mentally and/or spiritually.

**Question**: Jesus instilled a sense of urgency in reaching lost souls, an urgency I suspect they didn’t truly grasp until after they were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Through this passage, Jesus instills the same sense of urgency in us. What will it take for us to truly grasp it? **Facilitator**: Lead the group to read Matthew 25:18-20 and Acts 1:8 and ask: How do these verses answer that question?

**Question**: Using a harvest metaphor, Jesus refers to sowers and reapers when it comes to gathering lost souls for his Kingdom. What is the work of a sower and what is the work of a reaper? Was the woman at the well a sower or a reaper? Which are you? In other words, what do you see as your spiritual gift in the work of evangelism? Does being a sower ever keep you from the job of reaping? Or a reaper from ever sowing?

**Question**: At the end of the sermon, Peppy challenged us with three tasks: 1) Invite three lost friends (people you suspect have not put their faith in Jesus Christ) to church next week, 2) Go to our church Facebook page and “like” us and “share” some of the things you see on our Facebook page with your friends, and 3) Do something nice for a neighbor or friend who may not know the Lord. When they ask why you are doing it, tell them the Lord challenged you. Are these tasks sowing or reaping? Or both? How are you doing with them? What response, if any, have you seen?

**Meditation and Prayer**: Revisit Matthew 25:18-20 and Acts 1:8, and take time to read Luke’s account of the birthday of the Christian Church in Acts 2. Pray with me that the Holy Spirit will instill in us a sense of urgency and a spirit of boldness to harvest souls for the Kingdom of God.