

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.

CONNECT Group study questions for September 25, 2016

Title: Fraud Alert!

Read John 13:18-30 *"I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me' (Psalm 41:9). I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."*

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

Children's Questions:

Has a friend ever done something wrong against you? Or have you done something wrong against a friend?

Were you troubled after?

Do you think we get away with sin or does God know our hearts in all we do?

Question: Pastor Peppy listed two reasons the disciples would not have expected Judas as the one to betray Jesus: His name and he was trusted with the money. Can you think of some other reasons Judas would escape suspicion?

Question: Pastor Peppy told us that we may think we are getting away with secret sin, but we aren't. Why is it so easy to forget who God is even though we've seen all that He has done in our lives? **Facilitator:** During the discussion, suggest that living in the flesh and not in the Spirit (Romans 8:5; Galatians 5:16-17) could be a reason. **Followup Question:** We all fall into sin, so what do we do to ensure we don't stay there, living in the flesh?

Facilitator: If possible, play for the group an old song by The Cathedrals: "Sin Will Take You Farther."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7iwxmmf3KU>

Play it again and sing along if you like. Here's a stanza and chorus to consider:

*So with pleasure and promises sin took control
Leaving me dying with nothing to show
Gone were my loved ones and my dearest friends
Only a Savior could love me again*

*Sin will take you farther than you wanna go
Slowly but wholly taking control
Sin will leave you longer than you wanna stay
Sin will cost you far more than you wanna pay*

Question: How is this true about secret sin? Is there a personal example you are willing to share with the group?

Question: Pastor Peppy said betrayal always leads to heartbreak. Heartbreak for whom? The betrayer, or the betrayed? Why was Jesus heartbroken for Judas? Can you see yourself heartbroken for a person who betrayed you?

Question: Pastor Peppy's third point was that we all need to examine ourselves to make sure our faith in Jesus is real. How do we do that? **Facilitator:** Encourage group members to study on their own 2 Corinthians 13:5-8 and the book of 1 John, which concludes with 1 John 5:13: *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life."*

Meditation: We learned, "Just as willing hearts receive Jesus, willing hearts receive Satan." Pray that the Lord will give you strength to resist the temptations of the world and a willing heart to follow Jesus.