

Living for God's Sake

LifeGroup Lesson

July 30, 2017

1 Peter 4:1-11

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, we are hungry for your word, longing for your touch, seeking your warm embrace. Breathe new life into our lives this day. Touch us and heal our brokenness. Fill our hearts with compassion and mercy. Empower us anew to be your witnesses in all the world. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- Describe an experience that helped you gain clarity in your faith.
- What kind of pain affects your life most: physical or emotional?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

1 Peter 4:1-11

- Why are we, as Christians to turn away from our former ways? How has Jesus rearranged your priorities?
- How do vs. 4-6 help you deal with doubts?
- Consider v. 7, some translate it as 'clear thinking' and 'self-discipline'. What do these have to do with prayer?
- Reread vs. 7-11. What spiritual and practical value are these instructions? Which could you enact this week?
- How have you been doing on showing love to others?

1 Peter 4:12-19

- What are some right and wrong ways for a Christian to suffer?
- Christian is used three times in the New Testament. Here and in Acts. It meant adopted into the family of Christ. It was probably a term of contempt. Why might a Christian encounter suffering because of the name?
- How do you read v. 19? How will it impact the way you live this week?
- Why do you think judgement would begin with Christians (v. 17)? This verse was meant to produce gratitude instead of panic. What do you think?
- In what areas of your life do you have difficulty trusting God for doing what is good? (v. 19) What would be a clear, practical way in which you could show you entrust your life to God by doing what is good?

NEXT STEPS:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- Identify with whom you have difficulty loving. Spend time in prayer over them and your relationship.
- If you are being mistreated in the name of Jesus, ask God to give you an attitude of joy in this suffering.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

We seek courage to worship you with our whole selves, for to do so may change us. Move with us, shelter us, when we fear the seeming emptiness of our silence. Fill us, move us, when futility and frustration threaten to paralyze us, that we may be living, loving hands and feet -- instruments of your acts. Amen.