

THE LETTERS OF 1, 2 PETER

Rising Above Difficulty and Deception

PART 2: SUBMISSION

Peter wanted Jesus' followers to be ready for Jesus' return. That meant living their lives in a way that represented Jesus, even in difficult circumstances.

WIN

To remember that there is a bigger picture that goes beyond our circumstances. Having a posture of submission shows we trust that God has a bigger purpose.

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour

PRE-VIDEO TABLE DISCUSSION [6:30 PM]

QUESTION [A]: Talk about a meaningful time when someone took a posture of submission toward you. In other words, they chose to yield to you. How did their act of submission make you feel?

- Who do you know who regularly takes a submissive posture?

QUESTION [B]: Were you able to memorize the verses from last week? If so, share with your group.

PRAYER | 6:50 PM

Heavenly Father, help us to remember that you have a bigger purpose than any of our circumstances. Give us the strength to have a posture of submission to others. Amen.

[ON YOUR OWN] WATCH THE VIDEO | NOTE-TAKING GUIDE [6:50 PM]

[WITH YOUR GROUP] GROW | POST-VIDEO DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION [1].

QUESTION: How often do you view your life as part of God's bigger purpose?

- How can doing that more often help when it comes to dealing with your circumstances?

DISCUSSION [2].

REFLECT: Peter commanded Jesus' followers of the day to submit to the government, even though government officials worshipped other gods.

QUESTION: How do we make sense of that?

DISCUSSION [3].

REFLECT: Read **1 Peter 2:21–23**, where Peter is telling Jesus' followers to imitate Jesus by not retaliating when they are mistreated.

QUESTION: How is that possible? Are we not supposed to do anything if treated unfairly?

DISCUSSION [4].

REFLECT: Read 1 Peter 3:15 aloud.

QUESTION (A): Have you ever wondered about someone else's faith based solely on how they've responded to a situation? What happened?

QUESTION (B): Has anyone ever asked about your faith as a result of how you've treated someone else?

- If someone asked you how your faith informs the way you respond to situations, what would you say?

DISCUSSION [5].

QUESTION: Who could you practice submitting to or yielding to more?

- Who needs to see through your actions that you see as necessary?

DISCUSSION [6].

REFLECT: In **1 Peter 5:8**, Peter writes that the real enemy is often not what we're focused on, but rather the devil himself.

QUESTION: When we remember who the real enemy is, how should that impact how we approach things like conflict and being mistreated?

MEMORIZE

Read through 2 Peter before your next session. In addition, try to memorize these passages from 1 Peter:

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8

PRAY | DISMISS [8:00 PM]

We suggest ending your group with prayer. One idea is to have each group member think of a way to take a step toward submission.