

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 February 18, 2018**

**Title: Don't Knock Yourself Out—Romans 6:8-18 (ESV)**

**Read:** Romans 6:8-18

*Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

*12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

*15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

**Review:** Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *Don't Knock Yourself Out*, and share what God revealed to you from his message.

**Question:** Pastor Peppy taught us the "Victory Principle," spelled out in verses 8-10 of our text—that our victory over sin has already been secured.

Why is it so important that we come to grips with the reality that the Christian's victory over sin has been secured?

**Question:** Okay, I'm dead to sin. I bank on it. I can even say: "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.*" (Galatians 2:20a).

If the sin in me is dead, why do I have to keep killing it?

**Read in pairs:** 1 John 3:9 and 1 John 1:8; Romans 6:6 and Romans 6:11-12; Colossians 3:3 and Colossians 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23 and 1 Peter 2:1-2

**Question:** By reading the Scriptures above in pairs—one against the other, what can we learn about God's way of making our victory over sin a reality?

Why does God tell us the victory is already secured, but then tell us to fight to win it?

**Question:** Pastor Peppy's second of three exhortations: Stop allowing sin to reign supreme in your life, highlights the words "reign supreme," implying a change in the authority that controls you. **Read** the Scripture Pastor Peppy uses to show how we *stop allowing sin to reign supreme*: Genesis 4:6-7 and John 8:34.

In Genesis 4:7, God warns Cain that sin was crouching at the door. What does that mean and why is it so important that Cain win the battle over sin at this point?

**Read:** Psalm 19:13; Psalm 119:33;

How important is prayer in not allowing sin to reign supreme? Can you cite any other psalms that teach us what to pray? **Facilitator:** Psalm 139:23-24 is another.

**Read** the Scriptures from Pastor Peppy's third exhortation, concerning yielding parts of our body to the Lord: Colossians 3:2-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Job 31:1; Proverbs 18:8; Proverbs 13:3; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Psalm 37:31; 1 Corinthians 6:12.

**Question:** Why is yielding parts of our body to the Lord so important.

**Question:** In verse 13 of our text in Romans 6, the word “instruments” can be translated “weapons,” exhorting us to not use the members of our body as “weapons of unrighteousness,” but as “weapons of righteousness.”

If we use our body parts (members) as implements of war to conquer sin, what use does each piece of armor in Ephesians 6:10-20 have to do with the parts of the body Pastor Peppy listed in his third exhortation? **Facilitator:** Point out both the offensive and defensive nature of the battle for victory over sin.