

Facilitator:

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

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.

CONNECT Group study questions for January 3—Revelation 2:1-7

Title: A New Beginning

and January 10, 2016—Genesis 5:21-27

Title: Forward March

Read Revelation 2:1-7—*“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’*”

Question: Peppy compared the church at Ephesus to Crossroads: *“...you have abandoned the love you had at first.”* On a personal level discuss what your love for the Lord was like when you first came to faith. Is that love different now? What kinds of things did you do then that you can return to in repentance?

Read Genesis 5:21-27— *When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him. When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech. Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.*

Question: Enoch's claim to fame (Hebrews 11:5-6) was that he "walked with God and was not." On a scale of 1 to 10, with Enoch as a 10, how would you rate your walk with God? What obstacles hinder your walk with God and what have you done or what can you do to overcome these obstacles?

Read Hebrews 11:5-6— *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

Question: Enoch's walk pleased God. What do you suppose characterized Enoch's walk with God? The obvious answer is his enduring faith, but how would that faith influence your behavior, habits, conversation, and lifestyle?

Facilitator: Ask someone to read Hebrews 10:36.

Read Matthew 22:37-39— *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

Question: Is love for God and love for your neighbor (anyone with whom you have contact) the same? Is it different? Compare and contrast these two loves, and examine how they may or may not be related. How should each love be expressed?