

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 & 2 PETER

WARM UP

What was a primary takeaway for you from Sunday's sermon on 1 & 2 Peter?

One of the most well-known aspects of Peter's life is that he denied knowing Jesus three times on the eve of Jesus' crucifixion. And yet, this is the man that God chose to use to give the breathtaking sermon at Pentecost after the coming of the Holy Spirit only a month or two later, leading about 3000 people to confess faith in Jesus. Consider the power of Jesus and his gospel to bring about hope and change in our lives as we jump into these questions.

EXPLORATION

1. Peter's first theme that he addresses in his letters is that of identify. Being in Christ issues a new family identity of holiness for all those who believe, and he wants us to know it (identify with it, own it, believe it)! Read 1 Peter 1:13-16 and 1 Peter 2:9-10. We are positionally called holy AND told to pursue holiness. How do these passages and those throughout the rest of the letter inform us more about what our holiness means?
2. Peter understands his faith in Jesus to be a rational one. It is not simply a feeling, but the greatest truth in the universe. As such, he confesses to his eyewitness account and the accuracy of the stories of Jesus being shared. Then he proclaims how God has supremely directed the writing of Scripture. Read Peter's words in 2 Peter 1:16-21. What confidence can we derive from this text of the legitimacy of our faith and the glory of God's revelation through his word?
3. Suffering is the most prevalent theme of Peter's first letter (and he likely wrote 2 Peter while awaiting execution in prison). Read 1 Peter 4:12-19 together. What stands out to you from this passage? What does it mean to suffer for the right sake, and how are we to respond to God through suffering? Who are we identified with through our suffering?

APPLICATION

Building on the discussion of suffering, how can we use our suffering to point others to Jesus as our hope? 1 Peter 3:15 exhorts us to “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks us for a reason for the hope that is in us.” Share how you personally or someone you know has exhibited faithfulness and hope through a difficult season in life. What defense are you ready to make to your coworkers of the great God we believe in?

Peter begins his second letter by encouraging believers to walk in the light of what Jesus has done for them. Jesus’s “divine nature”, as Peter calls it, has been imparted to us so that we are now partakers in his life! Read 2 Peter 1:3-11. Identify one area that you most need to be growing in this week and pray for each other.