
Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 4-10, 2020

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Have you ever had to endure a painful time in your life? Has this COVID 19 time been painful for you? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

1. Please read the scripture we have heard this week again and share with your group what comes up to mind.

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:19-25 NRSV

The Example of Christ's Suffering

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¹⁸ Slaves, accept the authority of your masters with all deference, not only those who are kind and gentle but also those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, ^[a] so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds ^[b] you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Take turns sharing your testimony. [When did you first become aware of God? How did you experience God's love and acceptance? How did your life change as a result?]

- What might it mean to be "called" as Peter affirms in 1 Peter 2:21?
- What is the difference between Peter's affirmation of endurance (v. 20), trust (v. 23), and unacceptable receiving of abuse? [It is an endurance of faith, a trust that God is present with us in our suffering. This is in contrast with continuing in a relationship that promotes harm and exploitation.]
- How have we all strayed like sheep (v. 25)? [Trusting in our own abilities or finding comfort in things that do not provide eternal joy.] How exactly have we returned to the guardian of our souls (v. 25)? [We return through trust, faith, and obedience.]
- Read Isaiah 53:4-9. How would this passage from Peter have been received as Good News to slaves (v. 18)? [Christ can relate to their suffering; they do not suffer alone; there is a greater freedom that can be experienced in any situation, no matter how unjust their present circumstances and that awaits them in fullness beyond death, etc.]
- How do Peter's affirmations in this letter undermine unjust systems like slavery and human trafficking? [We have seen Paul's call to love deeply from the heart, which would call into question any system that keeps people from experiencing God's abundance. People are of

invaluable worth, such that Christ would die for them, as opposed to even the most precious of materials (gold and silver).]

Take it home (Application)

Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Prayer Requests:



Growth Group Community Service Project

We ask every group to take on at least one service project a year (the ideal is two) and to have at least one social gathering (potluck) per half a year. Please consider with your group members of what community service you'd like to participate in.

There is a project list made by our church that you can join the church.

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