



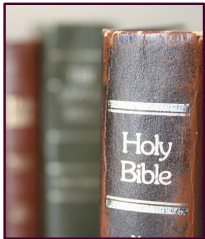
Connection Resource

October 13, 2019

A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 1:22 thru 2:3

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.

Purifying the Soul

As sojourners, Peter encourages us in the pursuit of personal holiness. This pursuit is a command that requires an active choice on our part, to lay down what is impure in order to pursue what is holy. Pursuing holiness is a personal journey of obedience to God.

Psalm 19:7-14, James 4:7-10, Romans 13:11-14

Read the passages together in a word for word translation, and again in a thought for thought translation. Then discuss the following questions:

1. When God reveals sin in your life, how do you avoid turning away in opposition? How do you develop an ear to hear the conviction of the Holy Spirit?
2. What is the difference between confession and repentance? How do you move from confession to genuine repentance?
3. What do you do when repentance comes with resentment? How do you acquire God's perspective on your sin?
4. How do you deal with hard-heartedness toward sin? How do you develop a compliant heart to the leading of the Holy Spirit?

Maintaining the Purified Soul

After honestly dealing with sin, it's time to take the next step of maintaining a purified soul. This ongoing maintenance requires diligence, vigilance, and endurance. You must be diligent to feed on the Word of truth, be vigilant to discern the schemes of the Devil, and have endurance to face trials and temptation.

Proverbs 4:20-27, James 1:4-5, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Read the passages together in a word for word translation, and again in a thought for thought translation. Then break into smaller groups and discuss the following questions:

1. What do you do on a daily basis to feed your soul?
2. What do you do to guard your heart?
3. How do you maintain control your words?
4. How do you keep your gaze fixed on God as you walk in the world?
5. How do you keep your way straight as you face trials and temptation?

If time allows, come back together as a large group and compare answers.

Evidence of the Purified Soul

A purified soul produces distinctive evidence in at least three areas of life: a deep and growing love for other Christians, an earnest desire for God's Word, and a deepening personal relationship with Him. As a group, read the following passages and discuss the following questions:

1 John 4:7-20, 1 John 3:16

1. How do you reflect the love of God to others?
2. How do you respond to opportunities to demonstrate love?
3. How do you respond to Christians who are hard to love?

Matthew 5:6, Psalm 119:9-20, Psalm 119:129-133

1. How do you cultivate a deepening desire for the Word of God?
2. How do you develop a consistent practice of studying the Word?
3. How do you balance a busy schedule with your need to be in the Word?

John 15:1-17, Psalm 27:1-14

1. How do you cultivate a deepening relationship with the Lord?
2. How do you seek His presence in your daily life?
3. How has your relationship with God changed over the last week, the last month, and the last year?

Have members of the group quietly reflect on their own personal evidence of a purified soul. How is God challenging them, and how will they respond in the coming days?