

1st Peter—Group Study Questions #3

Connecting With One Another

Since we live in both an instant ‘snapshot’ of time and also an ongoing ‘film’ of our life, does your own present experience feel more like a revisiting of your past, an anticipation of your future or a mere survival of your present moment? Which of these three—your past, present or future—feel most ‘settling’ for you?

Entering 1 Peter

Take a few minutes to recall together:

- who wrote this letter and what we know about the author
- to whom the letter was addressed and what was going on in their lives
- why the letter was written

Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 1:13-21 together out loud—SLOWLY—in one or two different translations.

- Take a moment to share any initial observations, words that puzzle you or catch your attention, ideas that resonate or feel jarring. (If English isn’t your first language, please feel free to share the passage in a translation in your own language—perhaps using the BibleGateway app. Are there ideas or phrases that can be expressed in your home language that English can’t address? After all, we’re ALL doing this in translation unless you’re reading from the original Greek).
- In and through all the details of this passage, is God described as a stern rule-keeper, an inviting caregiver, a wise counsellor, or a combination of these? Discuss.
- What does Peter mean when he repeats God’s ancient instruction, ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’ (verse 16)
 - Is this an unattainable, frustrating goal or does it hold real promise to those who follow Jesus?
 - What does it mean to be ‘holy’ in real 2021 life?
 - What does it mean to live joyfully ‘in reverent fear’? (v. 17)
- How does God’s eternal and overarching timeframe (eg. Jesus ‘chosen before the creation of the world’ and ‘when Christ is revealed’) meet our own 24/7 lives with our daily schedules, appointments and commitments? HOW can we move flexibly and with Godward confidence in our own space and time? HOW can we ‘prepare our minds for action’? (v.13)
- What gives you joy, confidence or anxiety when you read today’s passage?
 - Alongside others, have you become adjusted in your understanding of God’s character and love?

Praying Alongside One Another

- Take time to pray out of what you’ve discussed and shared – praying for one another and others who might also come to mind.
- And let’s keep praying for God’s rescue and will in and through the trial of Covid – right here and around the world.