

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

What are some of the “gracious things” that are evident in your life this week? Let’s thank God together for how He is continuing to pour out grace over us!

PRACTICING PRAYER

Read Psalm 34 and reflect on the messages it contains including humbly trusting God and seeking to do good.

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Find a way to go the extra mile at work this week, whether you work at home or outside of the home.

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

In the weeks leading up to Easter, spend time reading and marinating in the last few chapters of each of the gospels (Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-16, Luke 19-24, John 12-20).

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: March 9, 2025

An Example



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Tell about a time in your childhood when you were blamed, or took the blame, for something that wasn’t your fault.

Tell us about the best boss you’ve ever had.

NOTES

KEEP AWAY FROM SIN

SPEAK TRUTHFULLY

DO NOT RETALIATE

ENTRUST YOURSELF TO GOD

Leader Note: We're talking about suffering unjustly. Here's a snippet from the NIV Application Commentary to help frame this passage:

"...that call to suffer is rooted in following Jesus. Jesus also suffered, and his pattern of life is to become their pattern. Peter's insight here is immensely important, though it was not easy for Peter himself to grasp this idea. We should pause here to reflect on Peter's own experience with the cross of Jesus. The first time he heard of the cross he met it with a stiff rebuke (Mark 8:31-33); the second time, in the Passion week, he hid from Jesus (14:66-72). Then a change occurred. His subsequent repentance and restoration led him to a complete about-face with respect to the cross, and he found it not only to be a healing instrument (2:24-25), but the paradigm for Christian existence. Presumably that change occurred at Pentecost (Acts 2) with the Spirit's endowment in his life, completely reversing in his mind the significance of the cross. What was formerly a stumbling block became the cornerstone of his theology."

Scot McKnight, *1 Peter*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 167-168.

1. **Personal Scripture reading recap:** How have you been shaped by the Word this past week? Where were you in Scripture and how has that impacted you and your week? Share encouragements as well as hardships.
2. **Engaging the Series Resource:** Think about themes we've studied in 1 Peter so far. Take some time to consider how Peter has challenged you to look beyond your current circumstances to a future inheritance. How are we called to win over unbelievers with good and gentle behavior? Remind yourselves of the identity we have been given and how that grounds our being and doing.

3. Consider 1 Peter 2:18-20. How do you reconcile your heart and your actions when you feel that authority placed over you is unjust? How do you follow the model of Jesus? Think about a time when you have been treated unfairly and insulted. Did you want to seek revenge? Did you demand an apology? Or, did you seek God in prayer and leave the judging to him? How would you handle things differently if a new situation were to arise?

Visit Hebrews 4:15 and 10:30-31.

4. Take some time and unpack v. 21-23. Make a list of all the choices Jesus made to reject the passions of the flesh and accept the painful will of the Father. Let the reality of his sinlessness rest over you as you look to the reason WHY he chose to conduct himself like this (v. 24). How does the example of Jesus move you in worship and an earnest desire to follow his example, especially when facing hardships we can't change? How does the love of God serve as motivation for Jesus and us?

By way of adding color to these verses, visit the passages that depict the events of Good Friday (Matthew 26:36-27:54; Mark 14:32-15:47; Luke 22:39-23:55; John 18:1-9:42). As you consider how it is that Jesus was able to do this, consider visiting John 17, Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, and remember how utterly focused and intent Jesus was to fulfill the Father's will.

5. In 1 Peter 2:25, we are reminded that Jesus is the guardian and shepherd of our souls. Read John 10:1-18 and Luke 15:4-7. What do you learn about Jesus from these passages? How are these personally encouraging to you? How have you leaned into these verses in the past? What has it looked like (or will it look like this week) for you to return to the Shepherd and Overseer of your soul?
6. The Woodlands in the Word reading for next week is Hebrews 12 & 13, James 1-3. The sermon passage for next week is 1 Peter 3:1-7. You can print the [series resource guide](#) or grab one from the Information Center to help you study this passage.