

Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 5/10/26

Summary

Pastor Mark delivered a challenging Mother's Day sermon from 1 Peter 3:8-18, examining how Christians are called to live as witnesses through their character and conduct. He courageously addressed difficult passages about wives submitting to husbands and slaves obeying masters, explaining these within their historical context while emphasizing that Peter's core message transcends cultural boundaries. The sermon's central theme is that our character serves as the primary evidence of our Christian faith how we treat others, respond to injustice, and live in harmony becomes our witness to the world. Pastor Mark emphasized that regardless of our circumstances or relationships, Christians are called to repay evil with blessing, live in harmony, show compassion, and pursue peace. He concluded by reminding the congregation that we don't accomplish this transformation through our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit who enables us to live as Christ's representatives.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to see how Your truth applies to our lives in practical ways. May we approach this discussion with humility, grace, and a genuine desire to grow in our faith and witness. Guide our conversation and help us to encourage one another as we seek to live as faithful followers of Jesus. In His name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one quality you admire most in someone you consider to be a person of strong character, and why does that quality stand out to you?

Key Verses

- 1 Peter 3:8-18
- 1 Peter 2:12
- Psalm 34:12-16
- John 14:15-27

Questions

1. How does Peter's instruction to 'live in harmony with one another' challenge us in our current cultural and political climate?
2. What does it mean practically to 'repay evil with blessing' in our daily relationships and interactions?
3. Pastor Mark emphasized that 'our character is the witness.' How have you seen this principle demonstrated in your own life or in others?
4. How can we maintain a gentle and respectful attitude when sharing our faith, especially with those who may be hostile to Christianity?
5. What are some specific ways we can 'seek peace and pursue it' in our families, workplaces, and communities?
6. What role does the Holy Spirit play in enabling us to live out these challenging commands from 1 Peter?

Life Application

This week, identify one relationship or situation where you can intentionally 'repay evil with blessing.' Instead of responding with frustration, criticism, or

retaliation, choose to respond with kindness, prayer, or a practical act of love. Pay attention to how this changes both your heart and potentially the dynamic of that relationship.

Key Takeaways

- Our character as Christians serves as the primary evidence and witness of our faith to the world
- We are called to live in harmony, show compassion, and pursue peace regardless of our circumstances
- Biblical instructions transcend cultural boundaries while requiring careful interpretation within historical context
- Christians must repay evil with blessing rather than seeking revenge or retaliation
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to live out these challenging commands that we cannot accomplish in our own strength

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the challenging yet transformative message from Your Word today. We confess that living as You've called us to live is not easy, and we often fall short of Your standards. Help us to rely on Your Holy Spirit to transform our hearts and enable us to be witnesses through our character and conduct. May our lives reflect Your love, grace, and peace to those around us. Give us courage to repay evil with blessing and wisdom to pursue peace in all our relationships. Make us faithful representatives of Your kingdom wherever You place us. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.