**CONNECTION GUIDE**

**A Sojourner’s Guide**

1 Peter 1:1-2

**Connection Leader:** The passages below are provided to expand on the concepts presented in the Pastor’s message on Sunday. I encourage you to read them and familiarize yourself with the concepts prior to class. There are many ways to use these passages during your group time. Here are two suggestions:

1. Read the passages together, and choose one of them to discuss as a group.
2. Divide into teams of two or three and assign one passage to each team. Allow time for them to discuss the passage, and then come back together to present your discoveries to the larger group.

There are four topics to discuss, and it will be difficult to cover all four areas thoroughly. I encourage you to focus on the areas that appeal to your group in particular. Take a cursory look at some passages while going deeper into the discussion questions of others. Allow the Holy Spirit to be your guide in this matter and follow where He leads. Encourage your group to use these passages and questions to continue pursuing God during the week.

**Sojourner - A Temporary Resident, a Stranger, or a Traveler**

Ephesians 2:17-22; 1 John 3:1-3, 1 Peter 2:11-17

As a Christian, you are a member of the household of Heaven; and therefore, a sojourner here on the earth. Choose one or more of the following questions to discuss with your group:

1. What are the traits or identifying characteristics of a person who abides in Christ while sojourning here on earth?
2. Of the characteristics presented, which do you struggle with most?

**Chosen**

John 15:11-16, 1 Peter 2:10, Ephesians 1:3-14

As human beings, we all have a powerful need to belong; and in these passages, God very clearly meets that need. God chose you. You are His child, and He is very serious about the work He wants to do in you. Because He has chosen you, He will be faithful to finish what He started in you. Choose one or more of the following questions to discuss with your group:

1. How does the fact that you are chosen affect your behavior as you go about your day? How does it affect your outlook?
2. How does this fact affect your desire to pursue a personal relationship with God?
3. How does this fact affect your desire to be obedient to Him?

**Sanctified - Set Apart for a Holy Use**

Philippians 2:12-15, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, 2 Peter 1:3-8

Sanctification is a work the Holy Spirit does in you, but it requires your participation. It is a purifying work that sets you apart from the world and distinguishes you as His child. Choose one or more of the following questions to discuss with your group:

1. Since your salvation, what is one significant change that God has produced in you as a result of His sanctifying work?
2. In what area of your life is God currently challenging you with the knowledge of needed change?
3. As God purifies you through sanctification, He is preparing you for a particular purpose. How is God preparing you, and what is your purpose?

**Set Apart for the Purpose of Obedience**

John 14:19-26, James 1:19-25, Romans 6:16-23

Obedience is the result of God’s sanctifying work. It is the evidence of your status as a sojourner. Choose one or more of the following questions to discuss with your group:

1. How does your obedience mark you or identify you as a child of God?
2. In what area of your life does God desire a greater obedience?
3. How is the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit producing a desire in you for greater obedience?