The Beginning of the End

STUDY NOTES

As the discussion leader, here are a few things to keep in mind for your Life Group: • *Pray* for your group discussion time! • *Review* your notes from Sunday's message and familiarize yourself with the discussion questions prior to your group meeting. • *Choose* a few questions from the guide which you feel will generate the most discussion in your group. For questions with multiple parts, answer the first part before reading the next part to the group. These questions are designed to build on the answer of the previous part before moving on.

Getting to Know Me
Describe a time when you felt you were wronged by another person. How did you respond? What were your reasons for doing so?

Exploring the Word – 1 Peter 3:8-12

1. As you listened to the message, what points stood out?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8. In this verse, Peter gives five commands to Christians. Why is the first command, unity, so important? In various places throughout Scripture, the apostle Paul explains how to carry out this command. What guidelines does he give in Romans 15:5-6 and 1 Corinthians 2:16?
3. What are the other four commands given by Peter? What are some examples of how all five commands can be carried out in the church?
4. Read 1 Peter 3:9. Peter states "repay evil with a blessing." What reasons does he give for us to do this? When will we be in full possession of "his blessing?"
5. Read 1 Peter 3:10-12. In these verses, Peter quotes from Psalm 34:12-16, adding to what he has already written in chapters 2 and 3 regarding godly living. What are some things we should do to "enjoy life and see many happy days?" How does faith in Christ help us do these things?
6. Why should Christians not fear those who do evil? Discuss how God's character is reflected in verse 12.

1 Peter 3:8-12
1. Imperatives for the end (v. 8)
- The primary social objective for Christians in the church is _____.
- Unity cannot be maintained without _____ relationship.
- God's love is the _____ for the Christian's lifestyle.
- Tenderheartedness compels us to _____ God's truth and love.
- God's tenderheartedness allows us to take a _____ position to others in our relationships.

2. The end of retaliation (v. 9)
- Repaying a wrong is to value _____ over God's righteousness.
- Retaliation is contradictory to seeking Christ's _____.
- Basing our service, loyalty or love on the production level of others is _____.
- Authentic Christians _____ to bless people.
- Authentic Christians repay mistreatment with _____.

3. The beginning of the end (vv. 10-12)
- The Scriptures, like God, are _____ in their truthfulness.
- _____ of God's truth leads to a frustrated existence.
- Self-absorption is the end to a _____ life.
- Repentance from _____ frees us to do what is right towards others.
- Peace-keeping requires working at not focusing on the _____ of others.