

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

1 Peter 4:5–7

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 4:5–7. Also read 2 Peter 3:8–9 and 1 Peter 3:15 as you consider God’s patience and our opportunity to share the hope we have in Jesus.

KEY TRUTH

What we believe about eternity should shape how we live, pray, and share the hope we have in Jesus today.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

- Who will give an account to God in verse 5? Look back at verses 3–4 for context.
- What does verse 6 say about the purpose of the gospel being preached?
- What contrast does Peter describe between death in the body and life in the spirit?
- What does Peter say is near in verse 7?
- What response does Peter call for, particularly concerning prayer?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

- How would knowing that God will judge justly comfort believers who were being mistreated for their faith?
- In the message, verse 6 was understood to refer to believers who heard the gospel while alive and have since died. How does this reading reassure Christians that death has not canceled what Jesus has given them?
- Why does trusting in Jesus change how we face eternity? What have His death and resurrection accomplished for us?
- According to 2 Peter 3:8–9, how should we understand God’s timing and patience?
- Why should the approaching end lead to clear-minded, purposeful prayer? How might an eternal perspective change what we pray about?
- How does 1 Peter 3:15 help us understand both the message and the manner of sharing our hope?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

- Have you ever been so busy with immediate demands that you neglected something more important? How can that happen in your relationship with God or your concern for others?
- What conversation, relationship, or step of obedience have you been postponing until “the timing is better”?

- What most often keeps you from talking about Jesus: awkwardness, fear of rejection, uncertainty about what to say, or something else?
- How could remembering the lasting hope Jesus gives help you respond to that hesitation?
- If someone asked how God has helped you through a difficult season, what could you honestly share in ordinary words?
- How can you connect your personal experience with the good news of Jesus' death, resurrection, and forgiveness?
- Think about someone God has already placed in your life. What are they carrying, and how could you show them practical love while being open about your faith?
- How does remembering that God saves people free you to share faithfully without trying to control their response?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

Are immediate concerns crowding out what matters eternally?
 Whose opinion am I allowing to keep me silent about Jesus?
 Am I regularly praying for people to know Him?
 What has Jesus done in my life that I could share honestly?
 Do my words and actions reflect gentleness and respect?
 Whose name has been coming to mind during this discussion?
 What opportunity might I miss if I keep waiting for "later"?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Write down the names of **two people** you want to pray for this week.

Each day, pray: "Lord, help them know Your love and the hope You offer. Open a door for conversation, help me recognize it, and give me courage to speak with gentleness and respect."

Look for a practical way to care for each person. Listen to what they are facing, follow up, offer help, or make time to be present.

Prepare a brief explanation of your hope in three or four ordinary sentences. Include who Jesus is, what He accomplished through His death and resurrection, and how trusting Him has affected your life. Practice sharing it with someone in your group.

Look for an opportunity to speak about Jesus and invite these people to attend church with you. Continue loving and praying for them regardless of their response.

Remind yourself each day:

"What I believe about eternity should shape how I live today."

PRAYER

Thank Jesus for dying for our sins, rising from the dead, and giving us life that death cannot take away. Thank God for His patience and the opportunities He gives people to respond to Him. Ask Him to bring eternity into focus and help us live and pray with purpose. Pray by name for the people identified by your group. Ask for open doors, courage to speak, gentleness to listen, and practical ways to show His love. Pray for revival in our communities, trusting God with the results as we faithfully share the hope we have in Jesus.