



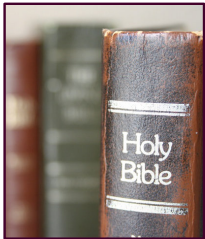
November 3, 2019

Connection Resource

A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 2:11-12

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.



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.

*"...they may see your good deeds and glorify God when He appears."
1 Peter 2:12b, NET*

As sojourners, Peter reminds us in this passage that there is more than one reason to pursue personal holiness. We are to be holy because God is holy (1 Peter 1:15), but there is another important reason: Someone is watching you. Someone is listening to you. Someone's eternity hangs in the balance, and your actions may hold the key. Will that person see God in you and believe, allowing them to glorify Jesus when He returns?

Abstain

1 Peter 2:11, Galatians 5:16-17, 2 Timothy 2:22, 1 Corinthians 10:13

The Bible teaches that there is a spiritual battle out there, but it is a war in here - a war of the flesh. Your instructions for this internal war are very clear. You don't engage, you abstain. You are to be holy according to the example of your holy God. And in this effort you have some important instructions. Divide into four groups and assign a passage to each. Then discuss the following questions regarding that passage:

1. What strategies do you find in the passage for waging the war of the flesh?
2. Give a practical example of this strategy at work in your daily life.
3. Take a moment to allow this example to inspire you in your own daily struggle with the flesh. Think outside the box and see what other ideas you can generate together for waging this war.

Share your results with the larger group.

A Matter of the Mind and Heart

Daniel 1:1-8

In Daniel we find a powerful example of the fleshly war and a passionate advocate for personal holiness. As a young teen, Daniel observes the decadence of the King's court and makes a personal decision - a decision that could very well place him on dangerous ground in a foreign land.

Read Daniel 1:1-8 together in the NASB, then assign four people to read Daniel 1:8 from each of the following translations: NKJV, ESV, NIV, and NLT. Then discuss the following questions together:

1. How does each translation provide clarity in how to abstain from fleshly desires?
2. How is a decision of the heart different from a decision of the mind?
3. How and when do you go about making decisions regarding your fleshly war?

A Perfect Example (Flee and Pursue)

1 Peter 2:12, 2 Timothy 2:22, Psalm 1:1-3

In our culture today, words are often divisive and offensive; but notice that your instruction isn't to win them with your words. Your instruction is to win them with your behavior. Fleeing fleshly desire is a distinctive behavior. So is pursuing righteousness. Read the passages together and discuss the the wisdom and instruction of these Scriptures.

Assign five people to look up 1 Peter 2:12 in the following translations: KJV, NKJV, NASB, NIV, and NLT. Consider the different ways we are instructed in the first phrase of this verse. Then compare those instructions to Psalm 1:1-3 and discuss the following questions:

1. When your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances observe you, what do they see? Do they see love, joy, and hope; or do they see an all too familiar worldly attitude?
2. Are your behaviors viewed as instructive or judgmental by your unsaved friends?
3. How is your behavior different from that of the world?
4. What do people see in you that attracts them to Jesus?
5. How do your behaviors invite conversations about Jesus?