

1st Peter—Group Study Questions #15

Connecting With One Another

- At what time of day are you customarily most alert? Most creative? Most fatigued? Most worried? Most happy?
- Does this vary with particular days of the week or seasons of the year?
- If you live with other people (eg. in a family or other shared housing situation), is it invigorating or frustrating if your personal abilities or moods aren't aligned with theirs?

Entering 1 Peter

- Recalling 1 Peter chapter 5: 1-6, is it relatively easy or difficult for you to be "*eager to serve*" and to "*clothe yourself with humility*?"
- Who—by name, not only in generalities—has God given you to shepherd for both their nurture and growth (and your own)?

Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 5: 6-11 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).

- List the verbs (action words) that Peter uses in this short section.
- When Peter speaks of suffering (verses 9 & 10), does anything from chapter 3, verses 13 to 17 (or chapter 4, verses 12 to 19) help you to describe suffering's source, context and our Jesus-like response to it?
- What are some ways that we can diagnose if we're being "*self-controlled and alert*?" Are there practical ways to help us foster these qualities in ourselves and others to whom we serve as "*shepherd*?"
- Although Peter's historical context and culture was quite different from our own, identify by name "*your brothers throughout the world [who] are undergoing the same kind of sufferings*" (verse 9)?
- Let's admit: we can inadvertently gloss over familiar phrases almost as religious 'jargon' to make a biblical letter sound more special or formal. For instance, verse 10 begins "*And the God of all grace...*". What might be other ways of re-wording Peter's burst of praise without watering down his sentiment?
- Verse 11 is an almost exact replica of the closing (doxology or Godward praise) of chapter 4, verse 11. Why do you suppose Peter writes this same phrase twice in his rather short letter? Might there be some significant reason WHY he places these doxologies where he does?
- In this section of Peter's letter, what encourages you? Confuses you? Broadens or deepens your perspective? Warns you (especially about "*your enemy the Devil*")? Stretches you in practical new directions?

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.