



December 1, 2019

# Connection Resource

## A Sojourners Guide

1 Peter 3:1-12

**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. There are many ways to use these passages during your group time. Here's a suggestion:



BLUE LETTER BIBLE

The Blue Letter Bible is an online resource that provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of the Bible. It can be accessed online at [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org), or through a convenient App that is free on the App Store. With Blue Letter Bible, you can dig deep into the Word using the Lexicon (to examine words in the original language), Concordance (to examine other related verses), encyclopedias, commentaries, maps, and much more. (See the BLB handout for specific instructions).

There are four topics to discover and discuss with your group. 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** located at <https://trinitybible.com/resources/sermon-resources/> to continue pursuing God during the week.

### Living Satisfied

Before introducing the passages, start the discussion with a question: How would you finish this sentence? "The one who desires life, who wants to love others and to see good days must..."

**Ecclesiastes 2:24, 1 Timothy 6:17, Psalm 118:24, 1 Peter 3:10-12**

We are sojourners, just passing through; but God intends for us to enjoy this life, love others well, and see many good days here on earth. When you are walking through difficult valleys of suffering or loss, it is helpful to remember this truth. Consider the passages above and discuss together how you find satisfaction in your walk with the Lord.

## Keep Your Tongue from Evil and Your Lips from Speaking Deceit

Matthew 15:8-11

One of the most difficult tasks we are given as Christians is to control our words. The thought in your mind may seem perfect for the situation, but the words that follow may so easily tear down the relationship you are trying to build. As you consider this truth, divide into three groups and assign the passages below.

1. **James 3:2-10** - Discover the difficulty of controlling the tongue.
2. **Matthew 12:33-37** - Discover the underlying issues that contribute to the difficulty.
3. **Proverbs 12:14-23** - Discover the destiny of those who do and who do not control their words.

Come back together and discuss what you have learned. Then read the following passages together and discover how godly men and women are able to do what James says is virtually impossible.

Proverbs 21:23, Ephesians 4:29, Psalm 141:3,

## Turn Away from Evil and Do Good

Return to the three small groups and assign the passages below. Consider the instructions for turning away from evil and toward good, and discover the reward for our efforts.

1. **Proverbs 4:20-27**
2. **Proverbs 3:1-7**
3. **2 Timothy 2:22-26**

Discuss your discoveries together in the large group. How do you turn away from evil and turn toward good in your everyday life? What are your practical strategies?

## Seek Peace and Pursue It

Read the three passages below and use the BLB to discover the definitions of key words in the original language. If your time is short, focus on the words that are in **bold** and move on to the others if time permits.

1. **James 3:13-18** - Discover the definitions in BLB for words such as deeds, **selfish ambition**, wisdom, **evil things**, fruits, and pure.
2. **Philippians 4:4-7** - Discover definitions in BLB for words such as rejoice, gentle, supplication, **comprehension**, **hearts**, and **minds**.
3. **Isaiah 26:3-4**, **Galatians 5:22** - Discover definitions in BLB for the word **peace** in each of the passages.

The acquisition of peace is the result of a very purposeful battle of the heart and mind as you pursue the Lord. Colossians 3:15 reveals that we must allow the peace of Christ to rule our heart. We must allow His peace to have control in our mind. You must set peace before you as a goal, and then pursue it, because it does not come naturally. How do you pursue peace in your daily life? What are your practical strategies?