

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 2:11–12

KEY TRUTH

Resist what wars against your soul, and live in a way that points others to Jesus.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

- How does Peter address the believers in verse 11?
- What two descriptions does Peter use for their relationship to this world?
- What does Peter urge believers to abstain from?
- How does Peter describe what fleshly desires are doing to the soul?
- What kind of conduct does Peter tell believers to have among the Gentiles?
- What does Peter say unbelievers may do when they observe the good works of Christians?
- What future “day” does Peter point toward in verse 12?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

- Why does Peter connect the command to resist fleshly desires with our identity as pilgrims and exiles?
- The phrase “fleshly lusts” includes more than sexual temptation. What other desires can become disordered and draw us away from God?
- What does the picture of desires “waging war against the soul” teach us about the seriousness and persistence of temptation?
- How can a normal desire become disordered by rising above God, moving outside His will, or becoming something we believe we must have?

- Why does Peter connect our private battle against sin with our public witness before others?
- What is the difference between simply avoiding bad behavior and living a visibly honorable life filled with good works?
- What does verse 12 suggest about the way God may use a believer's life to point other people toward Jesus?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

- What desire is most likely to become disordered in your life: comfort, control, recognition, approval, pleasure, revenge, possessions, or something else?
- Have you become numb to something that may be damaging your soul even though you do not immediately feel its effects?
- How can you recognize when something you enjoy has moved from being a desire to becoming something that rules you?
- What are you currently feeding that may be weakening your desire for God or your willingness to obey Him?
- Is there something you need to confess, change, or ask another believer to help you fight?
- What difference should the restoring grace of Jesus make in the way we respond when we recognize sin in our lives?
- What do the people closest to you see when you fail, become frustrated, get hurt, or realize you were wrong?
- Where has God given you an opportunity to make His goodness visible through honesty, patience, humility, generosity, service, or repentance?
- Who might be watching your life, and how could your choices point that person toward Jesus this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

- What is currently waging war against my soul?
- What desire have I allowed to move out of its proper place?

- Where might I be cooperating with something that is slowly taking life from me?
- Does my life make the goodness of Jesus visible to the people around me?
- What good work has God placed in front of me that I need to walk in this week?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Take one intentional step in each direction this week. First, identify one desire that has begun to move out of order. Stop feeding it, confess it to God, and invite a trusted believer to help you resist it if needed. Then choose one specific good work that will make the love and character of Jesus visible to someone around you.

Remind yourself each day:

“Resist what wars against your soul, and live in a way that points others to Jesus.”

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for calling you out of darkness, showing you mercy, and restoring your soul. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any desire that has moved out of its proper place and give you strength to resist it. Ask God to transform your character and show you the good works He has prepared for you so that your life will make Jesus visible to the people around you.