

1st Peter—Group Study Questions #4

Connecting With One Another

A personal & group diagnostic: since we live in both an instant 'snapshot' of time and also an ongoing 'film' of our life, do YOU spend more time recollecting your past or hankering for your future? Or perhaps you're so busy dealing with the present that just getting through one day at a time absorbs your time? Spend some time connecting with one another about your real life right now.

Entering 1 Peter

Take a few minutes to recall together where we've been thus far in Peter's first letter:

- who wrote this letter and what do we keep learning about the author?
- to whom the letter was addressed and what was going on in their lives? Are they like us?
- why was the letter written?

Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 1:22 – 2:3 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).
- When you read verse 22 (and reflecting on what comes before), what is the connection between being "purified YOURSELVES by obeying the truth" and purification that only God can manage? Discuss.
- Describe the dimensions of "love" Peter encourages his readers to nurture in verse 22.
- What is similar (and different) between "seed" (v. 1:23) and "newborn babies" (v. 2:2)?
 - What do seeds need to flourish?
 - What do babies need to flourish?
 - What role does "the Word" (v. 1:25) play in growing Jesus-followers that thrive?
- What are the toxic things that squelch spiritual growth and nurturing community (v. 2:1)?
 - Precisely HOW do these things eat away at health?
 - What's Peter's remedy to eradicate these things?

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 thriving rescue in, through and despite the trial of Covid – right here and around the world. Any special concerns or encouraging stories?