

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 2, 2009

Passage: 1Peter 2:13-25

Memory Passage: 1Peter 2:21

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1Peter 2:13-15.** What is the extent to which we are to be subject (Mt. 17:24-27; 22:21)? Why are we to “be subject”(Jeremiah 29:7; Colossians 1:16; 2Tim. 2:1-4; Titus 3:1-7; 1Peter 2:12, 15)? What does this verse say about the role of the government?
- (b) Read Romans 13:1-7. What warnings does Paul give us in this section, if we fail to be subject to our authorities?
- (c) How should we act toward our local, state, or national government officials that we might disagree with or not like? What might it look like to “do good” in the eyes of our community? When would civil disobedience be appropriate?
- (d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 2:13-15. Talk about authority and why it is necessary to be subject to authority. How is it that God is glorified by our obedience to authorities? What is the role that the government should play? How are we called to more than just not disobey (Jer. 29:7)? Pray that your family would begin to be known for the good you do for your neighborhood and community.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1Peter 2:16-17.** Where does our freedom come from (v. 9-10; John 8:31-32; Romans 6:15-19)? How are we to use this freedom that we have (v. 16; 1 Cor. 6:12-14; 10:23-25)? How do we use our freedom as a cover up for evil?
- (b) Why do we honor everyone (Gen. 1:26-27)? What does it mean to honor someone? What has Peter already said about loving the brotherhood (1:22-23)?
- (c) What does it mean to fear God (1:17; Acts 2:43; 5:11; 10:2)? How does the Bible talk about the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7; Eccl. 12:13; Luke 1:50)? Are we to fear anything else? Why or why not (Matt 10:28-33)?
- (d) How is the last command to “honor the emperor” different from honoring everyone (v.13; Acts 23:1-5, 26, ; Romans 13:1-3)? How does this command extend to others in authority over you?
- (e) *Family:* Read 1Peter 2:16-17. What is the source of our freedom? Talk about how we are to use our freedom. Why is it that we are called to honor everyone (Gen. 1:26-27)? How do we honor authorities different from just everyone else? Why is it that we are only to fear God? What does it mean to fear God (1:17; Acts 2:43; 5:11)? Pray that you would rightly have a fear of God in all that you do.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1Peter 2:18-20.** How and when are servants to be subject? How does this go against the way most people treat authority? Why do you think that Peter felt the need to explain why servants should subject themselves with respect to unjust masters?
- (b) What does Peter say is essential in enduring sorrows unjustly? What does he mean by this (v. 1:7-9; Luke 6:32-36; James 1:12)? How does this serve and bring glory to God (v. 12)?
- (c) *Think about it:* Who are your “masters” those who have authority over you? Do you show them respect? What is it that keeps you from showing them respect in obedience?
- (d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 2:18-20. Talk about the relationship between servants and masters. How does this passage teach us that we are to react to all types of bosses, both good and evil, fair and unfair? What does this passage say about how we are to suffer? Why is this important? Pray that the Lord would begin to change your own mindset about how you are to endure unjust suffering.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1Peter 2:21-23.** Why is it that we have been called to endure suffering for good (Romans 8:28-30)? How is Christ an example (v. 21; John 13:14-16; 1Tim 1:15-17)? How are we to be examples to others (Phil. 3:17; 1Thess. 1:6-8; 1Tim. 4:12)?
- (b) What importance does Jesus’ sinless play in his death (1Peter 3:18; 2Cor 5:21; Romans 5:6-8)? How does Jesus trusting himself to God bring glory to God (Romans 12:19)?

(c) *Think about it:* How does this passage encourage you? Why is it easier to endure suffering knowing that Christ endured so much on our behalf? Is there anything that you have found your attitude in less than stellar? How would entrusting that to the Lord look for you?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 2:21-23. Talk about the role that Jesus' death plays in our salvation? Why did He endure so much? What reason does Peter give for why we are to suffer? How did Jesus endure the suffering? Pray that you would be able to entrust yourself to Him who judges justly.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 2:24-25.** What allusions does Peter use Isaiah 52:13-53:12 in verses 22-25? What “tree” is he alluding to and why use “tree”(Deut. 21:22-23; Gal. 3:13)? How are we healed by Christ (Num. 21:7-9; John 3:14-15; Gal. 2:20)?

(b) How does Jesus talk about us as sheep and Himself as Shepherd (Jn 10; Luke 15:3-7; Ezek. 34:11-16)? How does what Peter is saying in this section go back to what he has said earlier in our reading for the week?

(c) *Family:* Read 1Peter 2:24-25. Talk about how the New Testament talks about the Cross. What allusions to Isaiah 52:13-53:12 are given in verses 22-25? What has Jesus done on the cross for us? How should this affect the way in which we treat others? How should we view God in light of this? Thank God for His son Jesus who has redeemed us and taken upon Himself all our sin and shame.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Who is somebody that you have trouble subjecting yourself to (boss, spouse, government)? How might you begin showing them respect and submission that would bring honor to God and not yourself? Do you have trouble enduring unjust suffering? How has this week challenged you in how you respond to unfair treatment? Pray that Christ and His sacrifice would become more and more of your focus in all your daily trials.

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The Joy of Submission

“this is a gracious thing”