

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 25, 2018

Title: Whose Slave Are You?—Romans 6:15-23 (ESV)

Read: Romans 6:15-23

*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. **19** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. **20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **22** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Review: Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *Whose Slave Are You?* and share what God revealed to you from his message.

Question: Describe the freedom you have in Christ in terms of what you can do, can't do, want to do, don't want to do, and used to do but no longer do. **Read:** James 4:17; Romans 14:22; Galatians 5:13-24

Would you describe this freedom as slavery to righteousness?

Question: When you identify as a Christian, more specifically as a follower of Jesus Christ, people have certain preconceptions of you—things they think you're supposed to do, but mostly things they think you're not supposed to do.

How do you respond when they say they say living like you do is restrictive and and not free?

Question: How would you respond if they pointed out something you were doing that you knew was not sinful, but they thought it was?

Question: We learned that sin leads to death. A lie needs another lie to cover it, and then another and another. Immorality beckons again and again until what was once sweet and exciting becomes a bitter poison. As slaves to righteousness, we experience an edification (building up) for sanctification and eternal life, not destruction and death.

What is the fruit the Apostle Paul wrote about in Romans 6:22?

Read: Galatians 5:22-24

Question: Name the fruit or fruits in each of the following verses that edify (build up) toward righteousness, sanctification and holiness: Romans 14:19; Romans 15:2; 1 Corinthians 8:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and Ephesians 4:15-16. **Facilitator:** Encourage members to add other verses that speak of edifying, building up, encouraging, strengthening one another in the Spirit.

Question: Those of us who have followed the “Roman Road” to salvation (verses in the Book of Romans leading to salvation by faith in Jesus Christ) are familiar with verse 23.

From personal experience, explain how the “gift of God” not only justifies, but keeps on giving toward righteousness, sanctification, holiness, and ultimately eternal life.