



LIFE GROUP NOTES
For week commencing: 24/03/2024

Elect Exiles

1 Peter 3:8-12

Life Group Activities

Use the Three Thirds structure for your gathering together.

Looking Back

- Mutual Care – How are you doing?
- Worship & Prayer
 - Worship
 - Pray
 - Communion
- Loving Accountability
 - How did you follow?
 - How did you fish? (Ask how many gospel shares in the last week)
- Vision Cast – Why are we meeting like this?
 - Make sure that you are clear on your LG vision for 2024 and social events / outreach and how you will care and encourage one another.

Looking up

Discovery Bible Study 1 Peter 3:8-12 Elect Exiles

Sermon Notes can be found below for reference.

- Read and re-read these verses from different translations.
- What does the group remember from Sunday about:
 - v8 What are the five things that Peter exhorts us to?
 - v9 What does Peter say we must not do, and what are the two reasons that we must bless?
 - v10a What does it mean for a Christian to love life and see good days?
 - v10b-11 What does Peter say that we need to do to receive life and good days?
 - v12 How does it feel to know that God is watching over us, and hears our prayer?
 - How can we live this way?
- Summarise the main teaching from these verses in one sentence.
- How are you going to apply this teaching to your life?

Looking Forward

- Practice - Practice the Three Circles or your People Map
- Set Goals:
 - Use C.O.S.T.
 - Connect - How am I going to connect with God this week?
 - Obey - How am I going to be obedient this week?
 - Share - Who am I going to share the gospel with or pray with this week?
 - Teach - Who can I encourage with this message this week?
- Pray together

Sermon Notes for Reference

V8

Finally,

Peter has concluded this section in which he encouraged Christians to display their freedom in submission for Christ's sake, as citizens, servants, wives and husbands.

all of you provides a transition from the preceding specific instructions to a list of godly virtues that all believers are called to exemplify at all times.

Peter concludes this section of his letter (started in 1 Peter 2:11) by addressing the entire Christian community

He calls for a “unity of mind” or common purpose among believers (Romans 15:5-7; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 2:1-2). Peter is encouraging us to share the same spiritual values, proclaim the same gospel and to share the same passion and devotion for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully waiting for the coming of Jesus and serving one another in fervent love.

Our unity is only in the gospel of the cross

Harmony of attitude as well as of understanding.

The second thing he calls us to do is to have “sympathy”. This has a sense of having a sensitivity to the needs, feelings and emotions of others. Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn.

The third thing is “brotherly love” (this has come up earlier in 1 Peter 1:22). This is not the same as comradery in a football team, but deep love as a family whatever happens

The fourth thing is a “tender heart” for one another. We should be compassionate, quick to forgive and bear no malice towards each other.

Jesus was compassionate towards the crowds.

We have received free compassion, we must give freely

Finally he calls on us to have a “humble mind”. We shouldn't think more highly of ourselves than we ought to (Philippians 2:3 in Humility count others more significant than yourselves)

All a work of grace in our lives

v9

Those who bless others will receive a blessing from God, which Peter explains in the following verses. The call for non-retaliation in verse 9 reminds us of how Jesus responded to those who reviled Him (1 Peter 2:23). Rather than retaliate, our response should be to bless.

We are called to bless (in response to cursing (Gen 12)

We bless that we may receive God's blessing
That we inherit a blessing
This not earning a blessing, but inheriting by grace a blessing

10-12 uses Psalm 34:12-16

V10a

A good day in a beer commercial shows friends drinking in the sunset at a fishing lodge
A good day in the book of acts shows Paul and Silas in prison, their backs bleeding and feet in stocks singing psalms and preaching the gospel
Jesus said, whoever wants to save his life will lose, but whoever loses his life for me and the gospel will save it.

V10b-11 What does Peter say to receive life and good days?

The capacity to love life and see or enjoy good days depends on our commitment not to speak evil or speak deceitfully.

We cannot speak ill of others and expect to also enjoy the blessings of God. We shouldn't use the same mouths we use to praise and worship God to verbally abuse others. We need to tame our tongues! (see James 3:1-12). Having come to God through Christ we must turn away from evil and do good. Christ has redeemed us and we are filled with the Spirit, but there is still a need for intentionality on our part.

V12

Obedience to God in daily life is the path to experiencing God's blessing (cf. Ps. 34:4-10), and by implication disobedience will lead to God's discipline (cf. Ps. 34:16, 21; Heb. 12:4-11). Peter continues his quotation of Psalm 34: For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous (to observe and care for them) and his ears are open to their prayer (for various needs and cares). This does not mean that God keeps obedient believers from suffering (cf. 1 Pet. 2:19-23; 3:14, 17; 4:12-19) but that God will provide his grace "to strengthen and establish" believers in the midst of suffering (5:10) and in times of great need (cf. 2 Cor. 12:9; Heb. 4:16).

God's eyes are on the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers and He turns against those who do evil. As in 1 Peter 3:7, Peter ties prayer to obedience to God.

<h2>The 3Thirds Discipleship Model</h2>		
Look back	Look up	Look forward
<p>1. Mutual care: How are you doing?</p> <p>2. Worship: Praising God in a simple, relevant way.</p> <p>3. Accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Follow:</i> How did you obey the lesson from last time? ◦ <i>Fish:</i> Did you pray with anyone who was in need? ◦ Did you share your story and/or Jesus' story? ◦ Did you find a person of peace? <p>4. Casting vision for reaching lost people and making disciples.</p>	<p>5. New lesson: Enough Biblical content to obey and pass it on.</p> <p>Use the Discovery Bible Study Method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Read the Bible Story b. Ask them to re-tell the story in their own words c. Ask four questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. What does this story tell us about God? ii. What does this story tell us about people? iii. Is there a command to obey or an example to follow or a promise to live by? iv. How does this apply to my life? 	<p>6. Practice the lesson until everyone is confident and competent to apply the learning. e.g. Retell your story, Jesus' story, or this week's story.</p> <p>7. Set goals</p> <p>Goals for personal growth, sharing the gospel, and training others.</p> <p>C.O.S.T. Connect Obey Share Teach</p> <p>8. Pray and Share Communion</p>
<p>1/3 of your time (e.g. 30 mins)</p>	<p>1/3 of your time (e.g. 30 mins)</p>	<p>1/3 of your time (e.g. 30 mins)</p>