

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

FOR FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH YOUR WEEK

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

How are you noticing shifts in your attitude and behavior that can only be explained by the work of God? Encourage one another with ways you've seen one another grow.

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

Whose will are you living for? Spend some time seeking the Lord and asking Him to purify your will, motives, and behaviors

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

Choose one gospel passage from question 4 to meditate on this week. Also, Pray for people you know who are not yet living in the freedom of the will of God but are enslaved to the vices listed in 1 Peter 4:3-4. Ask the Lord to open opportunities for you to not only model a different way of life, but also to give a reason for your behavior. (1 Peter 3:15)

PRACTICING PRAYER

Practice giving thanks to God for the ways that suffering has produced fruit in your life. How do you see His faithfulness and purposes that make these seasons of suffering an opportunity to submit to His will and live to bring Him glory?

VERSE MEMORY

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:8-11



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

Leader Resource Guide

Date: May 4, 2025

For the Will of God



OPENER QUESTIONS FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY

This is a baptism weekend! Has there been a story that was shared (this weekend or at previous baptism celebrations) that has impacted you? Share about it.

Tell about a time when you prepared for a big storm. Did your preparation match the intensity of the storm?

NOTES

CLEAN CONSCIENCE

CLEAN THINKING

CLEAN LIVING

1. **Personal Scripture reading recap:** Is there a word or phrase from your engagement in Scripture this past week that keeps coming back to you (“rattling around your spirit”)? If not this past week, have you had this experience? What was the word or phrase? What did you do with it? What did God do with it?
2. **Engaging the Series Resource:** Suffering has been a theme throughout 1 Peter. Go back through chapters 1 - 4:6 to record some of the exhortations that Peter has given in the first 3 chapters about suffering.

You can use your group to collect the references or a free online tool like BlueLetterBible.com From ESV Study Bible: *“Peter’s point is that when believers are willing to suffer, the nerve center of sin is severed in their lives. Although believers will never be totally free from sin in this life (cf. James 3:2; 1 John 1:8), when believers endure suffering for the sake of Christ they show that their purpose in life is not to live for their own pleasures but according to the will of God and for his glory.”*

Crossway Bibles, [The ESV Study Bible](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2411.

3. To help flesh out these ideas of suffering in the flesh, dying to sin and living in the power of the Spirit, study Romans 6:1-23. Read the passage together, slowly and maybe repetitively. Look for repeated phrases or words and study the theme of freedom from versus enslavement to sin. What do you learn about what God has done for us and how do we live in light of this? What might this look like in your life this coming week, month, season, lifetime?

For more help, [The Gospel Transformation Study Bible](#) has great commentary on this section.
4. Sometimes it is easy to read verse 3 at a quick glance and miss the gravity of the picture being painted here. Slow down to do a little research to understand what Peter is describing in verse 3. Let this lead you to do some honest reflection of your own life. Let this lead to repentance, as needed.

4. Continued: **But God**, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the power of sin has been broken in the lives of those who believe in Him! Gather passages from 1 Peter (+ beyond) to remind yourselves of the incredible reality of the gospel.
Use Philippians 1:6 as an anchor to praise God for the work he has started in you and pray together the promise of completion would be drawn nearer and ultimately be realized in glory! And let the work of Christ in you compel you to engage compassionately with others who have not found freedom in Christ.

For gospel passages, see 1 Peter 2:22-25; 3:18; Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 2:13-14; Titus 3:4-7

As you rejoice in what Christ has done for you personally, remember those who have not found freedom in Christ. Hold onto 1 Peter 3:15 from last week, and continue to develop your testimony; a reason for hope delivered with gentleness and respect.

5. “Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking”. First, read Philippians 2:1-8 and build a list of ways that Jesus’ mindset enabled him to empty himself in order to become obedient to God’s will. What aspects of Christ’s mindset challenge you or cause you to marvel at him?

As we arm ourselves with the same way of thinking, reflect on Ephesians 6:10-18. How does the full armor of God serve as the means by which we can stand firm in preparing ourselves?

How do these two passages help build our understanding of what it looks like to live not for human passions but for the will of God?

Jesus is our example in submitting to the will of God that includes suffering. Looking at who Jesus is and how He lived gives us reasons to worship and an example to follow. Through his death on the cross and the promised help of the Holy Spirit, we can stand firm against the schemes of the devil, who was defeated by the finished work of Christ on the cross.

6. The Woodlands in the Word reading for next week is Acts 5-9. The sermon passage for next week is 1 Peter 4:7-11.