

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MYSTERY OF MERCY: A SERIES IN 1 PETER

May 14, 2023

MYSTERY OF MERCY- WEEK 5

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you *think more deeply* about the sermon and *engage with others* through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and *allow God to work* in your life as you apply what you discover.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

How did you celebrate Mother's Day?

➤ EXPLORATION

This week we wrap up our series on the book of 1 Peter as Peter reminds his readers that there are important responsibilities for those who are elders and witnesses of Christ.

1 Peter 5:1-4 (From your bible, read aloud)

In the early days of the church, Elders were appointed to each church to lead them. The term Elder correlates to what we call a Pastor. This person was given spiritual authority in the church. Eventually distinctions were made between some who were given the responsibility of teaching while others were given different leadership roles.

Peter clearly identifies himself here as an Elder who has spiritual authority and a responsibility to bring this message to the church. He reminds us of the importance of submitting to Godly authority.

Who do you look to for spiritual authority in your life?

1 Peter 5:5 (From your bible, read aloud)

The phrase “clothe yourselves” can mean to “put on an apron” for someone who is preparing to serve. The idea of clothing yourself in humility simply means to be prepared to serve in whatever capacity is needed.

Peter goes on to remind us that God shows favor to those who are humble and opposes those who are proud.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (From your bible, read aloud)

What stands out to you from these verses?

What Does it Mean to be Humble

- Admit your mistakes

1 John 1:8-9 (From your bible, read aloud)

We admit our mistakes to God and to others. This is something we never outgrow. No matter how spiritually mature we become, we still need to be open and honest about our lives with trusted friends and with God.

James 5:16 says, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

Share about your experience in confessing sin to God and to another person. In what ways did this experience help you grow?

What Does it Mean to be Humble

- Admit your mistakes
- Ask for help

Taking too much responsibility on yourself is not a sign of ability, it may in fact be a sign of arrogance. There are many reasons we may be reluctant to ask for help. Sometimes we don't want to feel like a burden. Other times we may fear being rejected. We may just want to keep up the appearance of being in control.

It is often our weaknesses and not our strengths that God uses to do profound work. Humble people ask for help. Arrogant people keep going alone.

What Does it Mean to be Humble

- Admit your mistakes
- Ask for help
- Awareness of your own limitations

We all have needs. We need to sleep, eat, drink water, etc. We all have limitations. We can't be everything to everyone.

Charles Spurgeon once used the illustration of a man who came to move furniture, but he carried a huge and heavy backpack of his own. He complained that he found it difficult to do the job of moving the furniture. In this case, would you not suggest that he would find it easier if he laid his own burden aside so that he could carry yours? In the same way, we cannot do God's work when we are weighed down by our own burdens and worries. Cast them upon Him, and then take up the Lord's burden – which is light burden, and a yoke that fits us perfectly.

What is something you are carrying that you may need to lay down?

What Does it Mean to be Humble

- Admit your mistakes
- Ask for help
- Awareness of your own limitations
- Active unappreciated service

Serving is part of our life as Jesus followers, but when we serve in order to be noticed and appreciated, we miss the point. A humble servant serves because it is the right thing to do, not so that they will be acknowledged.

Matthew 6:1-4 (From your bible, read aloud)

What Does it Mean to be Humble

- Admit your mistakes
- Ask for help
- Awareness of your own limitations
- Active unappreciated service
- Accept being ok not being noticed

When our attitude is focused on God, we begin to willingly use the gifts God has given us to serve simply because it is what God has called us to do. God sees you, and that is the only thing that truly matters.

> TAKE AWAY

God calls each one of us to serve with a humble attitude, no matter what we are doing.

What Does it Mean to be Humble

- Admit your mistakes
- Ask for help
- Awareness of your own limitations
- Active unappreciated service
- Accept being ok not being noticed

Which of these 5 points do you need God to help you develop more fully?

Take some time to pray together, asking God to help you grow in humility as a way to grow in your faith.

> SERVE OPPORTUNITY

Let's **FILL OUR SHUTTLES** with food donations for our local food pantries.

- Date: Sunday, May 21ST 10:30am – 1:30pm
- Locations: Hillside Church / Ralph's on Haven / Ralph's on Day Creek

Everything donated will go to feed people right here in Rancho Cucamonga.

Parents, this is a great opportunity to serve with your kids!