

Facilitator:

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions for January 8, 2017

Title: The Main Thing, Better

Miscellaneous:

-Remember to announce the Marriage to Cherish January 21st.

-A training will be offered on the morning of January 28 for anyone interested in being a buddy for a child or youth with special needs. We want to make it easier and more inviting for individuals of all ages to participate in worship and Bible learning with their peers, and sometimes they just need a friendly face by their side. No prior experience required, but compassion, flexibility, and a willingness to serve are essential! Details on training to follow. If interested, please email Christine Young at christine@crossroads-summerville.org

Children:

Do you know Christ? If so, share with me about what it is like to know Him.

What evidence would someone else see in your life that you are a follower of Jesus? (Facilitator: encourage kids to be specific and guide the discussion to characteristics of a mature believer-worship, obedience, service, fellowship, acts of kindness, verbal witness, etc.)

What are some different ways you could you help someone else become a follower of Jesus? (At home, in your neighborhood, at school, in another country)

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowl-

edge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Hast Thou No Scar
by Amy Carmichael

Hast thou no scar?
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,
I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star,
Hast thou no scar?

Hast thou no wound?
Yet, I was wounded by the archers, spent.
Leaned me against the tree to die, and rent
By ravening beasts that compassed me, I swooned:
Hast thou no wound?
No wound? No scar?

Yet as the Master shall the servant be,
And pierced are the feet that follow Me;
But thine are whole. Can he have followed far
Who has no wound nor scar?

Question: Pastor Peppy exhorts us: *“The Main Thing is to Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing.”*

What is “The Main Thing?” **Facilitator:** Introduce the group to the Crossroads purpose statement: *“To Know Christ and Make Him Known Together.”*

Question: Compare the Crossroads purpose statement with Jesus’ commands in Matthew 28:19-20.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to ob-

serve all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

and with Jesus’ statement in Acts 1:8

“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Question: The circles diagram of discipleship Pastor Peppy used began with the “Clueless” on the outside perimeter, then the “Curious,” the “Convinced,” the “Committed,” and the “Core” in the center.

Discuss ways to move the clueless to become curious, the curious to become convinced, the convinced to become committed, and the committed to become part of the core.

Question: What are the characteristics that best describe each of the five categories? What about you? Are you clueless, curious, convinced, committed, or among the core?

Question: What are the scars Amy Carmichael refers to in her poem? As we move from clueless to core, at what point in our journey as disciples are we most likely to be wounded and scarred? **Facilitator:** It seems to me somewhere between convinced and committed the scars of spiritual battle should begin to show.

Question: What scars can you show from the wounds of spiritual battle? Keep in mind, a scar is a sign of healing and is a testimony to God’s faithfulness. This is a time to brag about the power of God to heal the wounded soul.