

1st Peter—Group Study Questions #6

Connecting With One Another

A personal & group diagnostic: We're now post-Advent, post-Christmas and well into 2022. If you were to take an honest 'snapshot' of where you find yourself right now—emotionally, physically, spiritually, relationally—are you encouraged, anxious, feeling 'stretched' or calm? Note: there is NO ranking of relative stability but only honesty. 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? how are they like us?
- why was the letter written?

Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 2:11,12 together out loud—SLOWLY—in one or two different translations (perhaps even in non-English languages if this is helpful). The passage is only a short two verses long BUT you may be surprised to encounter just how rich they are.

- Take a moment to share any initial observations, words that puzzle you or catch your attention, ideas that resonate or feel unsettling.
 - Do you recall any 'echoes' of words or phrases that Peter uses in his letter thus far, almost like recalling a melody in good musical theatre? (And yes, it's been over two months since we've looked at together so feel free to pause and revisit it)
- When Peter uses verse 11's opening phrase "dear friends" is this the first time he's addressed his readers this way?
 - In your own life, when someone unexpectedly begins a conversation with "dear friend", is this indeed comforting or does it spark a 'dread of corrective advice' in you?
 - Does Peter really KNOW his readers and their various situations firsthand or is "dear friends" a kind of social glue to disarm them to learning important spiritual ideas and actions? What difference does this make?

- For Peter, who are considered the “pagans and strangers” and what was the opposite category in his own ancient world?
 - Feel free to do some quick research: just WHO were considered literal pagans in Peter’s own day and what was the name given to the opposite category of people in society?
 - Is Peter’s line-in-the-sand between “pagans” (1 Peter 2:12) and “elect” (1 Peter 1:1) unchangeably ‘binary’—us versus them—or does he imagine practical ‘bridges’ to foster unexpected grace?
 - What might this tell us about Peter’s own character and action?
 - What does it mean for the likes of us?

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.
- Pray for each other as individuals, as a group, as Lambrick’s congregation, as God’s expression through us, and others of his people all over the world.