

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 4:1–5. Also read Romans 12:1–2 as you consider what it means to leave old desires behind and live for the will of God.

KEY TRUTH

Because Christ suffered for us, we are called to arm ourselves with His mindset, turn from sin, and live for the will of God—even when it costs us something.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

- According to verse 1, what mindset does Peter tell believers to adopt because Christ suffered in His body?
- In verse 2, what are Christians no longer to live for, and what should guide the rest of their earthly lives?
- What behaviors does Peter list in verse 3 as part of the old way of living? Do you understand what those mean?
- According to verse 4, how do others sometimes respond when Christians no longer join them in reckless living?
- What does verse 5 say everyone will ultimately have to do before God?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

- What does it mean to “arm yourselves” with the same attitude as Christ? Why might Peter use military language?
- How should we understand the statement that whoever suffers in the body is “done with sin” without assuming Christians become perfect?
- How does Jesus’ willingness to suffer help us understand the cost of resisting temptation and following God?
- How do Romans 12:1–2 and 1 Peter 4:2 connect a renewed mind with living for God rather than the patterns of the world?
- Why is it important to agree with God about what sin is and confess it honestly, instead of justifying it or minimizing it?
- How can the desire to fit in, keep our reputation, or avoid discomfort compete with obedience to Jesus?
- How does remembering that God will judge the living and the dead give hope when following Christ leads to rejection or abuse?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

- What desire, habit, or temptation most often pulls your attention away from what God wants?
- When have you had to choose between fitting in with others and being faithful to Jesus? What made that choice difficult?
- Which question more often guides your daily decisions: “What do I want?” or “What does God want?” Give an example.

- What is one old pattern of thinking or living that God may be asking you to leave behind?
- When you struggle with a recurring sin, what tends to keep the cycle going? What could help you turn toward Christ instead?
- Where might God be asking you to accept discomfort, sacrifice, or a changed routine in order to obey Him?
- How can you respond when friends or family misunderstand, ridicule, or exclude you because your life is changing?
- What could you replace an unhealthy activity or desire with that helps you know God more deeply?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

- Am I preparing my mind to follow Jesus even when obedience is costly?
- What desire am I allowing to compete with God's will?
- Have I renamed or excused something God calls sin?
- What do my choices reveal about whether I am living for my comfort or for Christ?
- Am I more concerned about what others think of me than about being faithful to Jesus?
- Where do I need to confess, repent, and trust God for a new direction?
- What would it look like today to embrace my identity in Christ and stop looking back?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Identify one desire, habit, or pattern that competes with living for the will of God. You do not need to share private details with the group.

Each day, pray: "Jesus, help me adopt Your mindset. Show me where I am living for my own desires, and give me strength to choose Your will."

Then take one concrete step: remove a source of temptation, interrupt an unhelpful thought, confess honestly, ask a mature Christian for support, or replace an old habit with a life-giving practice that draws you toward God.

When the choice is difficult, remember that discomfort does not have to control you. Ask for help, let the craving or temptation pass, and choose the next faithful step.

Don't measure faithfulness by whether obedience is easy. Keep choosing Jesus.

Remind yourself each day: *"I belong to Christ, and I am willing to follow Him even when it costs me something."*

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for willingly suffering for us and giving us new life. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal desires and habits that compete with God's will and give you courage to confess sin and turn from it. Pray for strength to endure temptation, humility to seek help, and confidence in your identity in Christ. Ask God to help you respond with grace when others misunderstand your choices, and to make your life a faithful witness to Jesus. Entrust the outcome and final judgment to Him.