

1 Peter 2:11-25 Bible Study – leaders notes

Do you feel like you are a foreigner in the world? In which way?

This question is to make people think about how different they are to non-Christians they know.

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12

1. How can seeing yourself as a foreigner be helpful and/or unhelpful in the world?

Helpful cause it takes our focus off the valse idols and treasures of this world.

Unhelpful because we can feel we have nothing in common with people of the world

2. What sort of 'good deeds' do you think people might see and be attracted to?

Love for people who are hard to love, or who don't treat us well, having a hope in the midst of suffering, or experiencing the tragedies of this world. Not joining in the slander of people. A joy that is not subject to what we have, satisfaction in what we have.

Read verse 13-17

3. What is the purpose of human authority in these verses? In your experience have you seen this to be true?

Punish those who do wrong, and commend those who do right. So to keep peace and order, encouraging good and discouraging bad. Our rules and laws are designed to do the same.

4. Read through these passages, Daniel 3:13-18, Acts 4:18-20, 5:27-32. What were the reasons God's people went against an order from 'human authority'? In your situation can you think of an order that you would have to go against as a Christian?

Dan – they serve the Lord only. Acts 4 – they listened to God not men, they had to speak about what they have heard.

Acts 5 – obeying God not human.

It might be hard to think of where we would have to go against authority in Aust. But there might be ones we can think of in the future.

Read verses 18-25.

5. With what sort of attitude are slaves supposed to submit to masters? What does it mean to fear God? (see Ex 9:29-30, 14:29-31, Deut 10:12-13, Proverbs 1:7)

In reverent fear of God. Ex 9 – having no regard for the power and judgement for rebellion of God. Ex 14 – because they saw the awesome power of the Lord, which lead them to putting their trust in God. Deut – the proper response to God, leading to obey him. Prov – it the starting point of being wise.

6. In unjust suffering, Peter tells them to be conscious of God. What sort of things could they be thinking about? (see Romans 8:31-39, 12:17-13:1, 1 Peter 1:6-7)

God is for us, and nothing can separate us from that. Leave revenge and judgement to God. Rejoice in suffering, prove the genuineness of faith.

7. Christians can expect to suffer as they follow Christ who suffered. What do we learn from his example that we can follow when suffering? (v21-25)

He committed no sin in retaliation, entrusted himself to God. Trusted the whole situation to God. He went through suffering to achieve God's purpose. He did this to achieve the Father's will.

8. Jesus' suffering did much more than give us an example. What else did his suffering achieve? How does that make it easier for you to follow in his steps?

Our salvation, so that we might go from sin to righteousness. In his resurrection brought us, lost sheep, into his safe care.

9. When do you find it hard to submit to those who are in authority over you? Is there anything you find that is helpful to overcome this?

10. How does verse 25 (as well as the rest of the passage) help you 'abstain from sinful desires that wage war against your soul'?

Spend some time praying together about what you have learnt about God.