

## 1<sup>st</sup> Peter—Group Study Questions #10

### Connecting With One Another

And now for something completely different: Instead of doing a self-diagnostic as we've done in previous weekly studies, take a few minutes and simply observe another person you know. (If you're doing this while alone, perhaps look at their picture in a photo or Facebook post, not just from your own memory). From what you already know about them, what delights them, what angers them, what frustrates them, what puzzles them, what gives them dread or hope? After doing this exercise, do you feel more connected with or disconnected from them?

### Entering 1 Peter

Take a few minutes to recall how the 'grounding' verses (chapter 2:11,12) began diving into some new material:

- From what we've encountered so far in Peter's letter, what are some practical ways we can "live such good lives" (verse 12)?
- What might it look like in practical ways for others to "see your good deeds and glorify God" (verse 12)?
  - Do you need to 'tell' or simply 'do'?

### Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 3:8-17 together out loud—SLOWLY—in one or two different translations (perhaps even in non-English languages if this is helpful for you).

- Take a moment to share any initial observations, words that puzzle you or catch your attention, ideas that resonate or feel unsettling.
  - What body parts (especially in the head but also elsewhere) are involved in this section of Peter's letter?
  - What might "inherit a blessing" mean (verse 9)?
- For Peter, what does it mean to stop the cycle of reactionary response (see verse 9)?
  - Is this realistic where you really live?
  - Is Peter misguidedly looking at the world through rose-tinted lenses?
  - For Peter, what is the cause-and-effect of God-reflecting attitude and action?
- Are verses 10-12 (echoing Psalm 34:12-16) actually do-able?
  - If so, what might it look like in your own daily 24/7 life?
  - If not, what needs to be adjusted (for you, not for scripture)?
  - For you, what might a real-life example of God 'showing' or 'hiding' his face look like?

- When Peter says “It is better” (verse 17), does ‘better’ mean more comfortable? More socially acceptable? More successful? More Godward?
  - Is Peter advocating a passive ‘door-mat’ posture or something more profoundly like Jesus himself?
  - Do you personally feel more ‘settled’ or ‘frustrated’ by the time your reading reaches verse 17?

### **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. Perhaps begin with a time of quiet reflection and allow God to speak to you.
- 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. In these days perhaps remember especially our spiritual kinfolk in Russia and Ukraine.