SET APART

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WEEK 13

QUESTION 1

Begin by reading our scripture for the week with your group. After reading the scripture, each group member should point out something that stands out to them. **1 Peter 5:6-14 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. [7] Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. [8] Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. [9] Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. [10] And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**

QUESTION 2

Question two will focus on verses six and seven: **1 Peter 5:6-7. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. [7] Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.** These verses remind us of God's love and care for us, and they also call us to an active process of humbling ourselves before God and entrusting him with the burdens and cares of our lives. I believe one of the most fundamental ways to humble ourselves before God is to hand over to him the anxieties and cares of our lives. These verses contain the promise that as we humble ourselves before God and hand over our struggles, God will lift us up. Have you ever had a moment when you humbled yourself and handed over to God the burdens and cares of your life? How did you do it? What was the result? If you're brave enough, tell your group the story of that moment.

Bonus assignment for the most advanced groups: If you have time and would like to go deeper into these, compare and contrast them with what Paul says in **Philippians 4:6-7.**

QUESTION 3

Question three will focus on verses eight and nine: **[8] Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. [9] Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.** These compelling verses repeat a pattern Peter has woven into his letter. Peter has already commanded an alert, sober mind so that we may live lives of hope, pray with power, and, in verse 8, be aware of our enemy in the spiritual realm: **1 Peter 1:13, 1 Peter 4:7, and 1 Peter 5:8.** Be alert (grēgoreō). This command refers to external watchfulness, wakefulness, and active vigilance. Be of sober mind (nēphō). This command refers to internal self-control, clarity of thought, and freedom from distractions. How important do you think it is to be alert and of sober mind? When are you most likely to be in this state? When are you most likely not to be alert and of sober mind? How might you become more self-controlled in your thinking and more aware of the spiritual realm around you?

QUESTION 4

Question four will continue discussing verse nine: **[9] Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.** Peter reminds us of the reality of our spiritual enemy and repeats the biblical command to resist the devil. **James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** What do you think it means to resist the devil? What do you do actively in your life to resist the devil? What might you need to do more of to resist the devil?

How does it affect you to know that **the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of suffering?**

QUESTION 5

Question five focuses on verse 10: **[10] And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.** Now take a moment to examine this verse in the ESV translation: **[10] And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.** Peter packs this verse with theological treasures, reminding us that God called us to eternal life and will actively restore us after we have suffered. Take a moment to process all the things in this verse with your group. You may want to note the imagery of the past, present, and future that Peter employs, and discuss how this verse personally impacts you.