

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 3:8–12. Also read Romans 12:14–21 as you consider how to respond to those who hurt you.

KEY TRUTH

We are called to love one another and bless those who hurt us.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

What attitudes and qualities does Peter call all believers to demonstrate in verse 8?

According to verse 9, how should Christians respond to evil or insulting words?

What does Peter say believers were called to do?

In verses 10–11, what should we stop doing, and what should we actively pursue?

What does verse 12 tell us about God’s attention to the righteous and His response to evil?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

How does this passage continue Peter’s emphasis on representing Jesus through the way we treat others?

What does being “of one mind” mean? How can believers remain united while having different opinions or preferences?

How do compassion, brotherly love, tenderness, and humility help protect unity?

What is the difference between simply refusing to retaliate and actively blessing someone?

How does Jesus’ response to those who crucified Him help us understand what blessing our enemies looks like?

Why does Peter tell us to “seek peace and pursue it”? How is pursuing peace different from avoiding conflict?

How does Romans 12:19–21 connect trusting God with justice and choosing to do good to our enemies?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

When someone hurts, criticizes, or misrepresents you, what is your usual first response?

Which quality in verse 8 do you most need to grow in right now? What would that look like in an actual relationship?

Have you ever been so convinced another person was the problem that you failed to consider your own part? What helped you see more clearly?

How can we talk honestly about hurt and seek help without encouraging gossip, slander, or retaliation?

What does forgiveness look like when trust still needs to be rebuilt or boundaries are necessary?

Think about a difficult relationship at church, home, work, or school. What would it look like to ask God to do that person good?

Is there a situation in which you say you want peace but also want the last word? What step toward peace could you take?

How might the way Christians handle disagreement make Jesus more visible to those watching?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

Have I allowed someone else's behavior to become an excuse for my own?

Whose motives have I assumed without trying to understand?

Are my words helping heal a conflict or keeping it alive?

Is there someone whose failure I secretly want to see?

Am I waiting for an apology before I obey Jesus?

What do I need to entrust to God rather than trying to settle through revenge?

How does the grace Jesus has shown me shape the grace I extend to others?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Identify one person toward whom you feel hurt, irritated, defensive, or resentful. You do not need to share their name or private details with the group.

Each day, pray: "Jesus, help me see this person with compassion. Please work in their life with mercy and grace, and help me respond faithfully."

Then choose one concrete step: stop repeating an unkind story, listen before assuming, offer encouragement, apologize for your part, meet a practical need, or initiate an appropriate conversation toward peace.

If the situation involves serious harm, a faithful step may include seeking wise support or maintaining necessary boundaries while refusing retaliation.

Don't make your obedience dependent on their response.

Remind yourself each day:

"We are called to love one another and bless those who wrong us."

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for loving us and giving Himself for us while we were still sinners. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal pride, bitterness, defensiveness, and harmful speech in our lives. Pray for

compassion and humility within the church, courage to pursue peace, and grace to bless those who hurt us. Ask God to bring truth, repentance, healing, and restoration where there has been wrongdoing. Entrust justice and the outcome to Him, and ask that others would see Jesus through the way we love.