

*Not only do we not know God except through Jesus Christ;
We do not even know ourselves except through Jesus Christ.*

—Blaise Pascal

WELCOME

This week we continue to explore Peter's exhortations about living out a confident faith in the midst of opposition. As you gather this week, discuss one or both of these questions:

- Who is a hero for you and why?
- Who was the first Christian that you knew, outside of your family? What was their witness of Christ like to you?

WORD

Read **1 Peter 3:18-4:6**

1. What stood out to you in the scripture? In the sermon this past Sunday?
2. How does 1 Peter 3:18 connect with the previous verses, especially 3:17?
3. Look at 1 Peter 3:18-22. What do you think would have been helpful or challenging to the first readers in the passage and what is helpful, confusing, or challenging for you?
4. What challenges were these Christians facing (4:1-6)? In what way is living a Christ-like life a witness too?
5. What do you think it means that "whoever suffers in the body is done with sin"? (4:1)
6. In 4:4-5 Peter refers to God's future judgement, and how it should shape how people live in the present. What else does Peter say about how the future should shape how we live now? You may find it helpful to break into pairs, with each pair looking at one or two of the following verses: 1:3-19, 1:13, 2:12, 4:7, 4:12-19, 5:1-6, 5:10-11. Why?

WORSHIP

1. Think about one person that isn't a Christian, someone God would like you to pray for, love, and be a witness to of the hope you have in Christ. Pray for those people together.
2. Thank God for each other and God's grace in Jesus Christ
3. Pray for each other for their needs and those virtues they would like to develop.
4. Pray for the larger needs around you and the ways God is working around the world.

WITNESS

1. In verse 3 Peter wrote that his readers have "spent enough time" doing what the pagans choose to do. What is one attitude or action that you have 'spent enough time' with that God is leading you to change in?
2. Who is one person in your life that needs the gospel preached to them?

SERMON NOTES: