SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

1 Peter 5:6–14 — Stand Firm

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 5:6–14. Also read Ephesians 6:12 and 1 Peter 3:18 as you consider who our enemy is and what Jesus has done to bring us to God.

KEY TRUTH

We can stay alert and stand firm against the enemy because the God who cares for us will hold us steady.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS
(What does the passage say?)

- Under whose hand does Peter tell believers to humble themselves in verse 6? What does he say about God's timing?
- What does Peter invite believers to do with their cares in verse 7? What reason does he give?
- What two instructions open verse 8? What picture does Peter use to describe the devil?
- How does Peter tell believers to resist the devil in verse 9? What does he want them to remember about their brothers and sisters around the world?
- How does Peter describe God in verse 10? What has God called believers to, and what does Peter say God Himself will do for them?
- According to verse 12, why has Peter written this letter? How does he close his greeting to those who are in Christ in verses 13–14?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS
(What does the passage mean?)

- How is casting a care on God an act of humility? Why might holding on to it feel like the responsible thing to do?
- Peter tells us that God cares for us just before he warns us to be alert. How does knowing God's care shape the way we hear that warning?
- In the mountain lion story, Nate walked back along the same trail with a different awareness. What does Peter want us to pay attention to as we go about an ordinary day?
- How does Ephesians 6:12 help us understand what's at stake when someone hurts us? How can we address the harm while continuing to love the person involved?
- Peter describes resisting the enemy as remaining steadfast in the faith. According to 1 Peter 3:18, what has Jesus already done that gives us confidence to turn to God when we sin?
- Why would knowing that other believers are suffering help Peter's readers stand firm? What encouragement could they draw from one another even while their circumstances remained difficult?
- Peter began his letter with a living hope through Jesus' resurrection (1 Peter 1:3–5). How does that hope help us understand his closing promise about what God Himself will do?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS
(What does this mean for us?)

- Think about a conversation you've replayed in your head. What happens to your attitude toward that person each time you replay it? What would help you decide what to say when you see them again?
- After you've lost your temper or let someone down, what makes it hard to talk to God? How does remembering that Jesus gave His life to bring you to the Father shape what you do next?
- What tends to get your attention before your feet hit the floor in the morning? What might it sound like to talk to God about that very thing?
- Have you caught yourself saying, "I'll get back to that when things settle down"? What have you been putting off, and what would it look like to make room for it this week?
- Think of a setting where following Jesus could cost you someone's approval. What would standing firm look like in that particular moment?
- The pastor in the message wept because he longed to be with his people. What do you think he treasures about gathering with other believers? When have you experienced that gift yourself?
- Who knows what you're carrying right now? What would help you answer honestly the next time that person asks how you're doing?
- Which truth from verses 6–10 would you want to have in mind the next time you feel pressure to withdraw, retaliate, or give up? How could someone in this group help you remember it?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

- What am I trying to carry on my own today?
- Where am I beginning to see another person as my enemy?
- Is shame keeping me from bringing something honestly to Jesus?
- What good thing has been crowding out time with the Lord?
- Who has been trying to reach out to me, and how have I responded?
- What difference does it make to me that God Himself promises to strengthen me?
- Where can I take one step of trust today?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Choose one recurring moment when you tend to drift, and use it as a reminder to turn to God.

Pick a moment you're likely to recognize when it comes: the first work text of the morning, the conversation you keep replaying, or the urge to say "I'm fine" when a friend asks how you're doing. Read 1 Peter 5:7–9 again. Name the care you're carrying into that moment.

Pray: "Father, You know what's weighing on me. Help me notice where it's pulling me. I trust You with it. Give me the strength to follow Jesus in what I do next."

Choose your response ahead of time. Before answering the text, tell God what worries you. If a conversation gets heated, you might say, "Hey, I love you. Can we start that over?" If a friend

checks in, tell them one thing they can pray about. Later that day, take a moment to notice what happened.

Come back next week ready to share the moment you recognized, how you responded, and what you learned about trusting God there.

Remind yourself each day:
"I can stand firm today because the God who cares for me will hold me steady."

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for bearing our sins, rising again, and bringing us to the Father. Give the group a quiet moment to bring one specific care to God. Pray for believers around the world who long to gather freely, and for people in your own community who are facing pressure, carrying shame, or growing isolated. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you recognize resentment and distraction as they take hold, reach out to one another, and stand firm in faith. Thank the God of all grace for the living hope you have in Jesus and for His promise to strengthen and keep you.