

Facilitator:

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

Facilitator: Encourage your members to **BRING THEIR BIBLES** and use them during Connect Group.

CONNECT Group study questions for January 7, 2018

Title: Questions Most Asked of Pastors—Select Scripture passages

Review: The lesson scheduled for Sunday, January 7, was postponed due to weather conditions. In its place, Pastor Peppy took time to answer questions he is frequently asked as a pastor, counselor and Bible teacher. Discuss the questions and Scripture passages he cited.

Question: What is the rapture, and when will it take place?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

(Verse 16 uses the words “caught up,” rendered in Latin as “rapturo” and translated “rapture” in English.)

Given the suddenness with which the rapture will occur and that no prophecy needs to be fulfilled before it occurs, what should we as Christians be doing as we wait? **Facilitator:** The Apostle Paul wrote these words to inform and encourage the church at Thessalonica. The clear message to us is “Be Prepared.” Ask your group to list what “be prepared” entails.

Question: What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Read: Ephesians 5:18-20

What are the comparisons and contrasts of drunkenness and Holy Spirit filling?

According to the Scripture, how do Spirit-filled believers behave when they are alone? When they are among other believers? When they are at home with the family? **Facilitator:** Acts 17:28 describes what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Question: How do I know God’s will for my life?

Read: 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Ephesians 5:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 1 Peter 2:13-15; Philippians 1:29; Romans 12:1-2

Pastor Peppy cited these verses as boundary markers (I like to think of them as channel buoys) within which we can know we are in the will of God. Outside those markers we risk disaster.

Discuss the passages as if each one is bumping you toward the center of God's will in your walk as a Christian.

What do these Scripture passages say about who to marry, whether or where to go to college, what job opportunity to pick, whether to go to a movie or a dance? **Facilitator:** We may want God to make specific choices for us, but his way is to guide us by principles in the Word of God as we walk by faith.

Question: How far is too far in a dating relationship?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6

What is the context in these verses? **Facilitator:** Personal sanctification by abstaining from sexual immorality.

What does it mean to "transgress and wrong [a] brother [or sister]" with regards to "*the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God?*" Have you observed anything like this in the world we live in? In current events?