

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.

Announcements:

A great opportunity to support The Oaks Christian School is coming up! The OCS annual Silent Auction is coming up on Saturday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5 and gets you five food tickets to be used for concessions inside (hot dogs, drinks, popcorn, etc.) while you enjoy the fun, family-friendly, carnival-themed auction.

Also, if you come out early (5pm), KidsRoad is hosting a family fellowship on the yard next to the gym. We'd love for families to come out and decorate a pumpkin together, enjoy some tasty fall treats, hear a devotion shared by the preschool and children's directors on "Cultivating Thankfulness in Your Kids," and just play with other families! After the time of fellowship, we will offer additional kids activities for parents wanting to go shop the silent auction. If you register online at crossroads-summerville.org and bring a Thanksgiving canned food side item, KidsRoad will supply a pumpkin for your family to decorate!

CONNECT Group study questions for October 30, 2016

Title: Portrait of a Christian

Read John 14:21-31 *"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." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.*

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all

things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here."

For the Children

Question: How does obeying your parents show that you love them?

Have you ever had someone you love go away on a long journey?

How did you feel while they were away?

What about when they returned?

Do you ever imagine what it will be like when Jesus returns for His people?

For the Group

Question: Portrait masters through the ages have tried to capture that perfect image of our Lord even though they never saw him, and those who did see him didn't paint a portrait of him.

What do you think Jesus looked like?

When we compose an image of Jesus in our minds, do we think of a typical 1st Century Middle Eastern Jewish man, or do we think more about what we know of his character and life mission?

Do we have any Scripture passages to give us a clue of what he looked like? **Facilitator:** *"For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him"* (Isaiah 53:2).

Question: Our John 14: 21-31 Scripture passage paints a portrait of us as Jesus wants us to be. It's a portrait of obedience, wisdom, peace, and expectancy. With your facilitator's help, review Scripture passages to discuss the four features of a Christian's portrait. **Facilitator:** Obedience—John 14:21-25, John 13:34-35. Wisdom—John 14:26, James 1:5. Peace—John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-7. Expectancy—John 14:28-29, Titus 2:11-14.

Question: Pastor Peppy shows us from Scripture that Jesus repeatedly commands us to love him by loving one another, as if such love is difficult or unnatural.

If love for one another is a difficult command to obey, what makes it possible for us to obey it? **Facilitator:** 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a tells us what love is, and Romans 5:5 tells where love comes from.

What do you suppose hinders us from loving one another?

Question: It's remarkable how little the disciples understood what Jesus was teaching them while he was with them, but how clearly they recalled and understood once they had the Holy Spirit to teach them.

Share with the group how the wisdom of God becomes more understandable once we come to faith in Jesus Christ and have the Holy Spirit to teach us.

Question: Describe the peace we have in Jesus.

How is this different from the peace the world promises? **Facilitator:** Jeremiah 6:14 describes worldly peace as a Band Aid on a serious wound, and in Ezekiel 13:10 it's a flimsy wall painted with whitewash to make it look strong.

In what way/s are the Jeremiah and Ezekiel passages your facilitator just cited relevant in today's world events?

Question: Twice in John 14 (verses 2-3 and 27-29) Jesus follows "Let not your hearts be troubled" with reason to rejoice as we live under "the ruler of this world."

Given this portrait of expectancy, as Pastor Peppy puts it, describe how we should live. **Facilitator:** Suggest words like love, joy, contentment, anticipation, courage, and fearlessness.