Small Group Guide - Trusting the God of All Grace

Stand Firm – Week 4

1 Peter 5:8-11

BEFORE YOU MEET

Ask group members to read 1 Peter 5:5-11 before gathering. Encourage them to come prepared to share one thing that stood out to them from the passage or the sermon.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

These four truths from 1 Peter 5:8-11 form the backbone of this discussion:

1. The enemy is real and we must stay alert
2. We are called to resist the enemy by standing firm in the faith
3. Suffering is real but temporary, and we are not alone in it
4. God's power is eternal, and He will have the final word

OPENING QUESTION

Take a few minutes to get the conversation started before diving into the text.

What is one area of life where staying alert and focused is genuinely difficult for you? It does not have to be spiritual. What makes it hard to stay awake to what is happening around you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: Stay Alert (1 Peter 5:8)

Peter opens with two commands: be alert and be of sober mind. He describes the enemy as one who prowls around looking for someone to devour.

1. The pastor described spiritual alertness not as living in fear of the devil, but as living faithfully with our eyes fixed on Jesus. What is the difference between those two postures? Which one do you tend to drift toward?
2. Peter learned the cost of spiritual carelessness firsthand in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus warned him to watch and pray. Can you think of a time when spiritual carelessness left you unprepared for temptation or hardship? What did that teach you?

3. The pastor said the battle often appears in ordinary pressures: hurt turning into bitterness, disappointment whispering that God cannot be trusted, temptation beginning to sound reasonable. Which of those ordinary pressures feels most familiar to you right now?

Section 2: Resist and Stand Firm (1 Peter 5:9)

Peter commands believers to resist the enemy by standing firm in the faith. James 4:7 connects resistance to submission, reminding us that we resist the devil not through confidence in ourselves but by refusing to surrender what God has said.

4. The pastor said that resisting the enemy rarely looks dramatic. Most often it looks like taking the next obedient step. What does that next obedient step look like for you this week?
5. Three faith responses were offered in the sermon as examples of standing firm against specific attacks:
    - When accusation says your failure defines you, faith answers with the truth found in Romans 8:1, that there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.
    - When fear says God has abandoned you, faith answers with the promise in 1 Peter 5:7 that He cares for you.
    - When temptation promises satisfaction through disobedience, faith answers that God's way is good even when obedience is costly.

    Which of these three attacks do you face most often? What does it look like practically to answer it with faith?
6. Jesus responded to every temptation in the wilderness with the words "it is written," drawing directly from Scripture. What role does knowing God's Word play in your ability to resist the enemy? Where do you feel the most underprepared in this area?

Section 3: Remember You Are Not Alone (1 Peter 5:9)

Peter reminds his readers that believers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. The enemy isolates with the lie that no one understands. God strengthens by placing us in a family.

7. The pastor said that tiredness, shame, hurt, and physical struggles can make isolation feel safer, but that pulling away removes the voices God intends to use to steady us. Have you ever pulled away from Christian community during a hard season? What drew you back, or what made it hard to return?

8. The pastor described what it looks like to be the kind of church that stands beside one another: praying while the pressure is heavy, reminding each other of what is true when fear gets loud, helping each other take the next faithful step. Who in your life has done that for you? Who might need you to do that for them right now?

Section 4: Rest in God's Power (1 Peter 5:10-11)

Peter closes with four promises: God will restore, strengthen, make firm, and establish His people. He places present suffering alongside God's eternal glory and declares that God's power endures forever.

9. Peter describes our suffering as "a little while" not to minimize it, but to place it beside God's eternal glory. How does that perspective change the way you think about a hardship you are currently carrying?
10. The pastor noted that all four of God's promises in verse 10 emphasize God's action, not our own toughness or willpower. Our hope is not that we will become strong enough to survive, but that God will finish what He began. Where do you most need to release the pressure of trying to fix or sustain yourself, and simply trust God's grace?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Take a few quiet moments individually before sharing with the group.

- Where have I become spiritually careless or lazy?
- What lie am I believing that I need to replace with God's truth?
- Am I moving toward Christian community or pulling away from it?
- Where do I need the God of all grace to restore me?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Encourage each group member to choose at least one of the following before the next time you meet:

Read Read 1 Peter 5:5-11 each day this week. Do not just read it quickly. Slow down and ask what God is saying to you through it.

Resist Write down one lie you have been believing. Then find one biblical truth that directly answers it. Keep it somewhere visible so you can return to it when the lie comes back.

Reconnect Identify one mature believer in your life, whether inside or outside this group, and ask them to pray with you about a specific struggle. Give them permission to ask you hard questions and to hold you accountable.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together by praying through the four promises in 1 Peter 5:10. You may pray these aloud together or have one person lead:

- Father, restore what suffering has battered in the lives of those in this room.
- Strengthen us where our own weakness falls short.
- Make us firm so we are not carried away by the pressures around us.
- Establish us on the foundation of Your truth so that when the storms come, we stand.
- To You be the power forever and ever. Amen.

A NOTE FOR GROUP LEADERS

This sermon series has addressed spiritual warfare honestly, without either dismissing the enemy or giving him more attention than Scripture warrants. As you lead discussion, be attentive to group members who may be carrying significant pain, shame, or discouragement. The goal is not to produce a list of things people are doing wrong, but to point everyone back to the God of all grace who has promised to restore, strengthen, establish, and sustain His people.