SET APART

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WEEK 12

QUESTION 1

Take a moment to read the scripture aloud. Then have each group member comment on what stands out to them. **1 Peter 5:1-5 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."**

QUESTION 2

The second question will focus on verse one: **To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings, who also will share in the glory to be revealed.** Here we see Peter doing exactly what he asks of the elders: demonstrating humility. He could have mentioned that he is an apostle and the highest leader in the Christian church, but, embracing humility, he simply called himself a **fellow elder.** Peter also reminds his readers that he is a witness to the suffering of Jesus. Take a moment to discuss as a group what it means to you to read 1 Peter, knowing that Peter was a firsthand eyewitness to the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. From all that you know about Peter, what event in his life do you find most motivating or endearing? The last thing Peter mentions in this verse is that he will share in the **glory to be revealed.** He will be in heaven, enjoying eternal life with all those who follow Christ. How motivating is it for you to know that you also will share in the glory to be revealed? How does the reality of heaven affect your daily life?

QUESTION 3

1 Peter 5:2-3 outlines Christian leadership. Pause for a moment to evaluate your leadership environment. Where are you serving as a leader? You might be in a season where you're only leading yourself, or perhaps you're leading your family. Maybe you have a position leading a Christian ministry, or even a leadership position at work. Share with your group what your leadership environment is, and yes, everyone has a leadership environment.

Now read verses two and three, thinking about your personal leadership environment: **1 Peter 5:2-3 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.** As you read these instructions, share with your group what in this passage speaks to you personally, where you think you are doing well, and where you might need to improve as a leader.

QUESTION 4

Question four remains focused on the instructions given in verses two and three. Peter teaches that Christian leaders are called to serve—not because they must, but because they are willing, as God wants them to be. This reveals an important principle that applies to all of the Christian life. We should serve God, worship God, and grow in our faith because we want to, not because of guilt, shame, or even fear. Be honest about your core motivations for all the Christian activity in your life. Do you find yourself engaging in Christian activities because you feel like you have to or because you want to? How important is this principle? How do you think people begin to pursue God because they want to, because they love Him, instead of any other motivation?

Verse three says that Christian leaders should not use power inappropriately, but they should be a good example: **not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.** Discuss with your group the environments in your life where you think you are a good example and also where you'd like to be a better example.

QUESTION 5

Question five focuses on verse five: **"In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.'"** This verse calls us to humility. As C. S. Lewis famously noted, "Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less." How do you define humility, and how important do you think it is? Tell the story of a time when you witnessed what you believe was true humility. How does that story affect you? In what environments would you like to be more humble?