

Renewed Mind Bible Studies

1 & 2 Peter - Session 8 (Exiles Who Lead & Follow)

1 Peter 5:1-14

(Use this sheet to take notes, reflect personally, and contribute to discussion.)

1 Peter 5:1-4 (Leading with Humility)

- The Greek word for “care” here is poimainō (poy-MAHY-no), which means “to shepherd.” Shepherding means guiding, guarding, feeding, and sometimes even going after the strays. They sacrifice comfort for the sake of the flock’s safety.
- But who were these “_____” Peter is addressing? In the early church, the word used is presbyteros (pres-bu-TEH-ros), meaning “an older one” or “a seasoned leader.” These weren’t corporate executives OR professional clergy...they were respected believers of spiritual _____ who carried the weight of shepherding the community of believers.
- No matter your interpretation of elders, Peter gives these three warnings:
 - 1. Lead _____, not grudgingly.
 - 2. Lead _____, not greedily.
 - 3. Lead by _____, not by control.
- The Greek word for crown here is stephanos (STEF-an-os), which refers to a victor’s wreath. It wasn’t a royal crown of gold, but a laurel given to athletes who endured and won the _____.

Personal Insight:

- **Where has God entrusted you with influence or leadership, and how can you lead more like a shepherd this week?**
- **What is one way you can model humble leadership at home, at work, or in your friendships?**

1 Peter 5:5–7 (Following with Humility)

- The word is neōteroi (NEH-oh-teh-roy), which in the first-century often meant younger men, but can also mean those less established or _____ in the faith.
- The verb is enkombōsasthe (eng-kom-BOH-sas-theh), a rare term meaning “tie on” like an apron...which is the garment of a _____. This is the picture of Jesus in John 13, who wrapped Himself with a towel to wash feet. Peter is saying: tie humility on where everyone can see it.
- The noun for humility, tapeinophrosynē (tah-PIE-no-fro-SOO-nay), is not self-contempt; it’s an “others-first” posture that refuses to grasp for status. Why? Because Peter quotes the Greek Old Testament (Proverbs 3:34): “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- The verb antitassetai (ahn-tee-TASS-eh-tie) means “to set oneself in battle array against.” We all know pride is not good for us. But what we don’t always realize is that pride doesn’t just slow us down...it sets us against _____.
- The verb is tapeinōthēte (tah-pay-no-THAY-tay), “be humbled,” an active surrender under God’s mighty hand...it’s _____ language for His saving power in history.
- The word is epiripsantes (eh-pee-RIP-san-tes), “casting upon,” the same word used when people throw their cloaks on a donkey (Luke 19:35). Don’t admire your _____...throw them. The word for worries is merimna (meh-REEM-nah): the distractions that pull you apart. Humility looks like handing God what you cannot hold, because He cares.

Personal Insight:

- **Where do I resist teachability: who am I avoiding, correcting, or ignoring because pride wants the last word?**
- **What specific anxiety (name it) do I need to cast on God this week, and what daily practice will help me keep it there?**

1 Peter 5:8–11 (Standing Against the Lion)

- The opening command, “Stay alert!”, is *nēpsate* (NAY-psah-teh), from *nēphō*, meaning “be sober-minded, self-controlled.” It’s the opposite of being spiritually drowsy. When life is heavy, our default is either distraction or despair...but Peter says: keep your eyes open.
- The verb is *antistēte* (ahn-TEE-stay-teh), “resist, oppose.” It’s the same word James uses: “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). Resistance is meant to be an active and _____ faith.
- “After you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.” The verb for restore is *katartisei* (kah-TAR-ti-say), used for mending nets or setting broken _____. God Himself is the surgeon who makes you whole again.

Personal Insight:

• **Where do I most often hear the lion’s roar: in fear, shame, temptation, or doubt?
What truth from Scripture will I hold onto when that roar comes?**

• **Am I standing alone, or am I resisting with the support of my spiritual family?
How can I lean on them this week?**

1 Peter 5:12–14 (Finishing in Grace)

- For Peter to commend him as a “faithful brother” wasn’t just a throwaway compliment...it was his seal of _____. The word “commend” here comes from the Greek *epimartyreō* (ep-ee-mar-too-REH-o), meaning “to testify strongly” or “to give emphatic witness.”
- Next, he references “Babylon,” which was a symbolic name for _____.
- Peter calls him “my son,” using the word *huios* (HWEE-os), which in Greek was often more than _____...it signified belonging, inheritance, and identity.
- Finally, he instructs them to greet each other with a “kiss of love.” The Greek phrase here is *phílēma agápēs* (FEE-lay-mah ah-GAH-pays). *Phílēma* simply means a kiss, but in the ancient world it was not reserved for _____. It was a public gesture of loyalty, trust, and friendship.

Personal Insight:

- How does seeing the church as a true family change the way I treat those around me?
 - Whose name or presence in my life has been a reminder of God's grace, and how can I celebrate or thank them this week?
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Group Discussion Questions

1. Peter calls elders to "shepherd the flock." What qualities make someone a shepherd-like leader today, and how have you experienced that kind of leadership in your own life?
2. Humility is commanded for both leaders and followers. What does humility look like in relationships within the church family? Where do we most often struggle with it?
3. Peter says to "cast all your cares on Him, because He cares for you." What are some practical ways to hand over your anxieties to God instead of carrying them yourself?
4. The enemy is described as a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. What are some of the "roars" you hear in life today, and how can we resist him together in faith?
5. Peter closes by naming names, giving greetings, and reminding them of grace. What does that teach us about the importance of family connection in the church?

Prayer Challenge for the Group

Tonight, invite each person at the table to share one care or anxiety they've been carrying...whether it's worry about family, health, work, or even spiritual struggles. As each person shares, the group can "cast" those cares together by praying over them out loud. Ask God to give humble hearts that trust His timing, strength to resist the enemy's lies, and courage to keep leading and following with grace. End by thanking Him for knitting us into a family that stands firm together in Christ.

