

Doing Good for all the Right Reasons

LifeGroup Lesson

July 23, 2017

1 Peter 3:8-17

OPENING PRAYER:

Help us to know you, God, that we may truly love you, to love you that we may truly serve you, whose service is perfect freedom. (Book of Common Worship)

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree/disagree with the LifeTalk this week?
- What have you learned from the study of 1 Peter thus far?
- When have you suffered for doing something that was 'right'?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

We continue reading with a passage that wasn't discussed on Sunday. Read 1 Peter 2:13-25.

- What do you think this scripture is saying, "submit yourselves for the Lord's sake..." v. 13? How could you live this out?
- The scripture says, in regards to suffering, that we were called to this. What is your reaction to this? How does Christ's example help you (v. 21-23)?
- Further study – Mark 11:15-16, 15:1-15, Acts 16:35-37, 1 Peter 3:8-17
- Find as many phrases as you can that describe what a Christian ought to be or do? (v. 14-18) What reasons does Peter suggest for living that way? What do you find difficult about the way of life described in those verses? What do you find attractive?
- What counsel does Peter offer for coping with suffering?
- What model for telling others about Jesus do you see in v. 15-16?
- V. 19-20 have been described as confusing. What do you make of those verses? What do they teach you about faithful living?
- How does hope change your behavior? What situation in your life seemed hopeless until God brought hope?

NEXT STEPS:

- How will your life be different based upon what you have learned in this week's scripture, lesson and/or LifeTalk?
- Spend time meditating on three sections of this passage: 1 Peter 3:8-9, 10-12, 18. Ask God to clarify significant phrases. Pray over how God wants you to bring your life into line with these passages?
- Where do you see someone suffering in your life? How can you bring the hope of Jesus Christ to them?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Great and most compassionate God, open my eyes now, so that I might see those in our midst in great need. Open my eyes, so that I would hear the cry of persons in anguish. Open my heart to anyone who would be my neighbor, and may I be a friend to all. Open my mind, so that I might be a presence of love and compassion for all whom I would meet, and help me to reach out beyond friend and neighbor. Remind me that there are so very many persons all about me right now, who need my presence and my love. In the name of Jesus, who was always love. Amen.