



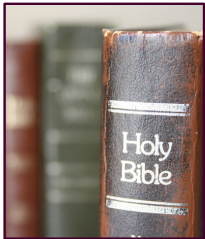
October 6, 2019

Connection Resource

A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 1:17-21

Connection Leader: The passages of Scripture 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 content prior to class.



This week, discover the value of reading the Bible in more than one translation. Every translation has a purpose, and each one provides perspective and clarity on the original language. Comparing translations allows you to understand ancient thoughts in the richness of the English language. For detailed information about different translations, see your Connection Resource, "Understanding and Choosing a Translation of the Bible." Here are three online resources that provide free access to all translations of the Bible: blueletterbible.org, youversion.com, and biblegateway.com.

There are three topics to discover and discuss with your group this week. It will be difficult to cover all of them thoroughly, so I encourage you to focus on the areas that appeal or apply to your group in particular. Take a cursory look at some passages while going deeper into other's. Allow the Holy Spirit to be your guide in this matter and follow where He leads. Encourage your group to use the **Bible Study Resource** to continue pursuing God during the week.

*"... conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your temporary residence"
(1 Peter 1:17b, HCSB).*

Peter instructs us, as sojourners, to approach God with reverence and address Him with fear. What does this attitude look like in your life? How do you conduct yourself in the fear of the Lord? Let's examine two encounters and discover the value of relating to God in an attitude of reverent fear.

Paul Encounters God Our Father 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Read the passage together in a word for word translation. Read it again in a thought for thought translation. Read it a third time in the Living Bible (paraphrase). Discuss together how the three different translations enhance your understanding of this difficult passage. Then consider the following questions:

1. What special blessing does Paul received from God?
 - a. What special blessings do you receive from God?
2. What is the purpose of Paul's thorn in the flesh?
 - a. Has God given you a thorn in the flesh? What is this thorn producing in you?
3. How does a negative answer from God produce a positive result in Paul's life?
 - a. Do you allow God's negative answers to produce greater faith and reliance on Him?
 - b. How are you making peace with the difficulties in your life God has chosen to not remove? How are you finding glory in those difficulties?

(continued on the back)

Read **Galatians 4:4-7** and **2 Corinthians 7:1**, then consider the following questions:

1. How does the Spirit of God confirm to you that you are His child and He is your Father?
2. How does your position as God's child impact your ability to follow through with the command in 2 Corinthians?
3. How does a healthy fear of the Lord impact your desire and your ability to obey?

Isaiah Encounters God Our Judge

Isaiah 6:1-8

Read the passage in your favorite translation, and consider the following questions:

1. How does a vivid glimpse of God in all His glory impact Isaiah's perspective on his situation as a servant? How does it impact his obedience?
 - a. How do your vivid encounters with God impact your perspective and your obedience?
2. Describe Isaiah's fear of the Lord in common, everyday language.
 - a. How does the fear of the Lord in your life compare to Isaiah's example?
3. Consider Isaiah's offer of unconditional obedience in Isaiah 6. What would have to be different in your relationship with the Lord in order for you to genuinely and wholeheartedly make a similar commitment?

Read **Psalms 86:8-11** in a word for word translation. Invite several people to read verse 11 aloud from different translations. Read it in the NLT, NCV, NET, GNT, TLB, and MSG). Then consider the following questions:

1. How do the different translations enrich your understanding of what it means to fear the Lord?
2. How is God challenging you regarding your attitude as you address Him and encounter Him?

How Do You Encounter God?

Other than church on Sunday morning, how do you encounter God during the week? How do you incorporate prayer, worship, and Bible study into your daily lifestyle?

Read **Philippians 2:5-16** in your favorite translation. Then consider the following questions:

1. By Jesus' example, how should we conduct ourselves in the fear of the Lord?
2. What does Jesus surrender in order to live in an attitude of fear toward the Father?

Allow a quiet moment for your group members to consider how God is leading them. How is God challenging them regarding their attitude and their actions as they live each day in the presence of the Lord? How is He challenging them to have a disciplined pursuit of Him?

Read **Psalms 25:12-15** and **Psalms 34:7-11**. Then consider the following questions:

1. How does God respond to an attitude of reverent fear in His children?
2. How might an attitude of reverent fear impact your current relationship with the Lord?