

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

In what ways is pursuing holiness a communal endeavor? Do you need to grow in any areas? What step will you take?

Use Matthew 7:12 and Galatians 5:22-23 as guides in your discussion.

PRACTICING PRAYER

Gratitude is the antidote for envy. Make a gratitude list and thank God for how you see His provision or blessing in the area where you may be struggling with envy.

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

What are things that we let slip into (or out of) our lives and rhythms that stunt your growth instead of nourishing us to grow up into our salvation?

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

What rhythms in your life are part of how you crave pure spiritual milk? Is there a new discipline you'd like to practice or partner with someone in your group?

VERSE MEMORY

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

1 Peter 2:9-10



To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.

Leader Resource Guide

Date: February 16, 2025

Grow Up



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

What is something you liked doing as a kid that you don't like doing anymore?

When you were a kid, what is something you couldn't wait to be "big" enough to do?

NOTES

TAKE OFF MALICE...

PUT ON KINDNESS

TAKE OFF DECEIT...

PUT ON TRUTHFULNESS

TAKE OFF HYPOCRISY...

PUT ON AUTHENTICITY

TAKE OFF ENVY...

PUT ON GRATITUDE

TAKE OFF SLANDER...

PUT ON ENCOURAGEMENT

CRAVE THE WORD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. **Personal Scripture reading recap:** How is your practice of spending time with God in his Word going for you so far this year? Are there any insights from your practice that are helping you engage more consistently or wholeheartedly? Are there hindrances or hurdles?

Are there any insights from what you read in Scripture this week that could be beneficial for the gathered community?

2. **Engaging the Series Resource:** Take some time to reflect on the rich vocabulary Peter uses in 1 Peter 2:1. Spend time with the definitions for the words malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.

Seek to understand what Peter means practically - where have you seen these ways of interacting expressed throughout the stories of Scripture? Where do they come up in everyday life? What happens in the wake of these ways of interacting with others?

How does this list hit you?

Don't rush the discomfort this might stir. Take some time to build an understanding of the destructive tendencies of living enslaved to fallen flesh.

Read parallel passages: Colossians 3:5-17; Ephesians 4:20-5:2; Romans 13:8-14. What are we called to put on? How are we to actually do this/ how are these passages grounded?

Both of these passages ground our changed nature in the love and actions of Jesus on our behalf and our acceptance of what He's done. If this turns into a time of confession and repentance, be reminded that "godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death." (2 Corinthians 7:10). If you need to stay at the foot of the cross together for awhile, please do.

How big of a deal is this call to put off the 'passions of your former ignorance'? How does this connect to concepts in chapter 1, such as the call to holiness, showing sincere brotherly love, salvation, and redemption?

2. continued

Malice: desire to cause pain, injury, or distress to another.

Deceit: the quality of being dishonest or misleading.

Hypocrisy: a feigning to be what one is not or to believe what one does not: behavior that contradicts what one claims to believe or feel; especially: the false assumption of an appearance of virtue or religion.

Envy: painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage.

Slander: an accusation maliciously uttered with the purpose of damaging the reputation of another.

**Definitions pulled from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/> or blueletterbible.com International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*

3. Pay attention to a repeating theme in 1 Peter - born again/newborn infants. Consider the analogy Peter is using. For a person to be born again, what must happen? What state does that leave us in? How does this analogy help you understand the "put off" language in question 2? What is the logical outcome if we surrender to our identity as beloved children of God and grow up into salvation?

Death precedes new birth. Death to what, though? Tease that out a bit in your gathered community. Newborn infants are humble, dependent, and crave nourishment from the source of life.

4. As you look to Jesus as you put off these behaviors, how is tasting that the Lord is good a remedy? How have you seen God's goodness satisfy your soul, meet your needs, and turn from desires of the flesh? End your time reading Psalm 34 and letting the spiritual milk of God's word fill your longings.
5. The Woodlands in the Word reading for next week is Ephesians 2 - 6 and Hebrews. The sermon passage for next week is 1 Peter 2:4 - 10. You can print the [series resource guide](#) or grab one from the Information Center to help you study this passage.