# DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



#### TEXT SUMMARY

In this week's text, <u>1 Peter 5:6-14</u>, Peter closes his letter with two key exhortations, a magnificent benediction, and personal greetings to two men we already know from the pages of the New Testament.

### INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. Verse 6 opens with "therefore." Why?
- 2. The exhortation "humble yourselves" (v. 6-7) is modified by several other phrases besides "therefore." What are they?
  - "under\_\_\_\_\_
  - "so that \_\_\_\_\_
  - "casting\_\_\_\_\_"
- 3. What three exhortations does Peter give in light of the threat posed by our enemy, the Devil (v. 8-9)?
- 4. The magnificent benediction (v. 10-11) brings together the two main themes of the letter: suffering now and glory later. Where can we see those themes in this benediction?
- 5. Peter's closing greetings mention two men we already know from elsewhere in the New Testament.
  - Silvanus is another form of the name **Silas**. What do we know about Silas? (See Acts 15:30-41.)
  - Mark is thought to have been Peter's protégé and the writer of the second Gospel. What else do we know about Mark from the New Testament? (See Acts 15:36-40; 2 Tim 4:11.)

## **DISCUSSION** (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. What does casting our cares on Him have to do with humbling ourselves before Him?
- 2. Verse 12 says, "This is the grace of God." What is the referent for "this"? What exactly is the grace of God that Peter tells us to "stand firm" in?

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### SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- 1. **Peter's exhortation for us to "humble" ourselves is not easy to apply.** We've all been humbled by life experiences, but how am I supposed to humble myself? It seems that humbling myself will involve some measure of sanctifying self-talk. What do I need to bring to my own attention if I want to humble myself?
- 2. The English Standard Version differs from some other translations in the way it opens v. 7: "casting all your anxieties on him..." Many other translations start a new sentence there, obscuring something Peter wants us to see: the *opposing* relationship between worry and humility.
  - Worry is one way to handle anxiety. What does it mean to make our anxiety into worry?
  - How does worry manifest a prideful spirit?
    (What am I saying about myself and about God when I give in to worry?)
- 3. **By speaking of the Devil as "a roaring lion seeking someone to devour" (v. 8),** Peter is bringing us into a realm that is uncomfortable for 21<sup>st</sup> century Americans. He is speaking of spiritual warfare, a topic that makes us moderns want to break eye contact, clear our throat, and change the subject. We are wary of both extremes. We know that two flat tires in one week is not necessarily spiritual warfare, but we also know that it would be foolhardy for us to pretend we don't have a cunning and vicious enemy who is literally hell-bent on destroying us. How can we have a healthy fear for our enemy without obsessing over him?
- 4. Silas and Mark both make their first appearance in the pages of Scripture in the same chapter (Acts 15).
  - What is praiseworthy in the work and character of Silas?
  - What can we learn about failure and redemption from the story of Mark?