

# Life Group Discussion Guide

1 Peter: Exiles in Our Land

Week 8: Peacemaking and Coffee • 1 Peter 3:8-16

Read **1 Peter 3:8-16** together. Focus on recurring themes, words, and phrases. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Jon's message, what are your initial impressions or takeaways? What stood out to you most?

## The Classroom for Peacemaking

**1 Peter 3:8** Up to this point in his letter, Peter has been addressing Christians in living life as exiles; members of God's kingdom while living in the kingdoms of the world. He broke down some of the household roles, and now he turns and speaks to the audience as a whole.

- The first character traits Peter calls us to are:
  - Be like-minded- how does Pastor Jon explain this term? Do we all need to think the same thing?
  - Be sympathetic- Pastor Jon explained that the Greek word for sympathetic more closely matches our English word *sympathy*. Given this added insight, what attitude is Peter looking for?
  - Love one another- This is far beyond the Hollywood definition of love. What should our love for other Christians look like?
  - Be compassionate- What is the difference between empathy and compassion?
  - Be humble- How does this trait keep all the others in check?
- Why is the church considered the "classroom" for peacemaking?

## The Hurdle to Peacemaking

**1 Peter 3:9; 13-14** Peace brings blessing (cf Matthew 5:9). But if that's true, why aren't there more peacemakers?

- Hostility
  - Repaying evil with evil, insult with insult is how the world operates, and how our own flesh wants to operate
  - Repaying evil with blessing takes a supernatural strength empowered by the Holy Spirit
  - Recount some ways you've witnessed or participated in either above scenario
- Suffering for what's right- in addition to suffering hostility in general (which is what mankind all experiences), Christians have an added layer of suffering from specific hostility aimed at Christ-followers. What comfort do we have as believers to bear that suffering? (see vs. 14)

# The Wisdom of Peacemaking

**1 Peter 3:10-11** This is where Peter gives the “why” to the previous charge he’s given us. Living as a peacemaker in a fallen world is a tall order, but here is where our motivation lies.

- A good life and good days are what the Lord wants for us; what reaction does this trigger in you given that many of us would not describe our current lives in those terms?
- How does the text direct us towards gaining a good life?
  - Our speech- “out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks”
  - Our actions- “turn from evil and do good”
  - Our pursuits- “seek peace and pursue it”
- Our definition of “good” compared with the Lord’s definition is often where we run into problems. How do we reshape our minds to understand what a good life really is? How will this impact your family and other relationships?
- What are some practical ways that you can pursue peace?

# The Witness of Peacemaking

**1 Peter 3:15-16** Revering Christ as Lord means He’s planted firmly as the foundation of our very being. Peacemaking is only possible when we put Jesus in this position.

- When we display a life that pursues and demonstrates peace, it is inevitable that the watching world will wonder why and how. What does Peter say in regards to their questions?
- The way we answer their questions matters. Not just the words we use, but our hearts and posture. Our answers bear witness to the Savior, the ultimate Peacemaker. How does Peter say we should respond at the end of vs. 15?
- The world should see us as hope-filled, and it should be so obvious that they ask us about it. Peacemaking, therefore, is so much more than just keeping to yourself and not ruffling feathers. Does your life right now cause others to wonder at the hope you have?

