LISTENING GUIDE

| THIS SECTION IS FOR YOU TO READ AHEAD OF TIME AND CONTEMPLATE WHILE LISTENING.

- Keep looking for and listening to labels Peter gives believers.
- Listen for instructions. Look at who from and to whom those actions are to be taken.
- Look for words that today's culture and world would consider touchy.
- Look for Jesus' definitions of leadership, love, and service.

TALK ABOUT IT

| THIS SECTION LETS YOU DIVE INTO GOD'S WORD AND SERMON CONTENT.

- In this passage, Peter challenges believers to live in a way that reflects Jesus, even when their circumstances or relationships are difficult. Why do you think our behavior can sometimes communicate the gospel more powerfully than our words?
    - What does it look like to demonstrate Christlike character when someone isn't treating us the way we'd like?
- In *verse 7*, Peter describes husbands and wives as "heirs together of the gracious gift of life." How should this shared identity in Christ shape the way spouses understand, honor, and treat one another?
    - Why do you think Peter connects the way husbands treat their wives with their relationship with God?
- We heard that husbands are called to understand, protect, respect, and serve their wives. How does this picture of leadership compare with what our culture often celebrates?
    - What might change in our relationships if we focused less on what others owe us and more on how we can serve them?

| Open Discussion: The sermon emphasized that Biblical submission is mutual, but neither blind nor absolute. Read ***Philippians 2:3-8***. How does Jesus challenge our natural desire to get our own way? How can we distinguish Christlike humility and sacrifice from unhealthy patterns of control or mistreatment?

- The sermon reminded us that marriage isn't about two people fighting over which one gets their way, but two people becoming something new together.
    - Whether married or single, what has God been teaching you about putting others first without losing sight of who He's called you to be?

- This passage is explicitly about a marriage relationship. What principles can be applied in all areas of our life and all relationships we have?
    - What themes do you see here are present in other teachings in Scripture?

LIVING A STEADFAST LIFE | THIS SECTION IS FOR US TO CONSIDER HOW TO APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES.

- Think about your closest relationships. Are you more concerned with being understood or understanding others?
    - What's one practical way you could become a better student of someone you love this week?
- Have someone read *Mark 10:45*. Where might God be inviting you to set aside your preferences, pride, or expectations to demonstrate His love?
- Our relationships can either reinforce or contradict the gospel we proclaim. What's one thing you could begin doing differently this week that would help someone experience the love of Jesus through you?

PRAY | THINGS TO CONSIDER PRAYING FOR, A GUIDE/REFERENCE.

- Pray God would help us be people whose relationships reflect the character of Jesus.
- Pray for marriage in our church family, that husbands and wives would grow in understanding, respect, humility, and sacrificial love.
- Pray for those navigating difficult, painful, or absent relationships–that those would experience God's wisdom, protection, and care.
- Pray for our family, friends, and community. That they see something different in the way your small group loves each other.