

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 April 8, 2018

Title: Breaking Free—Romans 8:1-4 (NASB)

Read: Romans 8:1-4

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Review: Read the notes from Pastor Peppy's lesson, *Breaking Free*, and share what God revealed to you from his message.

Facilitator: Group members may have their own questions or have difficulty understanding the Scripture passages we are studying. Encourage them to jot down their queries and submit them to you. If you send them to me by return email, I'll see they receive a response from Pastor Peppy or an elder.

Question: For those in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation, but all men and women outside of Christ Jesus live under the condemnation of God.

What is life like for those who are condemned, even if they don't realize or believe they are condemned?

What is life like for those of you who are not condemned? **Facilitator:** Have the group brainstorm for the practical differences in the way they act, think, feel, respond to situations, etc.

Question: What role did knowing you were condemned under the “law of sin and death” play in bringing you to faith in Christ Jesus? Briefly share your faith experience with the group.

Question: Pastor Peppy talked about the four sources of condemnation that can lead us to negative thoughts, doubts, and even depression. **Read and discuss:** Romans 14:22-23.

To which of the four sources of condemnation are these verses referring?

The context is eating and drinking, but is there a broader application, and if so, what is it?

What does “...he who doubts is condemned” mean, and how does this fit with the “law of sin and death” and the “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus?”

Question: We hear a lot about “Christ in me,” but Pastor Peppy pointed out from our Scripture passage that we are also “in Christ Jesus.” Review the Scriptures from Ephesians 1 and 2 that give us some insight to what it means to be “in Christ.” The verses are: Ephesians 1:4, 7, 11, 13, and Ephesians 2:6 and 10.

In what ways do these “in Christ Jesus” verses relate to each of you personally?

Read: Romans 13:11-14.

Question: We’ve learned that we are “in Christ Jesus,” but Romans 13:14 tells us to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Is this command to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” something you do, something you believe, or is it both?

Can you find in these verses the solution to overcoming feelings of condemnation? What is it?