

Commands for Exiles

1 Peter 1:13-21

Introduction:

This is merely a discussion guide for you and your Life Group. There is not any expectation for you to be a Bible scholar or the wisest person in the room. The expectation is that you would pray to God, asking Him to illumine your heart and mind as you walk through these verses. Life Groups are designed to cultivate an environment where reading Scripture, engaging in prayer, and being in biblical fellowship will flourish. Facilitating such an environment is all that we ask, we don't seek perfection. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you, and if you have any concerns after your group conversation, please reach out. Today's passage is a continuation of last week's chapter in 1 Peter. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on pages 1959-1960. *As a note of guidance, some of today's conversation will center around former passions and giving up sin. While this is important for the Christian, it might be difficult for some to share in a group. Please encourage people to find trusted friends, leaders, and/or pastors to talk with.* - JF

Questions:

Consider a time at your job when a difficult and challenging situation occurred. At the time, you may not have been conscious of your perspective, behavior, or attitude before acting on the challenging situation. In retrospect, what was your perspective, behavior, and attitude in that situation? Did you handle it well or poorly? Why is it important to have the correct perspective, correct behavior, and correct attitude as you navigate difficult situations? How might that be true for living the Christian life?

Peter exhorts the exiles in his letter to prepare their minds for action, be sober-minded, and to set their hope fully on the grace that is brought by Jesus. What is the correct perspective, behavior, and attitude that Peter is alluding to in verse 13? Why was that important to the Christians of that time? How is it important to us today? What does it mean to prepare your mind for action? What does it mean to be sober-minded? Why were the exiles meant to be sober-minded? How have you been living a sober-minded life? What does it mean for a person to set their hope fully on Jesus? How have you been doing that recently? If you are struggling with preparing your mind for action, being sober-minded, and setting your hope on Jesus, what should you do to grow in these areas? *(Take time to discuss actions and plans to help one another grow.)*

Peter calls these Christians to grow in holiness. How were they to grow? *(Not be conformed to their former passions.)* What might have been former passions that shaped these Christians? What is a former passion in your life that you have given up because you are a Christian? Are there passions and desires that you currently have that you need to give up? If yes, how can the group encourage you towards giving them up? Why is accountability so important here? Why are these Christians called to holiness? What does it mean to be holy? How do we grow in holiness?

What does Peter mean when he says "conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile..." What is the difference between living with fear and living in fear? Why must these Christians live in such a way that fear of God is evident to those around them? What is the connection between living with fear and knowing that a Christian is ransomed? How does the way we live correspond with what we know? Why is that important? Would you say that you live with fear of God? Why do you answer that way?

This week we had the honor of hearing Roger Sappington, executive pastor of Central Bible Church, preach our Sunday message. Is there anything that he mentioned in his sermon that you would like to discuss? Is there anything else that stood out to you that you would like to discuss from this passage or from how you are going to apply the truth to your life?

Conclusion:

As a group, conclude your time in prayer and encourage one another to have the correct perspective, behavior, and attitude. Consider making a plan that includes periodic check-ins to see how each person is growing, learning, and being transformed. Offer grace and compassion to one another as you help each other look to Jesus and follow Him.