



LIVING — HOPE

A SERIES IN FIRST PETER

Connect Group Sessions

1 PETER SERIES

Hope.

1 Peter Series

How To Use This Connect Group Curriculum

The goal of connect group curriculum is for real-life discipleship to happen.

Each member of the group selects a Group Role Card to determine how they will participate. You can try different roles each week. Groups can have members 'pick a card' at the beginning of the meeting or the week prior. This is a great way to enable everyone to contribute in the group.

Groups Role Cards: Guide, Encourager, Time Keeper, Servant, Prayer Person, Connector, Contributors. See your leader for the Group Role Cards.

Focus. Summarizes the topic of the week.

'Table Talk' Video Session. This is a short video (approx. 7 min) where Pastor Jon and Pastor Lorie will interact around the passage of scripture being studied each week. It's a great kick-start to your discussion time and provides some additional insights to the sermon and the passage being studied. Video links are provided to the leaders each week.

Let's Talk. The goal of this section is to open each meeting by briefly discussing a question or two that will help the group check in with one another and get focused on the subject for this week.

Dig In. The purpose of this section is to get the group into the Bible and get the Bible into our lives. Don't feel rushed or pressured or that you have to discuss every question. Give everyone an opportunity to share. If you don't get through all the questions, that's okay.

Now What? This section focuses on personal and group application. What will you do with what you are learning?

Pray. This section enables groups to participate together in prayer.

Additional Study Notes. Provides extra insights into the passage.

Sermon Notes.

Session 1. 1 Peter 1:1-12

Focus.

Our faith is focused in a sure hope.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 1.

Let's Talk.

What are some of the ways we use the term "hope" in everyday conversation?

Have you ever been persecuted, slandered, or looked down upon because of your faith in Christ? Share your experience with the group.

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12

How did the sermon inform your understanding of this passage?

What do you know about Peter from the Gospels and Acts? What was Peter like? What made Him worthy to be an apostle? (See some of Peter's life in these passages: Matt. 14:23-33; Matt. 16:13-23; Matt. 26:35)

Peter starts in verse 1 with a word of encouragement to the scattered church, knowing that they might be feeling far from God. When have you most felt like a stranger because of your faith?

Why do you think Peter reminded these Christians of the role of the Trinity in verse 2? How does this help us to stand firm against forces that threaten our faith versus us relying on our own strength or good works?

READ vs. 3-7. In what ways do human expressions of hope compare to the inheritance described in verse 4?

What key words in verses 3-5 describe the evidences or results of salvation? What words describe our inheritance in Christ?

How have you seen faith tested and strengthened because of a trial?

READ vs. 8-12. How have you experienced the connection between faith and joy?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

As you pray **#allovertheearth** - In what unique situations and settings has God strategically placed you to be a witness for Him? How are you engaging in those settings to bring the message of Hope in Christ?

In what area of your life is it most difficult for you to maintain hope? What is one step you could take this week to focus your hope on the grace of God in Jesus Christ? How might such a focus change your perspective in this trouble spot?

Pray.

Thank God for strengthening us to stand firm in our faith under

difficult times and the threat of persecution. Pray that God would help us to see the places He has strategically placed us to live for His glory and serve as His witnesses to those who don't know Him.

Additional Study Notes:

V.1 There are many aspects of Christianity that people today find distasteful or even offensive. Some people are offended by the exclusivity of the gospel while others are offended by Christ's teaching on morality. Many people find the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith offensive because they want credit for their good works. All of this tells us something that Jesus constantly reminded His disciples of: we live in a culture that does not share our Christian values. Consequently we should not be surprised when they look down upon and slander us for refusing to conform to their way of life. Knowing this, Peter began his letter to numerous churches in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) by describing his audience as "elect exiles" or "aliens". Peter did this to remind us that though we live under the constant threat of persecution, we can stand firm knowing that this world is not our home.

V.1 Peter's mention of the "dispersion" in verse 1 refers to the Babylonian and Assyrian captivities of Israel and Judah by which many Jews were displaced from their homes and forced to live in foreign lands. Peter's audience was probably made up of both Jewish and Gentile Christians, but this mention of the dispersion highlights God's sovereign hand in using the persecution of Israel for the strategic spread of the gospel.

V.2 The title "elect exiles" denotes that we have been chosen by God—we are no longer our own—He has chosen us and set us apart for His holy purposes. It also tells us that we are exiles—we

do not ultimately belong to this world nor do we “fit” in it. We live in a world that is corrupted by sin, a world that increasingly does not understand us, yet God has appointed us to live in this world for His glory.

To prepare your mind for action means to fill your mind with truth so deeply that it transforms your thoughts and actions. It is not enough to merely know the truth, the truth must become so ingrained in us that it affects our behavior. Setting your hope fully on Christ requires discipline. Studying God’s Word, praying, and actively participating in the community of the church are a few of the ways we can prepare our minds for action.

Sermon Notes.

Session 2. 1 Peter 1:13-25

Focus.

The salvation that is ours in Christ radically alters the hope and purpose of our lives.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 1.

Let's Talk.

Have you found yourself trying to 'fit in'? What did that look like?

When faced with a trial in your life, how do you most often respond?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 1:13-25

How did the sermon inform your understanding of this passage?

Why did Peter challenge his readers to set their hope fully on God's future grace in Christ in v. 13?

What is your reaction to the commands in verses 15-16?

What does it look like for you to live a 'holy' life?

Christians need to learn to both deliberately refuse certain things and deliberately immerse ourselves in other things in order to be alert and ready for action. What are some examples of each? Why are both of these practices necessary to spiritual growth?

What does it look like to live with a 'reverent fear' of God?

READ vs. 18-21.

What is the significance of being 'redeemed' or 'ransomed' by God? Also see: Rom. 6:6-7; 1 Cor. 6:20; Col. 2:13-14; Heb. 9:12

How have you changed, or are changing, since coming to know Christ as Lord? How has your thinking, attitudes, goals or desires changed?

What does it look like to have 'sincere love' and to 'love deeply'? What does that look like in your relationships in your family, at work, with friends, at church?

Peter quotes Is. 40:6-8. Why is this a helpful perspective on our lives?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

In what area of your life is it most difficult for you to pursue holiness? What is one step you could take this week to focus your hope on the grace of God in Jesus Christ? How might such a focus change your perspective in this trouble spot?

What are some practical ways we might deepen our appreciation for the salvation that is ours in Christ? How might doing so prepare us for future suffering?

Pray.

Thank God for giving us eternal hope through the gospel of His Son. Pray that we would fight the temptation to let our fleshly

desires and passions compromise our faith. Pray that God would help you prioritize your relationship with Him such that Christ begins to direct everything that you do.

Additional Study Notes:

As Christians, we are living in a unique time in between Christ's first coming and His second. As a result we have been "born again to a living hope" and sealed for an "inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Peter 1:3-4). Yet we still have sinful passions that distract us from Christ (v. 14). In light of this, Peter not only reminds us of the salvation that is ours in Christ, but challenges us to actively pursue holiness. The word "holy" literally means "set apart" and is most often used to refer to God's perfect character. Christians are to demonstrate the eternal hope by daily seeking to grow in godliness.

The last words in verse 13, "when Jesus Christ is revealed," point ahead to an undisclosed day in the future when Jesus Christ will come to earth the second time. Christians must not forget the first chapter of our salvation or ignore its final chapter. The first affects the second. The second affects the first. From the outset, believers are to live each day for that great final day.

How do we do this? First, prepare "your minds for action." In the first century, people who wanted to walk or run quickly faced a problem. Before they could quicken their pace, they had to gather up their loose flowing robes with a belt, so they would not trip and fall flat on their face as they set off for their destination. Translating that into daily living, Peter said, "Pull your thoughts together. Don't let anything hinder your mind as you put it to work for God." In other words, have a disciplined mind.

Being "sober-minded" expresses the same idea. A loose

paraphrase might be, “Stay on your toes spiritually.” Be realistic about what you face in your life as a Christian. Be alert and ready in your whole spiritual and mental attitude because it is so easy to slide, especially when you are suffering.

Sermon Notes.

Session 3. 1 Peter 2:1-12

Focus.

All Christians are called to grow in holiness and live in community with other believers.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 3.

Let's Talk.

What did you want to be when you grew up and why?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 2:1-12

How did the sermon inform your understanding of the passage?

Why is it important to get rid of 'malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind'?

What does getting rid of them have to do with yearning for spiritual milk or growing in your salvation?

What parts of the stone imagery stand out to you the most? Why?

In verse 5, the stones fit together to form the spiritual house. What is your role in the spiritual house, and how might God's church suffer if it were built without you? (Consider your spiritual gifts.)

Looking in verses 5 and 9, what are the descriptions of the believers?

v. 9-10. What does it mean to you that you are a 'people', not an individual in God's family? How does that affect the way you live and interact in the body of Christ?

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12. How is God's kingdom advanced as a result of doing what Peter asks in these verses?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

How can you be a priest toward your fellow believers?

In what ways does our church fit together as a spiritual house?

What are some areas we could improve in?

Pray.

Praise God for His calling and work to bring us to Him. Pray for our church, that believers will grow together and encourage one another as we come together as a royal priesthood and a spiritual house.

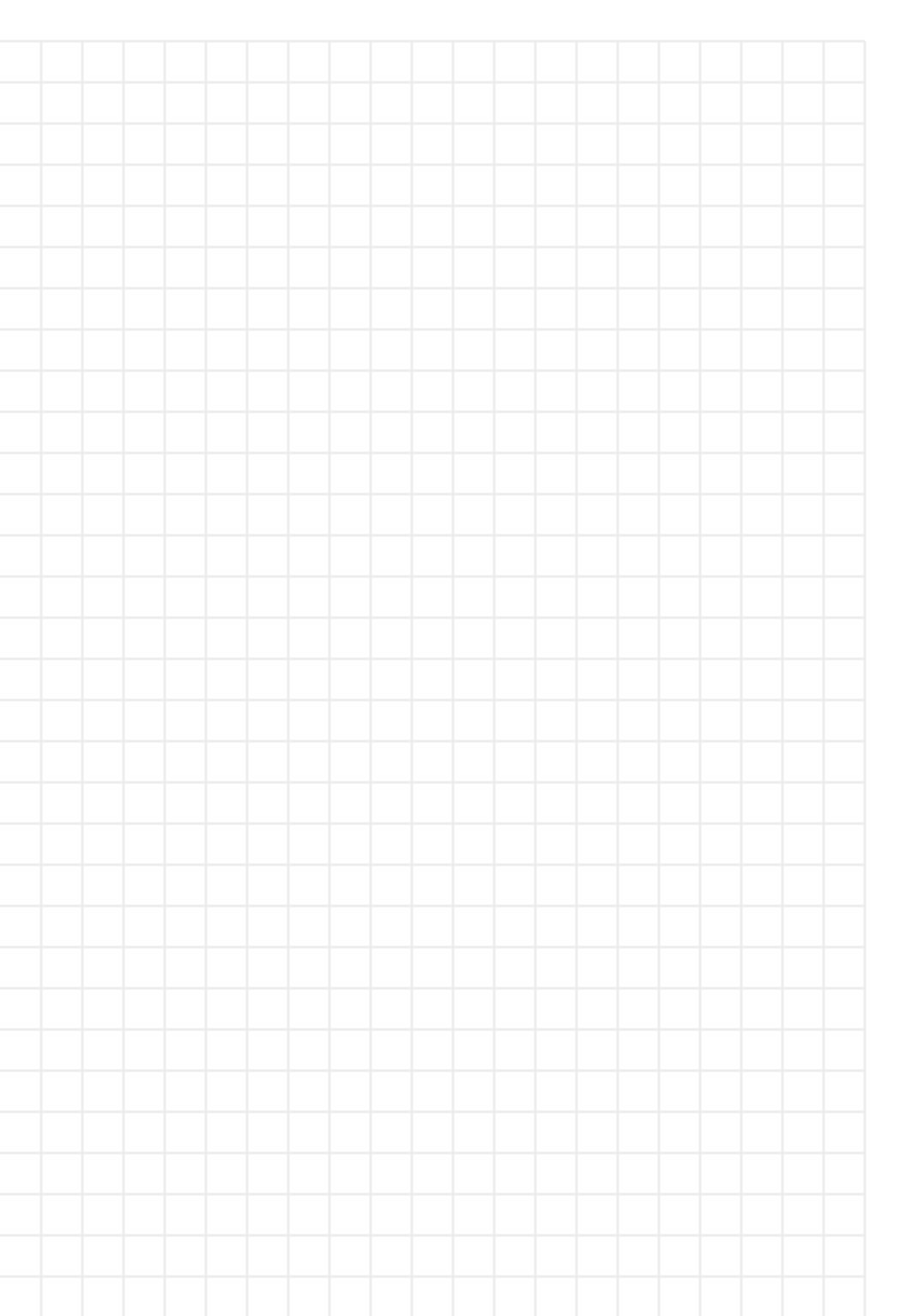
Additional study notes:

Peter referred to Isaiah 28:16 in verse 4 and then quoted it in verse 6. Then in verse 7, Peter quoted Psalm 118:22, naming Jesus as the cornerstone. The stone imagery takes off from there; Christ is the cornerstone, the stone on which the entire building is set. Churches, bodies of believers, are the stones that are built up together to form a spiritual house. These stones work together to

form the structure as a church; it is not about any individual but about how individuals can be concerned for one another in the church and for those who will come after them.

The believers that Peter wrote to are given a high honour with how Peter referred to them. They are a spiritual house, a royal and holy priesthood, a holy nation, and a people of Christ's own possession. The priest in the Old Testament served as a go-between with Israel and God. He would take the nation's offering to God and pronounce the forgiveness of God to the people. In a similar way believers are now the priesthood, they are able to convey the forgiveness of God to one another and to encourage one another in holiness. The call on the lives of believers, though, does not stop at just a relationship with God or with each other. Peter understood that the lives of believers are lived in view of the unsaved world.

Sermon Notes.



Session 4. 1 Peter 2:13-17

Focus.

As God's chosen people, believers are to respect people in authority.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 4.

Let's Talk.

When is it easy to respect those in authority and when is it difficult?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17

How did the sermon inform your understanding of the passage?

How do we submit to and honour leaders we disagree with?
What emotions do you experience at the thought of submitting to leaders you disagree with?

Why do you think v. 13 begins with 'submit yourselves for the Lord's sake'? What does that mean?

How would you define submission? How is submitting to those in authority serving Christ as Lord?

Share some implications of Peter's instructions in verses 13-14 in the following areas of authority: (1) federal government; (2) local government; (3) traffic laws; (4) copyright laws; (5) taxes; (6) other _____.

Why is it a bad idea to think that because we are made free by Christ's work, we can do whatever we please? What would happen if Christians did this?

What does it mean to be 'free' and yet 'God's slave'? See Gal. 5:13

Read 1 Peter 2:17. Compare and contrast "respect" and "love". What might the relationship be between these things and "fearing God"?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

Are there any authorities in your life you need to reconcile with as a means of showing them respect and honour? How might this humble act lead you to share your faith or grow in faith?

Is there an area of your life that you need to submit to God? Are you living out your 'freedom' carelessly or cautiously?

Additional Study Notes:

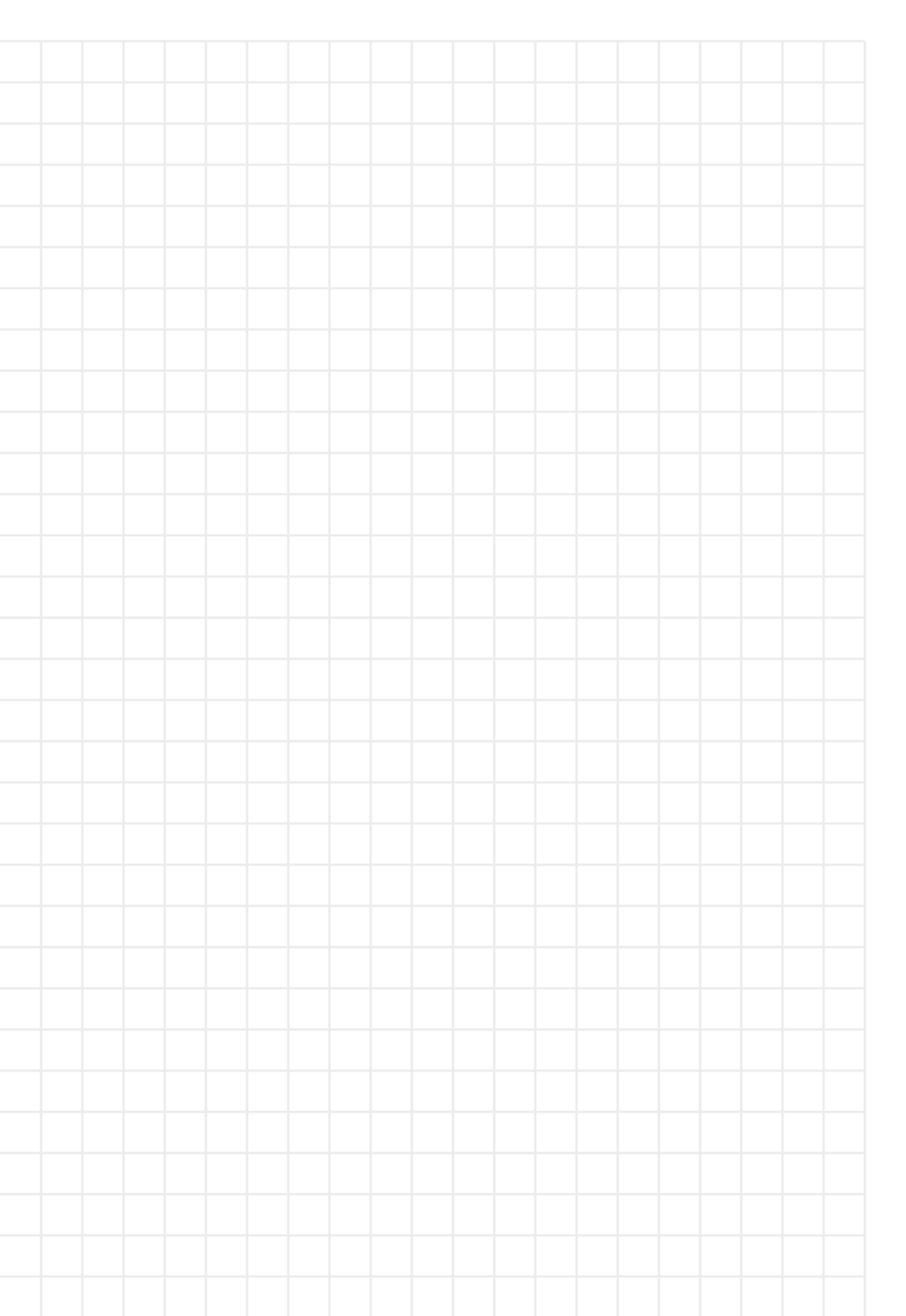
Peter urged the first-century Christians facing the hardship of persecution and discrimination for their faith to concentrate on doing good and not evil. He pointed out that this required submitting to and honouring earthly authorities, even those who practiced cruelty toward them. Peter held up Jesus as their example, who Himself endured undeserved persecution by entrusting Himself to God, who judges justly.

Peter next explained why believers should submit. Obeying is a matter of God's will or God's desire. Acting in God's will as God's people, believers make a bold statement to an unbelieving

community. By submitting to the civil authorities, believers demonstrate they are good citizens, not anarchists trying to overthrow the government. In addition, such good works silence the ignorance of foolish people. The word silence means muzzle, as one might do to control a howling dog.

When we fear people instead of God, we worship them instead of God. We look at people to fill us up, hoping they will give us what we need. But when we believe in Jesus and fear the Lord instead of man, we can love people for the sake of God's glory and not for what they do for us. In the words of 1 Peter 2:17, our fear of God leads us to show respect, love others, and honour the government.

Sermon Notes.



Session 5. 1 Peter 2:18-25

Focus.

Endurance in the middle of suffering.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 5.

Let's Talk.

How do you handle frustration at work, home or school?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

What are some of the kinds of suffering early Christians experienced? Can we draw any parallels from our lives to such suffering?

Read and relate Colossians 3:23-24 to your life. What keywords in this passage stand out and why?

How does Eph. 6:5-8 give you perspective when working in a difficult situation?

Why is God pleased with you when you do what you know is right and you endure unfair treatment? See 1 Peter 2:18-20; 3:14, 17

What was Jesus' motive for not sinning when experiencing unjust suffering (v. 22-23)?

When we become angry or frustrated at the simplest of

inconveniences, what does that reveal about us?

Reflect on verses 24–25. What do these verses mean to you personally?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

Are you tempted to retaliate right now? What would it look like to ‘leave your case in the hands of God who always judges fairly’? (v. 23)

How does Jesus’ example to you help you this week as you face your own struggles and suffering? How will you respond differently?

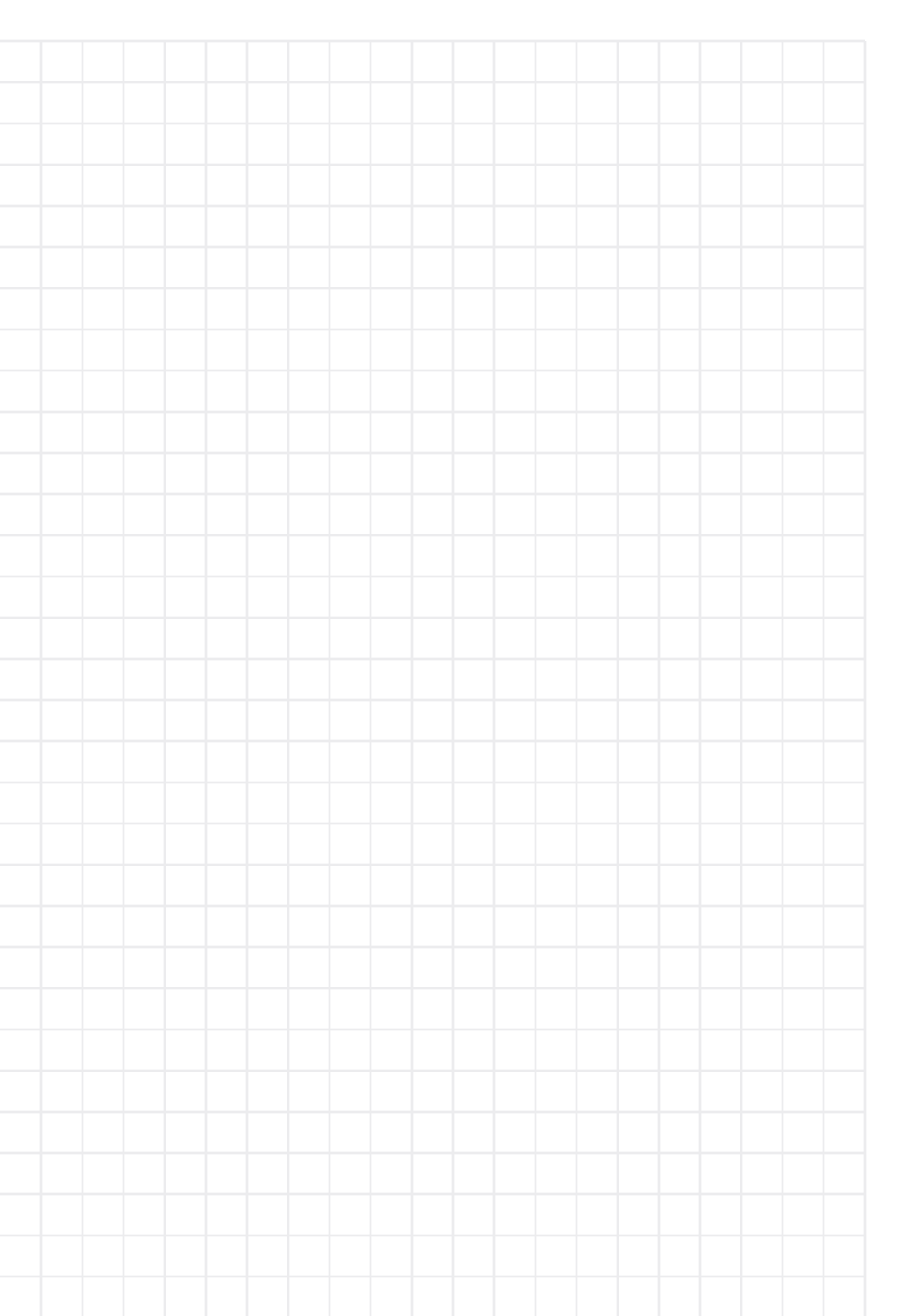
Pray.

Thank God for the character checks provided to us in Scripture. Pray that your group members will have an increased desire to serve God and His church this week and will live with integrity by seeking God in suffering.

Additional Study Notes:

If we are suffering and become angry or bitter, it reveals idols in our hearts. It shows us that we have become entitled to whatever it is we are not getting. To feel entitled to something is to worship it. Peter points out that Jesus “entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly” (v. 23). In other words, Jesus worshiped the Father, not His right to be treated justly.

Sermon Notes.



Session 6. 1 Peter 3:1-7

Focus.

Submission in the home.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 6.

Let's Talk.

As a child or youth, how did you picture the man or woman of your dreams?

What would you say makes for a good marriage?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

How did the sermon inform your understanding of this passage?

How does this passage relate to the previous chapter (notice that it starts with “in the same way” or “likewise”)? What theme was being addressed in the previous passage that ties into this passage? (See additional study notes)

Submission today isn't a popular concept. Read Ephesians 5:21-33 and Colossians 3:18-19. What would a marriage built on mutual submission look like?

Why is submission an important issue in Christian marriages?

What nine qualities does Peter list in Verses 3:1-6 for wives to display?

From verses 3-4, what “adornment” does God value? (1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 31:30; 1 Timothy 2:9-10)

What does a woman who is married to an unbeliever need from other Christians, both men and women?

What does Peter say will happen to the man who does not respect his wife? (Matthew 5:23-24)

In 3:7, what does Peter mean when he calls the woman the “weaker” partner? How should a man be considerate of her (or honour her)? (see additional study notes)

Is Peter advocating that spouses stay in cruel or abusive situations? Why or why not?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

If you are married how does this passage inform your own marriage?

Married or not, what qualities here would you like to build into your friendships with the opposite sex?

Pray.

Pray for the marriages in your group that they would reflect Christ. Pray for those that are not married that they their lives would honour marriage and reflect Christ.

Additional Study Notes:

As believers are to submit to government authorities (2:13) or slaves submit to their masters (2:18), so wives are to submit to their husbands. The same Greek verb is used which calls for submission to a recognized authority. It is important to note that Peter does not in any way imply inferiority of wives compared to their husbands. The submission implied is one of a role or function necessary for the orderly operation of the home.

The wives' silent submission is to be part of a strategy for winning an unbelieving husband to the faith rather than the total surrender that would entail adopting the husband's faith, as the surrounding culture would expect when this letter was written.

Secondly, wives are not to fear intimidation ("do not give way to fear," v. 6), which may again mean they are to stand their ground on the issue of their faith.

In v. 7 what does Peter mean when he calls the woman the "weaker" partner? How should a man be considerate of her (or honour her)?

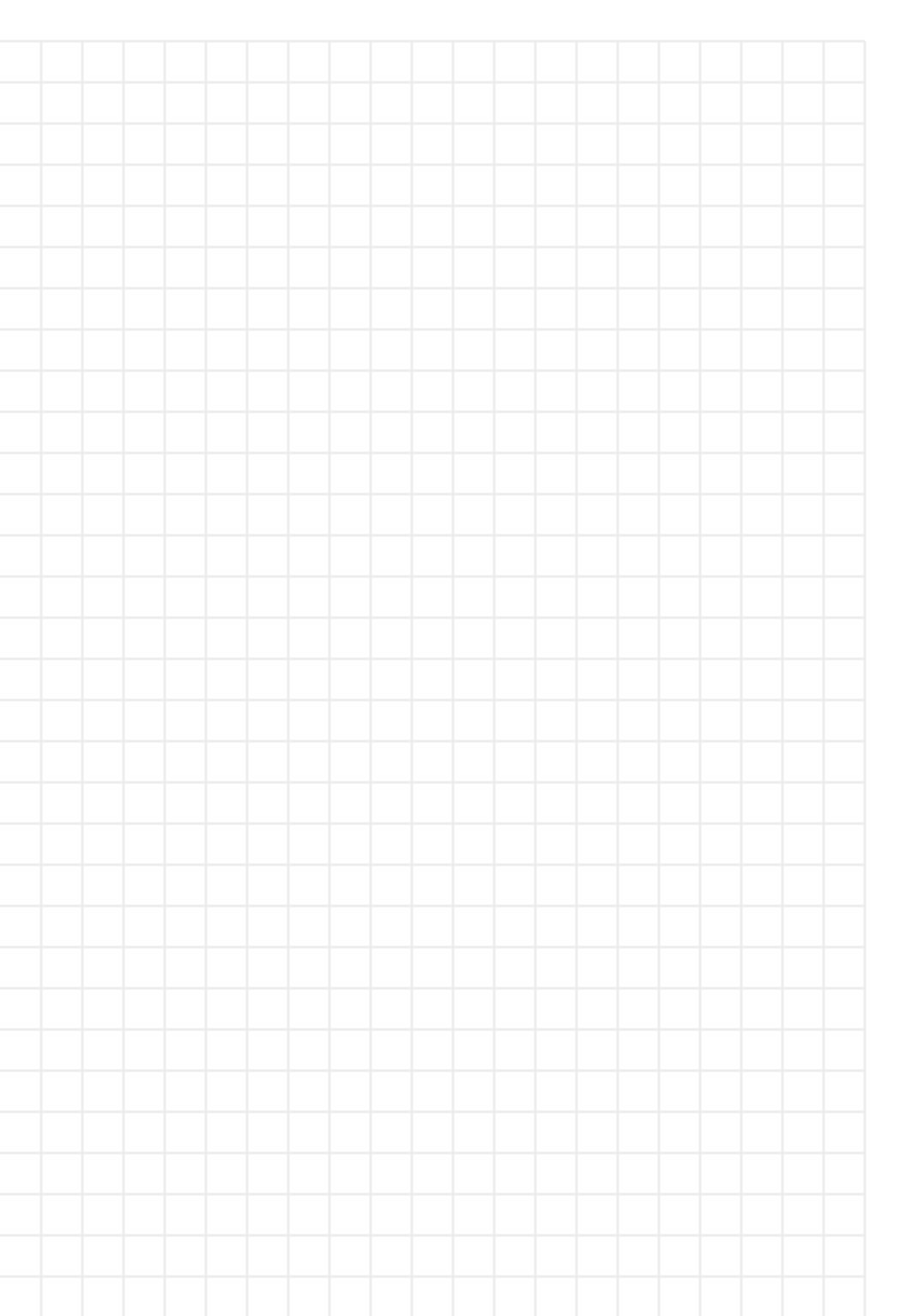
He does not mean moral stamina, strength of character or intellectual capacity, but by "weaker" he's talking about the literal meaning—physical strength. In Peter's day, women who were not protected by men were vulnerable to attack, abuse, and financial disaster. Does this sound any different today? No. Despite more job opportunities, women often earn less than men and vast majority of the world's poorest people are single mothers and their children.

A man who honours his wife as a member of the weaker sex will protect, respect, help, and stay with her. He will lighten her load when he can, be sensitive to her needs, and relate to her with

courtesy, consideration, insight, and tact.

In Mediterranean society, honour was a value sought by men, but here men are urged to give it to their wives. The reason for paying them honour is directly counter-cultural and characteristically Christian, namely that they are the physically weaker sex. Women are certainly not to be regarded as less valuable, but rather as co-heirs, as Peter states in the second part of v. 7.

Sermon Notes.



Session 7. 1 Peter 3:8-22

Focus.

What it looks like to be a Christian.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 7.

Let's Talk.

How did you prepare for exams or tests in school? Regular study? Cramming last minute? Winging it?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22

How did the sermon inform your understanding of this passage?

In v. 8 Peter lists five key qualities that every Christian should have. What are they? Describe each in your own words. Did they come naturally to Peter? (Mark 8:31-33) Do they come naturally to you?

In v. 9 Peter says to repay evil or an insult with a blessing. One way we can do that is to pray for those who hurt us. Have you ever actually done this? What happened? (Matthew 5:39) Will you do this this week in response to a difficult relationship?

How does the quote from Psalm 34 in verses 10-12 sum up all Peter has said in 1 Peter 2:11-3:9?

Do you find it easy to control your tongue? See James 3:2-18.

What's your response to this?

What does it mean in v.15 'But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord'? How does that help you face your fears and give you hope?

What did Peter instruct his readers (and us!) to be prepared to do in v. 15-17? Who will assist you in this? (Mark 13:11) Have you experienced this? (see additional study notes)

What situation seemed hopeless to you until God brought hope?

What hope does Christ's life and death provide? How does the example of Christ encourage those who suffer?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

How does C4 and your Connect Group exemplify the qualities of verse 8? What do you need to work on?

Have you surrendered every part of your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Are you willing to? What do you need to do to fully surrender to Christ as your leader?

Pray.

Re: Peter 3:10. The Jewish prayer, Elohai N'tzor, recited after the "Amidah," a central prayer in Jewish liturgy that draws from the same verse as Peter 3:10b.

Elohai N'tzor My God, keep my tongue from evil, my lips from lies. Help me ignore those who would slander me. Let me be humble before all. Open my heart to Your Torah [first

five books of the Bible] that I may pursue Your mitzvot [commandments]. Frustrate the designs of those who plot evil against me; make nothing of their schemes. Act for the sake of Your compassion, Your power, Your holiness, and Your Torah.

Answer my prayer for the deliverance of Your people. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to You, Adonai, my Rock and my Redeemer.

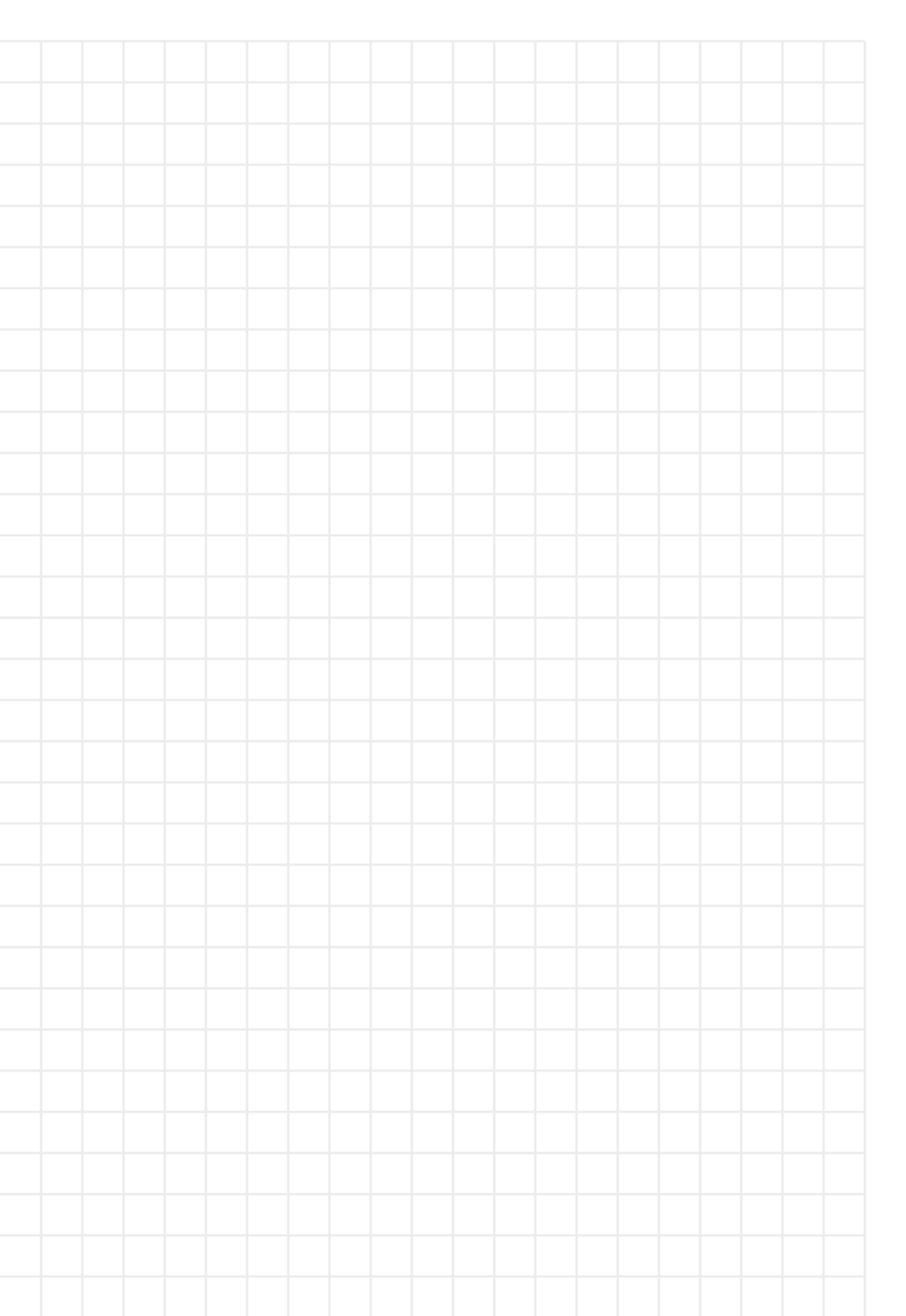
May the One who brings peace to His universe bring peace to us and to all the people Israel. Amen.

Additional Study Notes:

In the first sentence of verse 15, he exhorted his readers to make an inner commitment to Christ. They need not be speechless when called upon to defend their faith. Instead you will be ready to answer with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Peter adds to his exhortation that Christians are to be gentle and respectful when answering or giving your testimony to unbelievers, even when opposed by them (v. 3:16). Our answer (“apologetic”) is always to be given with love, never in degrading terms. Thus, you will have a “clear conscience” and because of your loving attitude, it will put your opponent in a bad light (“ashamed of their slander”). Even if it doesn’t work out exactly like that, at least your conscience is clear and, as Peter repeats in 3:17, “it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

Sermon Notes.



Session 8. 1 Peter 4:1-11

Focus.

Living for God.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 8.

Let's Talk.

Imagine that the world is going to end in 24 hours and you have been granted one wish for anything you want. What would you wish for? Why?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 4: 1-11

How did the sermon inform your understanding of the passage?

In your opinion, what best distinguishes Christians from non-Christians?

What does it mean to be done with sin? (4:1, Galatians 2:20) (see additional study notes)

Describe your life before you surrendered to Christ? Has there been significant change in the way you live? Have you ever been slandered or mocked by those from your past for your choice to follow Christ? (v. 3-4, Eph. 2:1-3)

Peter tells us that everyone who does not follow Christ will be judged (v. 5). Will Christians be judged also? Who is the judge?

What will be judged? (John 5:27, Psalm 62:12, Matthew 12:33-36, Romans 2:4-11, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 4:13)

For what reason was the gospel preached? (4:6) What happens to people who have not heard the gospel or anything about Jesus? (Romans 2:14-16, 4:15, 5:13)

In Verse 4:7, can “the end...is near” have both a positive and negative meaning?

What does it look like for you to offer hospitality? How can you offer hospitality if you don't have a home, car, or money?

Do you know your spiritual gifts? Are you using them in the way these verses describe? (4:10,11)

What goal did Peter want his readers to reach with all they did? (Romans 1:16, Jude 1:24-25)

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

What ways can you live out verse 8, in your group, your families, your work place and our church? ‘Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.’

What creative ways will you show hospitality to others in the coming weeks?

Pray.

Have you given your past to Jesus and accepted His death on the cross as ‘enough’ for you to be set free from shame and guilt? Write out your sins and take them to Jesus – ask His forgiveness

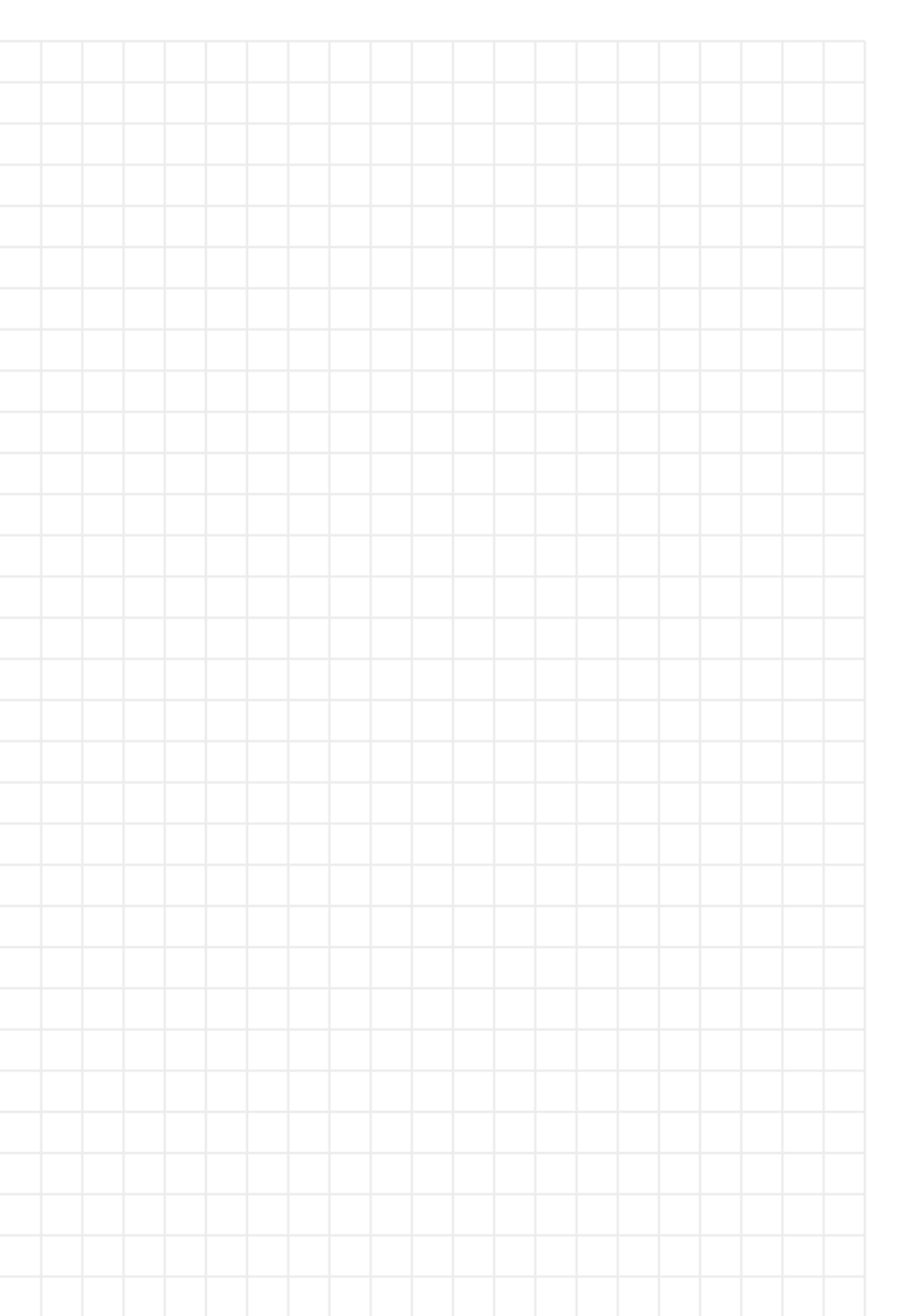
- tear up the list or burn it and receive the forgiveness and grace of Christ.

Additional Study Notes:

Peter adds that he who has suffered is 'done with sin', meaning that such suffering enables believers to straighten out their priorities. Sinful desires that once seemed important now seem insignificant when one's life is in jeopardy. Serious suffering for Christ advances the progress of sanctification (being made holy and free from sin). [from the NIV Study Bible.]

4:5 The basis of salvation is our belief in Jesus (Acts. 16:31), but the basis for judgment is how we have lived. All people will be judged; believers for the rewards they will receive; unbelievers for punishment. Those who inflict persecution are marked for punishment when they stand before God. All will give an account to God, so we must be ready. This may give you a new perspective on your activities and actions today. (Life Application Bible)

Sermon Notes.



Session 9. 1 Peter 4:12-19

Focus.

Be thankful for suffering for being a Christian.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 9.

Let's Talk.

When at the dentist, do you: a. refuse anesthesia; b. use local anesthesia; c. get knocked out? Besides the dentist what else reminds you of pain?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

How did the sermon inform your understanding of the passage?

Why should we not be surprised by trials in our lives as believers?
When you feel like giving up what keeps you going?

Peter has already written about suffering for doing good back in Chapter 3. Why is he writing about it again? (See additional study notes)

In what sense is the Christian's suffering part of Christ's suffering?
Why should we find joy in this?

If you were to tell a new believer what to expect in the Christian life, what are some things from 1 Peter you would tell them? Why?

What if you live in a largely Christian community with mostly Christian friends are you really suffering? Are you left out and not blessed? (4:13-14, Colossians 1:24, Matthew 5:11-12, 2 Timothy 3:12)

Are you avoiding suffering for Christ? How? Why?

Does it seem strange that Peter put a “meddler” in the same category as a murderer, thief and criminal? (4:15-16)

What does it look like to ‘bear the name’ of Christ? (v.18)

When Peter tells them to continue to do good (v.19) what reasons does he give for continuing?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

What will you do this week to continue to trust God, even in difficulty?

What suffering do you need to thank Jesus for? Will you invite Him into your suffering and pain and ask for Him to do His good work in your life?

Pray.

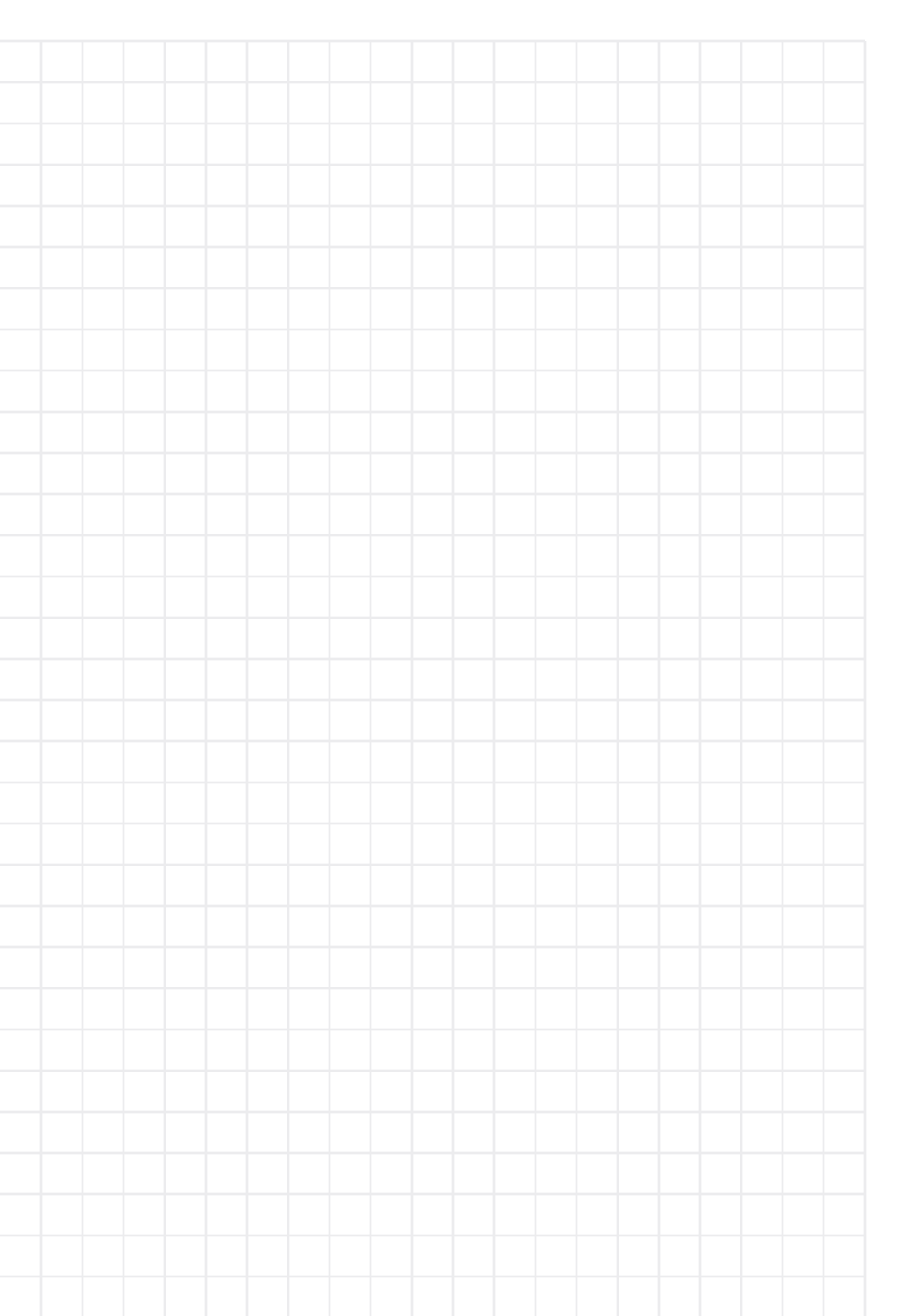
Thank God for the trials and difficulties that have come into your life. Tell Him that you will trust Him with them, that you will release control and surrender the outcome to His care.

Additional Study Notes:

Peter has already written about suffering for doing good back in Chapter 3. Why is he writing about it again?

Frequently, when something is repeated in the Bible, it is basically saying, “this is important. Pay attention.” But this seems to be different. The prospect of suffering here seems more intense being called a “painful trial” [NIV] or “fiery ordeal” [NASB]. The prospect of persecution may have grown graver for his readers from Roman magistrates but more likely Peter means that these sufferings are associated with the end-time (4:7). That is why he says his readers should “not be surprised.” This is the first stage of the last judgment (4:17) which begins with the family of God (including us!). “Not being surprised” also refers back to his earlier verses, specifically 1:6-7 and 2:20-21.

Sermon Notes.



Session 10. 1 Peter 5:1-7

Focus.

How to lead as Christ led.

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 10.

Let's Talk.

What is one of the most unruly groups you have had to 'shepherd'? School field trip? Co-workers? Babies or kids? A connect group?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 5:1-7

How did the sermon inform your understanding of the passage?

What good and bad motives does Peter give for being in leadership?

What qualities does he encourage elders to cultivate (v. 2-5)?

We all lead others in some way, how do these qualities reflect the way you 'lead'?

Peter's own experience with Christ would enable him to understand what it really looks like to 'shepherd' people. See John 21:15-17. Why do you think Jesus said these words to Peter? What does this look like for us?

Read Mark 10:42-45. How do these verses define leadership?

What connection do you see between submissiveness, humility, and anxiety?

Why were these believers encouraged to humble themselves? Why is being humble so difficult (5:6) See Hebrews 4:16. (See additional study notes)

How does verses 6-7 help us face our anxieties?

What should we do with our anxieties? See Philippians 4:6,7

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

What leadership responsibilities do you have? How do you score on Peter's leadership test? How can you improve your score?

What area of your life do you need to humble yourself in? Will you share this with your group or an individual and ask for accountability?

Pray.

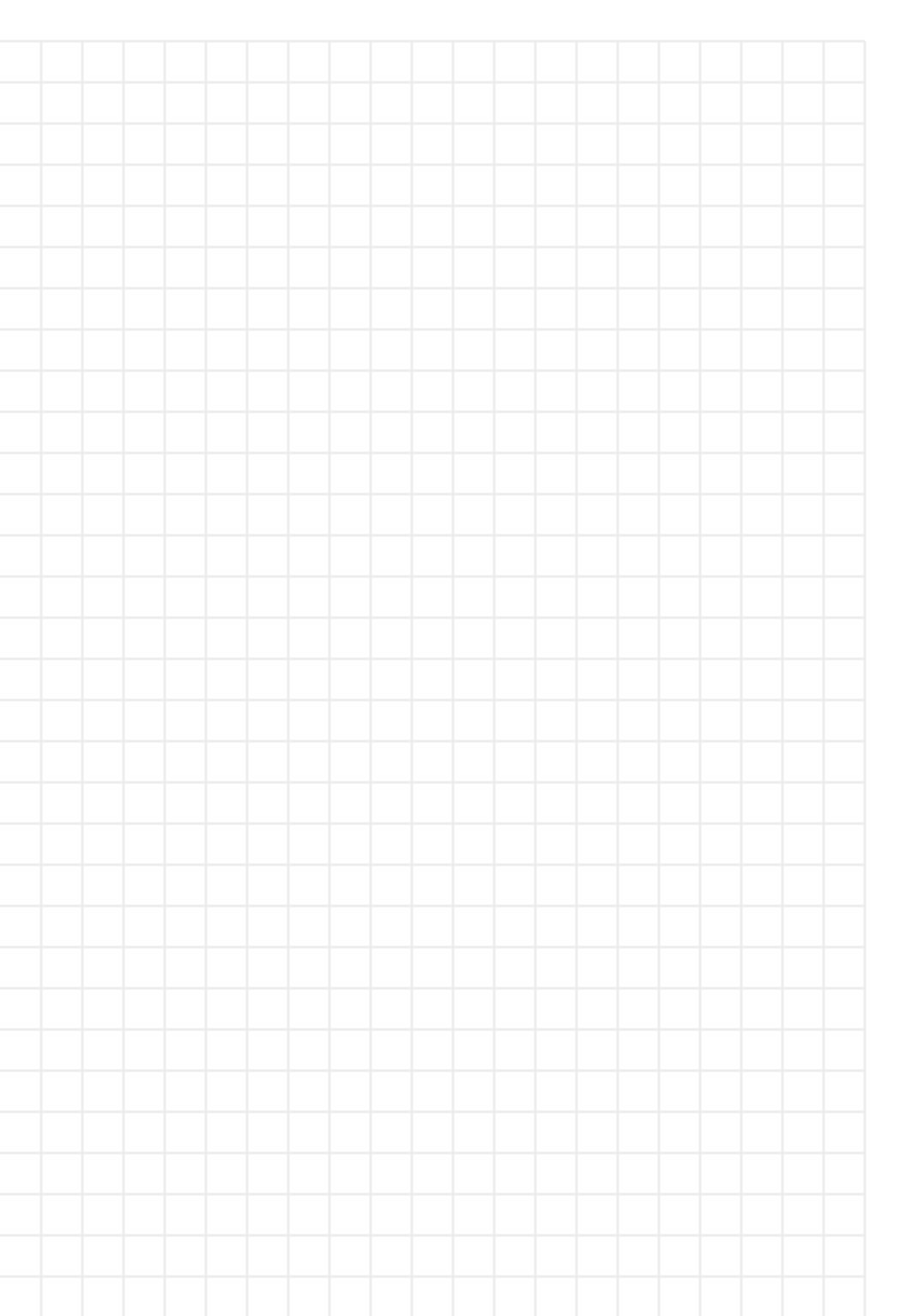
Ask the Lord to give you deep love for those that you influence and 'lead'. Ask Him to give you His character and to grow you into a leader that others will follow. Surrender all your anxieties and fears to His loving care. Ask Him to be your good Shepherd.

Additional Study Notes:

Peter says that God will lift you up “in due time” [NIV] or “at the right time” [NLT]. In other words, God’s help will come when you need it, actually when God determines that you need it (in His time), not when you think you need it.

Hebrews 4:16 – So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Sermon Notes.



Session 11. 1 Peter 5:8-14

Focus.

Staying alert! Standing firm!

View 'Table Talk' Video Session 11.

Let's Talk.

Have you ever gotten into trouble because you were not paying attention? What happened?

Dig In. Read 1 Peter 5:8-14

How did the sermon inform your understanding of the passage?

What sources of opposition to the Christians has Peter spoken of already in his letter? (See 1 Peter 2:12, 13-14, 18; 3:1, 16; 4:3-4)

What did Peter say about the devil and what we should do? (4:8-9, 1 Corinthians 10:13, James 4:7-8a)

Why do you think he says 'Be self controlled and alert'? (v.8) How does that help you when it comes to the devil and his schemes?

We are especially vulnerable to the enemy's attacks when we are lonely, sick, bored or tired and when you are cut off from other believers. How can you 'take your stand' in times like these? See James 4:7.

Why is verse 9 so important to have this perspective when you are suffering?

How important is being connected to other believers in taking a stand against the enemy? What does that look like in your life? Do you find it difficult to open up to others? Do you welcome the prayers of others?

Verse 10 tells us that 'after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.' In light of eternity our suffering is short. How does this encourage you in the 'now and not yet'?

How do verses 10-13 sum up the pressures these believers were facing, as well as Peter's advice on this matter?

Now What?

What is your response to the sermon application?

How has this study of 1 Peter helped you? What have you put into practice in your life as a result of this study and the time you have spent with your Connect Group?

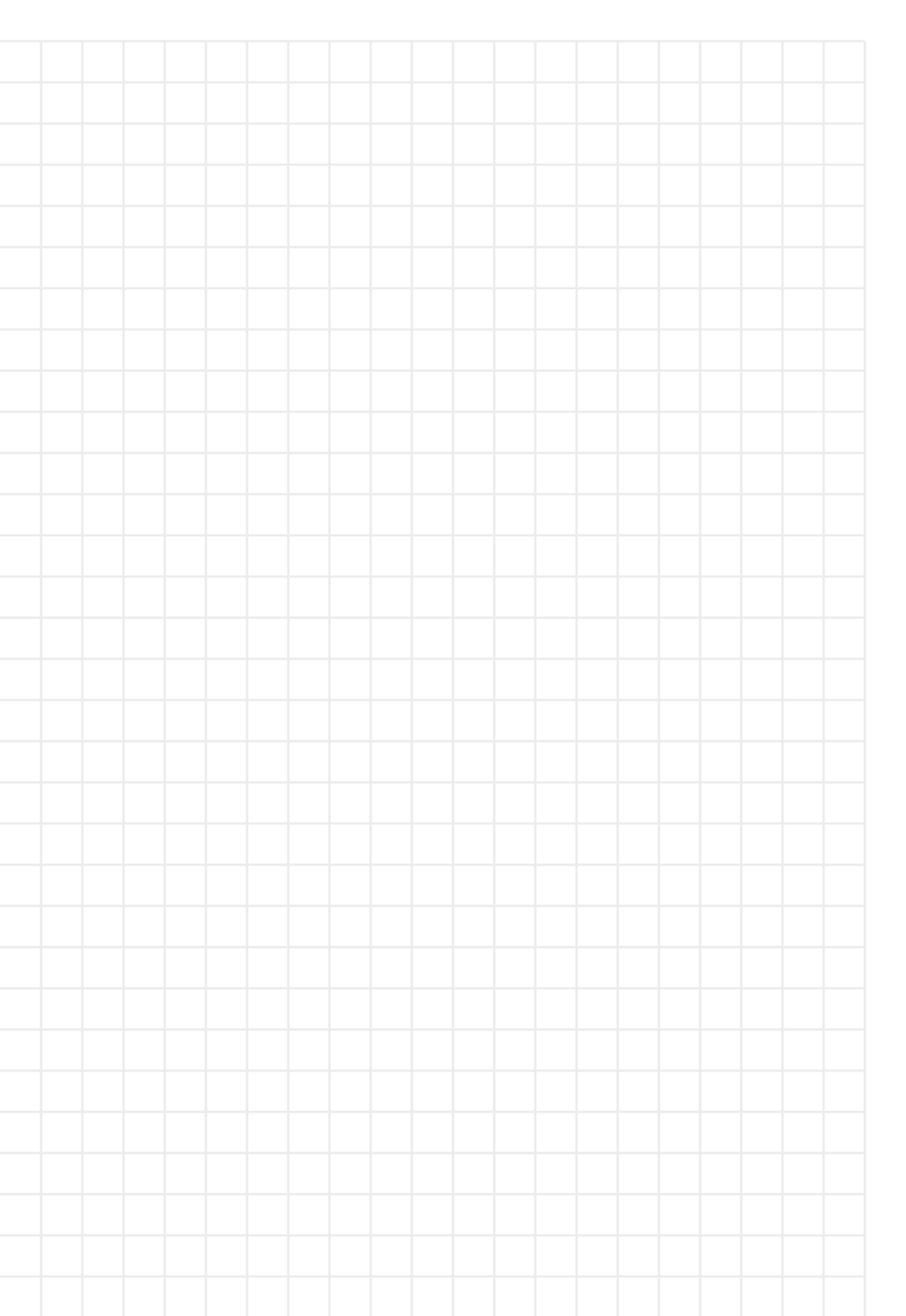
Pray.

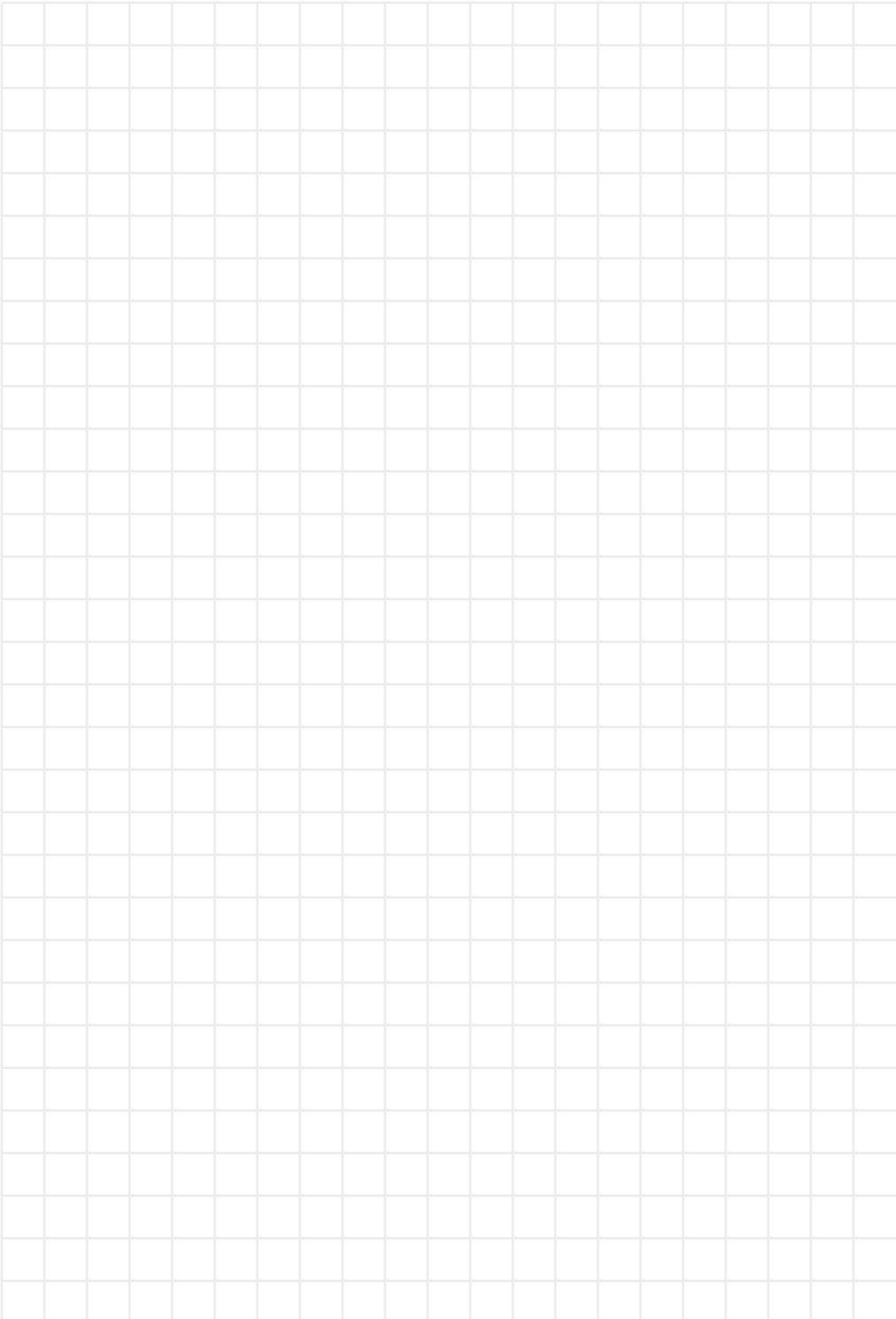
Ask the Lord to make you alert to the schemes of the enemy in your life. Ask for his protection and to help you resist Satan and that you would stand firm in your faith, not giving up or giving in!

Additional Study Notes:

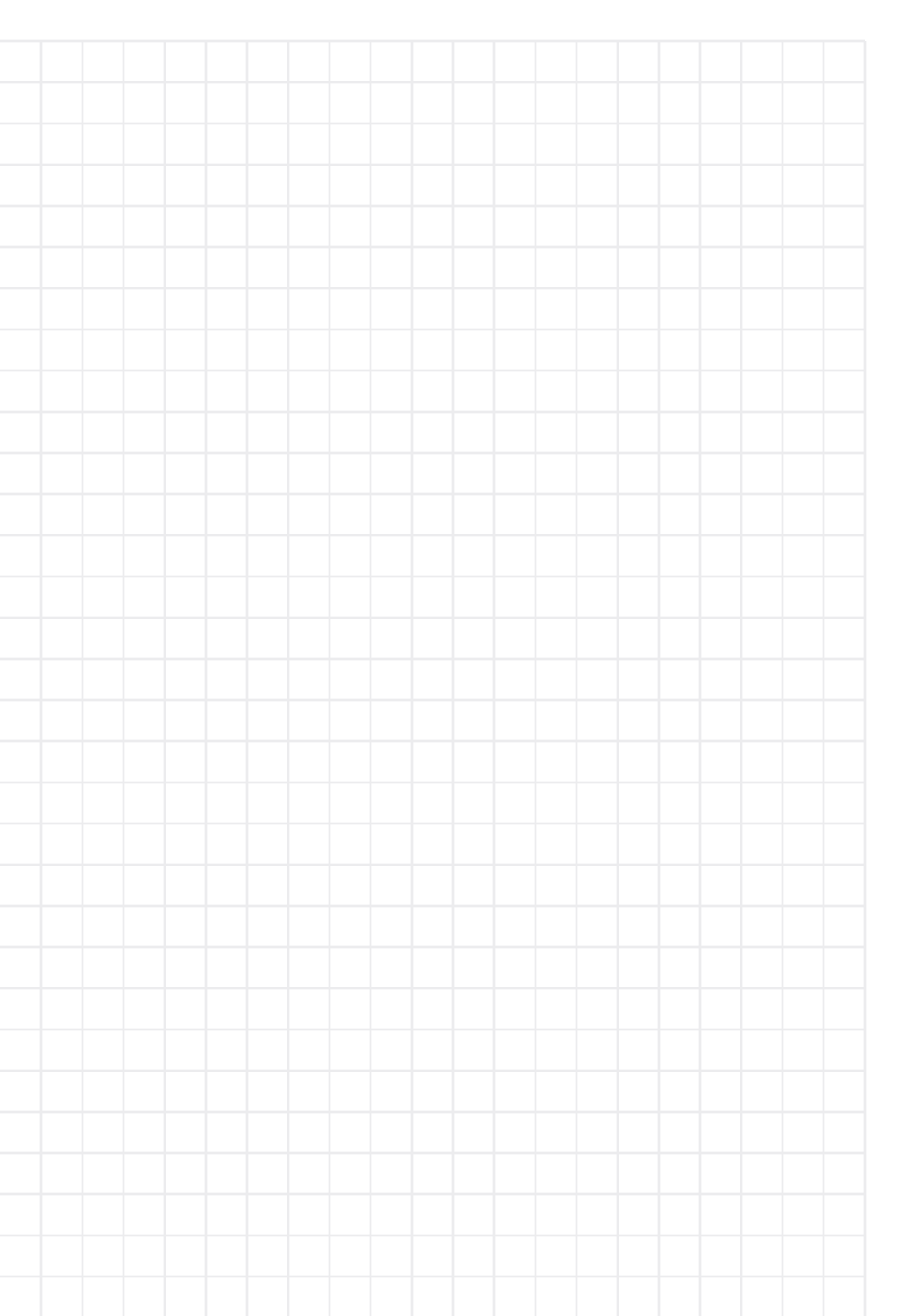
Peter wrote this letter just before the cruel emperor Nero began persecuting Christians in Rome and throughout the empire. Afraid for his life, Peter had three times denied even knowing Jesus (Jn. 18:15-27). But here, having learned how to stand firm in an evil world, he encouraged other Christians who were facing persecution for their faith. Peter was martyred for his faith because he lived by the words he wrote. Those who stand for Christ will be persecuted because the world is ruled by Christ's greatest enemy. But just as the small group of early believers stood against persecution, so we must be willing to stand for our faith with the patience, endurance, and courage that Peter exhibited. (Life Application Bible)

Sermon Notes.





Praying For:





Credit to:

Life Application Study Bible
The NIV Serendipity Bible for study groups
David Ahl, 2012 www.BibleStudyMen.com



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