



Growth Group Discussion Questions

Spring Session 5/19/19

1. On Sunday, we talked a lot about Peter's journey, with Jesus as his teacher. What chapters in Peter's story do you relate to and why (see bottom of page for scripture references for some of those chapters)? Have you ever been spent time as a wounded idealist or been tempted to become (or become) a cynic in an area of your life?
2. What do you think about the statement "Optimism (or idealism) only becomes faith once it's tested by the fires of reality"? Does this have any resonance with your own life or faith journey?
3. What do you think it was about Peter's teacher's (Jesus') teaching and life that helped him or enabled him to navigate from optimist through painful experience and onward not to cynicism but to faithful realism? How do you think this served Peter as a teacher and leader of other people?
4. Re-read I Peter 1:6-9. Why does Peter say we should rejoice in our sufferings our fiery trials? How do you think his life and experiences prepared him to say and do this?

5. Is there anything in your life right now that perhaps you've thought of as merely an annoyance, bummer, or tragedy, but that God may choose to use to forge your faith into something more solid, mature, and genuine? If not, is there anyone else you can help support and encourage through such a time? If so, how can you reset your mind according to this truth? Can your group members help you in any way?

6. On Sunday, we talked about the need to continue to pull together as a community. How about a quick check-in with everyone in the group—anyone have a need/concern/question they should voice? Let's plan to keep checking on and in with one another over the coming weeks.

(Scriptures marking chapters in Peter's life: Matthew 4:18-20; Matthew 16:13-26; 17:1-13; 25:31-46; 26:69-75; Acts Chapters 1 and 2; all of I Peter (written by a mature Peter to Christians under suffering and persecution))