

1st Peter—Group Study Questions #14

Connecting With One Another

This past Sunday (April 17th) marked Resurrection Day, which is now followed by what the church over the centuries has called 'Eastertide', a continuing several-week-long celebration of Christ's prospects of new life — for us!

- For you, is Easter simply a historical event or something with genuine repercussions in your everyday life? If the latter, how so?
- Backing up, is Jesus' physical resurrection even possible and believable or merely a religious hopeful story? Explore the impact of this for you.

Entering 1 Peter

Recalling 1 Peter chapter 4:1-19, how do the events of this past weekend (Good Friday, 'Waiting' Saturday, Resurrection Sunday) add depth or insight into what Peter calls living, suffering and rejoicing?

Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 5:1-6 together out loud—SLOWLY—in one or two different translations (perhaps even in non-English languages if this is helpful for you or others in your group).

- If you were to describe yourself, would you identify as a "shepherd" (v. 2) or as a sheep in a "flock" (v. 2) or perhaps both in different contexts?
- When Peter uses the word "appeal" (v. 1), what do you suppose is his emotional connection to his readers?
 - Demanding (or commanding)?
 - A wise and experienced Jesus-follower?
 - Both encouraging and challenging?
 - Other?
- If you were to rank the roles that Peter describes (elders, witnesses, shepherd, flock members, overseers, Chief Shepherd, young men, older, one another), how would you place them in order?
 - Were some of these roles easier or more difficult to 'place' in a ranking system? If so, why?
- How does Peter describe a Godward attitude toward others—either those for whom we care OR for those who care for us?
- Peter quotes from Proverbs 3:34—"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble".
 - Can you recall specific instances (either in scripture or in your own experience) where He does this?
 - In practical ways, how can WE imitate and live out these qualities of God?

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.