

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 16, 2009

Passage: 1Peter 3:8-12

Memory Passage: 1Peters 3:8

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

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:8.** Here Peter concludes with a general exhortation to all Christians on how they are supposed to act. He begins with a list of five virtues.

(b) The first virtue is literally for us to be of one mind. What does Peter mean by calling us to “be of one mind”? Read these passages 1Cor. 1:10-17; 10:31-11:1; Phil. 2:4-11. What do these passages say about our attitude? What unifies us according to these passages?

(c) The second virtue is sympathy. Read 1 Cor. 12:14-26. What does this passage say about our unity? Why does sympathy toward one another come naturally from this relationship? Why is it that people are often unsympathetic (Prov. 21:13)?

(d) *Think about it:* Looking at 1Cor. 10:31-11:1 a little closer, what are some things that we allow to cause divisiveness in the church that we shouldn't? What are some personal preferences that you allow that cause anger or impatience? What are some reasons that keep you from being sympathetic to others (race, upbringing, clothing style, age)?

(e) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:8. Talk about these first two virtues. Define these two traits. What do they look like? Why are they important for the Church? Why are they important for your family? How could your family best display these? Pray that your family would practice these things and bring glory to the Lord.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:8.** The third is love as brothers or to have brotherly love. How does this virtue connect and maybe even summarize the previous two? How is brotherly love described in Rom. 12:10 and 1Thess 4:9-10?

(b) The fourth virtue is to be tenderhearted. Read Eph. 4:32. What is this ability to be tenderhearted rooted in? What kind of community do you see forming by all of these virtues? How would you say this church does with these virtues?

(c) The fifth virtue is to have a humble mind or humility. How does this relate back to our first virtue? How does the bible speak about pride (Prov. 29:23; James 4:6; 1Peter 5:5)? Read Romans 12:14-16 and relate it to our passage today.

(d) *Think about it:* Which one of these virtues do you struggle with the most? Why do you think you do? Most scholars place brotherly love as the central virtue in this list. Why would it be? Why do we fail to see other Christians in this context of family?

(e) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:8. Talk about these last three virtues. Define them and give some examples of how you have practiced them. Why are they important to the church? What are some examples of Christ practicing these things? Pray that your family would be encouraged and strengthened to develop and practice these traits.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:9.** To what extent do we not repay evil for evil (Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 6:28-31)? Does this mean we cannot prosecute people who do something illegal against us (1Peter 2:13-14; Romans 13:1-4)?

(b) What does it mean that we are called to bless (vs. repay evil for evil)? What makes this difficult? What does this verse say one of our motivations is for blessing others (2Cor. 5:8-10; 2Peter 1:5-11; 2Tim 4:7-8)?

(c) If the blessing that Peter is talking about is eternal life, is good behavior necessary to obtain it (Rom. 2:6-10; 1Cor. 6:9-11; 1John 2:3-6)? What do our works bear witness to (John 15:8; 1Peter 2:12)? Who do the previous verses prove our salvation to? What do these verses say about God's faithfulness to see these works accomplished (Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:12-13; 1Peter 1:3-5)?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:9. What are some common ways that you see yourself repaying evil for evil? Why do you think that you do this? What does it mean to bless someone? Why is it so important to bless and not to curse (1Peter 2:21-25)? How does this show God's love? Pray that you and your family would seek to bless each other.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:10-11.** This passage was taken from Psalm 34:12-16. This is the second time that Peter quotes from Psalm 34 (see 1Peter 2:3). How is Peter using this passage in relation to verse 9? How does the passage clarify what kind of blessing is being referenced at the end of verse 9?

(b) Why is keeping our tongue from evil such an important part of not returning evil for evil (James 3:2-12)? What makes this so difficult? What implication is there if we fail to do this (Psalm 34:16, 21; Heb. 12:4-11)?

(c) *Think about it:* How are you with turning away from evil? Do you turn from evil things when they come on t.v., when conversations turn to gossip, or when you are frustrated with people? How do you handle your tongue? How could you be purposeful in how you use your tongue?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:10-11. Why is it so hard to keep your tongue from evil? What is it that we are supposed to be doing with our tongues? How can we practice this at home? Pray that the Lord would help your family to turn from evil and do good, especially with your tongues.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 3:12.** How do other passages talk about the “eyes of the Lord” (Deut. 11:12; 2Chron. 7:15; 2Chron 16:9; Ezra 5:5; Psalm 11:4; Prov. 15:3-8)? What are some key phrases and themes?

(b) How are “the ears of the Lord” talked about in other passages (2Sam. 22:7; 2Chron. 7:15; Ps. 5:1; John 9:31)? What are some key phrases and themes?

(c) How is “the face of the Lord” talked about in other passages (Lev. 17:10; 20:3-6; 26:17; Psalm 80:16; Is. 54:7-8; Ezek. 15:7)? What do these passages have in common? How is this phrase used most often?

(d) *Think about it:* What do these passages teach of the character of God? Are you encouraged, convicted, or excited by these passages?

(e) *Family:* Read 1Peter 3:12. Does God really have eyes, ears, and a face? Why do you think the bible uses such language? Why is it a good thing for God to be looking at you? What does it mean that the face of the Lord is against you? Pray that God would give you a desire to love life and pursue Him, because his ears are open to our prayers!

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* What has God taught you this week about your own character and actions toward others? Anything need some realignment? What do you need to do to begin developing the virtues found in verse 8? What does God promise about watching over us and listening to us? How does that motivate you and allow you to practice all those things in verse 8 and 9?

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The Joy of Unity

“Bless, for to this you were called”