

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.

Miscellaneous:

Service Opportunities: Possible Disaster Relief needs, contact Phil Wren. Operation Christmas Child, November 13-21, sign up online.

CONNECT Group study questions for October 16, 2016

Title: What Else is New?

Read John 14:1-6 *“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

For the Children

Question: Think about your friends at school, in your neighborhood, or on your sports team. Many of them have different ideas about heaven and how to get there. What ideas have you heard people talk about?

Question: What does a relationship with Jesus look like? How do we get to know Him? How do we talk to Him?

Question: Imagine your friend at school says to you, “I’m a good kid. I know I’m going to heaven because I’m not that bad.” What would you say to your friend?

For the Group

Question: What makes a good relationship? Think of a relationship with a spouse, or a close friend and try to identify the characteristics or elements of a healthy relationship. **Facilitator:** i.e. transparency, trust, generosity, etc.

Question: Using the elements of a healthy relationship from the previous question, discuss how biblical Christianity as a relationship differs from the five world religions Pastor Peppy listed. Does any religion offer a relationship?

Question: Pastor Peppy summed it up when he said religion is “do” and Christianity is “done.” What did he mean by that? Does that mean as Christians we do nothing—ever, because it has already been done?

Read: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Question: How have you practiced tolerance? Can you share examples from personal experience of tolerance as it used to be? How about tolerance by today’s definition?

Question: What’s wrong with the statement: “No one truth is absolute and all truth is relative?” **Facilitator:** The statement itself is absolute and therefore declares itself to be false. Can you think of two contradictory claims that can both be true?

Read: *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”* (Matthew 11:29-30).

Question: How does the metaphor of a “yoke” differ from the common religious view of getting to heaven? **Facilitator:** By being “yoked” with Christ, we are teamed up with him and with fellow believers on our journey to heaven.

Discussion: Share your thoughts about ways you can tactfully and compassionately confront unbelievers with the hard truth that only Jesus Christ is “...*the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through [him].*”