

THE COMMONS LEADER GUIDE

September 23rd
Week 3 - Hard To Love

MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4-5

MAIN POINTS

- We no longer live for our old evil human desires, but for the will of God (4:2).
- Believers are called to be “good stewards of God’s grace” by using our God-given gifts to serve (4:10).
- As Christians, we *suffer different* because we are blessed and glorify God in our suffering (4:15-16).
- We are to “clothe ourselves with humility” before God and others (5:5-6).
- The enemy wants to destroy us, but we are to be watchful and sober-minded and “*resist him*” (v. 9).

BACKGROUND

In ch. 1, Peter identifies believers as exiles in this world who are set apart to honor God. When everything is being taken from them, Peter encourages these believers to focus on what can never be taken—the hope of their salvation. In ch. 2-3, Peter expands on how believers can honor God while in exile. He calls believers to reflect Christ’s submission and wage war against their sin natures in order to glorify God and lead people to Christ.

In ch. 4-5, Peter continues to emphasize how believers look different from the world. This might make them the source of ridicule (4:4), but the ridiculers will have to give an account to the Lord (v. 5)! Christ’s return could happen at any time, and the weight of this reality should be reflected in believers’ lives. This means taking sin seriously, devoting oneself to prayer, loving and serving others well, etc. (4:7-9). This also means believers will endure trials, but they can rejoice in them because they are blessed when they suffer for Christ and bring Him glory. And after all, what will happen to the ungodly if they do not share Christ? (4:17-18)

Peter summarizes his letters’ commands in ch. 5. Believers are to serve with proper motives (v. 2-3), be humble (v. 5-6), cast their anxiety on God (v. 7), and be sober-minded and watchful to resist the schemes of the devil (v. 9). All this is done in the hope of their future eternal glory in Christ (v. 11)!

RESOURCES

[Enduring Word Commentary - 1 Peter 4](#)
[Enduring Word Commentary - 1 Peter 5](#)

UPCOMING COMMONS EVENTS

Commons Late Night - **Sept 25**

COMMONS GATHERING - Sept 30

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 1 Peter 4

1. What do you think is the “attitude” that Peter tells believers to “arm” themselves with in v. 1?
2. What do you think Peter means when he says that “whoever suffers in the body is done with sin”?
 - *Believers don't stop sinning, but we are victorious over sin and no longer dominated by it. Even if not physically persecuted, believers “suffer” by being the source of ridicule and giving up worldly pleasures.*
3. Spend some time thinking through Peter’s list in 4:3. How do these sins translate into modern times? Do you see traces of these in your life?
4. What do you think it means that the “end of all things is near” (v. 7)? How does this change how you live your day to day life?
5. How does “love cover a multitude of sins” (4:8)?
6. How can we as believers be “faithful stewards of God’s grace” (v. 10)?
7. Peter repeats over and over the purpose of living obediently to God in this letter. What is this purpose and why do you think it is significant? (4:11)
8. If we suffer or are ridiculed as Christians, we often feel shame. But how are we able to not feel shame when this happens? (v. 16)

READ 1 Peter 5

1. None of you are elders at Grace Fellowship, but what does it look like to model the character traits in v. 1-4 in your leadership roles?
2. How can you honor and submit to your elders? (v. 5)
3. Peter repeats the command to be “sober-minded” three times in his letter (1:13, 4:7, 5:8). Why is this so important?
4. What do you think it looks like to “resist” the devil?

APPLICATION

1. Who is someone in your life that is hard to love? How can you go out of your way **THIS WEEK** to love them with the radical love of Christ? Even if they “don’t deserve” it?
2. What are your God-given gifts? Are you stewarding them to the best of your ability for the kingdom? How can you do this better?
3. What is your attitude towards your church leaders? How can you encourage a pastor, leader, or staff member in the next two weeks?

