

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 5, 2009

Passage: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 2:11-12

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Peter 1.** Read through this chapter. Mark every time the word grace, glory or hope appears. What does Peter want his readers to understand about God's grace?
- (b) What kind of hope does Peter say we have? What is that hope based upon? What if it was not based on this but on our own efforts?
- (c) What two kinds of glory are mentioned in chapter one? What does the Word of God say about the glory of man? How does the glory that we receive through Jesus differ (1 Peter 1:7-8)?
- (d) Who was Peter writing to? What three terms does he use to describe them in verses 1-2? What is the basis of their election (vs. 2)? What is the outcome of their election (vs. 2)?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 Peter 1:3-12. What kinds of problems were these Christians facing? How would knowing *who* they are in Christ help them to face this? What does he mean by testing their faith by fire? Pray for Christians around the world who are suffering persecution for their faith.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Peter 2.** Read through this chapter. Make a list of the different terms that Peter uses to describe believers in this chapter (vv. 2, 5, 9, 11). Why does he choose these terms? Which term best expresses how you feel as a believer trying to live for Christ today?
- (b) How are believers to grow in Christ? What has God given us to help us to grow?
- (c) How are Christians supposed to act in this world (vv. 11-12)? Why? What does he call believers in verse 11? Compare this with 1 Peter 1:1-2.
- (d) Who does Peter point us to as an example when we suffer? What are some of the things that we can learn from the sufferings of Jesus?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 Peter 2:15-25. What is God's will for believers in all situations? How can the example of Jesus help us in difficult times? What difficulties are you facing right now? Take some time to pray together for these difficulties.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Peter 3.** Read through this chapter. What areas of submission to others are mentioned in this chapter? How does a heart attitude of submission provide a positive witness for Christ?
- (b) What advice does Peter give to wives who are married to non-believers? How would this fit under the theme of suffering for God's glory?
- (c) How does having a heart of submission help in a marriage relationship? Is this a mutual submission or just submission by the wife? What are the reasons Peter gives to husbands for treating their wives rightly?
- (d) What does Peter tell us about handling conflict in the Body of Christ? What tends to get us all into trouble (1 Peter 3:10; James 3:1-10)? How can our response affect our witness (1 Peter 3:15)?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1 Peter 3:8-16. What is the right way to respond to those who treat you badly? How do you usually respond? Does this include family members? Ask the Lord to help you to respond rightly to one another this week?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Peter 4.** How should we respond when others offend us? What does it mean "love covers all offenses"?
- (b) What does Peter say about spiritual gifts in 1 Peter 4:10-11? Do all have the same gifts? How should we use our gifts?
- (c) Are suffering and persecution normal for believers (1 Peter 4:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 3:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:12)? Why should we rejoice when we suffer as Christians?
- (d) How is the glory of God revealed in our suffering rightly?

(e) *Family*: Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. Talk about the various types of sufferings that believers face? How does Peter tell us to handle them? Who are some believers you know that are suffering? Pray for them today.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Peter 5.** How does Peter address the elders of these churches? Summarize the attitude that elders are to have.

(b) How is the theme of submission also found in this chapter? Who should have this attitude? Ultimately all submission should be to God alone. Where is this teaching found in this chapter?

(c) Who is carrying this letter to these Christians? Where else have we seen this person (Acts 15:22; Acts 15:32; Acts 15:36-41)? What does this tell you about the relationship between Peter and Paul in their ministries?

(d) Where does Peter say he is writing from (1 Peter 5:13)? Is this the actual city or does it represent something (Revelation 17:5; Revelation 18:10)?

(e) Find the words, grace and glory in this chapter. Summarize what these words should mean to believers in suffering.

(f) *Family*: Read 1 Peter 5:5-10. What are we told to do with all our cares? Why should we do this? What is the devil seeking to do to us through the struggles and sufferings we experience? Pray that you might be able to stand firm against all that the enemy throws at you this week.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. What does it mean to be a pilgrim and a stranger? In what ways are Christians pilgrims and strangers in this world? How is our response to suffering part of our witness? What are some areas of suffering that you face that Peter touches upon in this letter? Pray for believers around the world for whom even gathering to worship tomorrow might result in severe suffering.

DATE: July 5, 2009

PASSAGE: 1 Peter 1:1-2

The Joy of Living for God's Glory

“believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”