

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

Honestly evaluate what things help you be ready to thrive and what things are stumbling blocks and hinder your ability to thrive.

PRACTICING PRAYER

Read through 1 Peter 1:17-21, paying close attention to the cost for your salvation. Worship the Lord who sent Jesus, the perfect lamb for your sake. Pray through the implications of the One who has made our hope secure.

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Several times in 1 Peter so far, we've been reminded that the readers can be called 'chosen exiles' because someone has preached the good news to them (v. 12 + 25b). Remember/develop/practice articulating the good news of what God has done. Is God inviting you to share the good news with someone? Pray about it and move in the power of the Spirit toward that person with the good news.

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

What does it mean to be sober-minded in today's world? What are some of the "intoxicants" (not just alcohol) that can cloud our minds and distract us from our focus on Christ? Spend some time listening to the conviction of the Holy Spirit and confess, turning back to a mind that is fixed on Christ.

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 9, 2025

Prepare Your Minds for Action



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Tell about a time when you went on a trip, adventure, or undertaking that required preparation. How did you prepare? Why was preparation important to a successful outcome?

What's your favorite holiday and where does Valentine's Day fit? How do you best give and receive love?

NOTES

PREPARE YOUR MIND

STAY SOBER

DON'T CONFORM

FEAR THE LORD

TRUST HIM

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FOSTERING CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY

1. **Personal Scripture reading recap:** Where have you been in Scripture this week? Is there an idea, verse, quote, or question that has been rumbling through your spirit this week that would be beneficial to share with your gathered community?
2. **Engaging the Series Resource:** Go back and look for where you've seen the concepts of revelation, inheritance, and perishable/imperishable in 1 Peter 1:1-12. As we look at Peter's call to obedience and action in v.13-25, how do these ideas ground our obedience now? How do they provide motivation and perspective to live as chosen exiles?

We have spent 3 weeks looking at the opening 12 verses of 1 Peter and his reveling in the beauty and glory of who our God is and what He's done. When Peter calls us to 'prepare our minds for action', don't forget the foundation he has already laid out for us in the first twelve verses - everything for our obedience is grounded in what God did through Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the grace.

From Surrender to Love by David Benner, "Conversion is the lifelong transformational process of being remade into the image of God. It is so much more than simply trying to avoid sin. The focus of repentance and conversion is Jesus, not my sin nor self."

3. Read through the passage: 1 Peter 1:13-25. As a group exercise, build a chart that explores these three prompts: what was true of you, what is now true or will be true of you, and what are you called to do now.

Add a 4th column that explores this prompt: what is true of God + what He's done/is doing.

How do we fulfill Peter's calls to action in this passage?

Cooperation with the Spirit and living in step with Him (1 Peter 1:2 - "in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ"). Willpower is not the answer, just gathering more knowledge is also not the answer. Surrendering to love, knowing and being known by Perfect Love is the path to transformation....

3 continued (Leader Notes):

From David Benner, "Christian obedience should always be based on surrender to a person, not simply acceptance of an obligation. It is surrender to love, not submission to duty." Verses 23-25 remind us that the living and abiding Word of God is our guide in conjunction with His Spirit (Remember John 5:39-40. Also see John 17:3) as it glorifies and draws our hearts and minds to Jesus.

4. How does Peter's call to holiness challenge you at your home? Work? Community? Church? What might it look like? In what ways is the Holy Spirit calling you to a particular expression of holiness in an area where He has sovereignly placed you as a chosen exile?
5. Why do you think Peter refers to God as both Father and impartial Judge in 1 Peter 1: 17-21? Is it harder for you to identify with one of these ideas of God over the other? How can you bring both of these ideas into balance? How does a healthy fear of the Lord impact the way we live and make decisions?

We do not fear the Lord as the demons do, who shutter because of the wrath reserved for them, we fear the Lord in reverence, knowing the cost of our sin that Christ paid for us on the cross that now allows us to be at peace with God (Romans 5:1) and even enables us to approach the throne of grace with confidence (Hebrews 4:14-16).

6. The Woodlands in the Word reading for next week is Matthew 26-28 and Ephesians 1-2. The sermon passage for next week is 1 Peter 2:1-3. You can print the [series resource guide](#) or grab one from the Information Center to help you study this passage.