

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of December 13, 2015

1 Peter 1:8-9

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### **New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. <sup>9</sup> The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

### **Connection Questions:**

1. The motif of self-sacrifice is a popular one in motion pictures. What examples can you think of?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. When did you deny yourself something to which you were entitled (and perhaps to which you were looking forward)? What was the payoff?

3. Read Romans 12:10. Describe practical examples of this mandate by Paul to first century Christians (and now to us).
  
4. Jesus put aside his rights and privileges in order to give us a life which we could not earn. Read Philippians 2:3-8; what words stand out to you in this scripture? Apostle Paul describes the self-effacing love Jesus demonstrated in coming to our needy world. How is this type of love illustrated in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life"?
  
5. Jesus did not only demonstrate self-sacrifice, he demanded that those of us who consider ourselves his disciples actually follow his lead. As he neared the end of his earthly ministry, Jesus told his followers a definition of love. Read John 15:12-13. Discuss what these instructions mean to you.
  
6. Why is the movie entitled "It's a Wonderful Life"? According to the movie, what makes life wonderful? What do YOU think makes life wonderful? What does scripture say about what makes a wonderful life?