

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:**

PROCLAIM Christmas Outreach: Bring a friend for PROCLAIM's presentation of "When Love Came Down" on Friday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. Cookies and cocoa to follow!

Church-wide Caroling: Come out to the CCC campus at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 18 with your family and help us spread the love and joy of Christ's birth to the neighborhoods surrounding Crossroads!

### **CONNECT Group study questions for December 4, 2016**

#### **Title: A Bunch of Grasshoppers**

**Read** James 2:1-13 *My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?*

*If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiali-*

*ty, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

### **Children's Questions:**

What are the first things you notice about a person the first time you meet them?

Share a time you saw someone treated better than others because of their appearance or outward abilities. Then share a time you saw someone treated worse than others because of how they looked, dressed, or because of a disability they had.

Think about your classmates or neighbors. Do you know anyone who needs to be shown mercy and compassion? What are some ways that you can share Jesus' mercy with them? (**Facilitator:** Encourage kids not to stop at "talking to them about Jesus," but also showing Jesus' mercy with caring and compassionate acts, like choosing to eat lunch with the classmate no one else likes.)

### **Group**

**Question:** Pastor Peppy quoted from the Gettysburg Address, Dr. Martin Luther King's "*I Have a Dream*" speech, and The Declaration of Independence to demonstrate all men are created equal.

What does "all men are created equal" really mean? In what ways are we not all equal? In what ways are we all equal? **Facilitator:** Guide the group through the four crucial (absolute) truths Peppy listed for us: All are equally created (Genesis 1:26-27); equally loved by God (John 3:16); equally stained by sin; and equally able to be saved from the consequences of sin (Romans 6:23).

**Question:** Our DNA says each of us is different from anyone else. Yet, we are created equal. How can both be true?

**Question:** The early Christian Church dealt with favoritism in society—rich, poor, slave, free, gentiles, Jews.

How does favoritism show up in today's society? How should we as a local church deal with favoritism? How should we, as individuals, deal with favoritism among people we associate with?

**Question:** What profound truth about God's perspective regarding people do we learn from the prophet Samuel in 1 Samuel 16:7?

**Question:** James exhorts us to *"...speak and act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty."*

What is the "law of liberty," and how does this relate to the gospel of Christ? Consider "the law of liberty" in context (*If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment*), and discuss how this determines how we should speak and act.