

EMBRACE WEIRD: Look Up

- 1 Peter 4:1-11

KICKOFF

Imagine you are leaving Brisbane in 3 months to move to the other side of the world. What would your priorities be during your final 3 months?

What stood out to you from the sermon, and what questions did it raise?

Pray for our time in God's word.

BIG IDEA: LOOK UP

1 Peter 4:1-11 teaches that because we live in the last days between Christ's first coming (his suffering, death, and resurrection for our sins) and his second coming (certain return to judge the living and the dead), Christians are to "look up" — fixing their hope on Jesus — and so live as a gospel-shaped, counter-cultural community in these final days: turning from old passions to God's will, and prioritising prayer, earnest love, hospitality, and service to one another.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

- What strikes you from the passage?

From 1 Peter 4:1-6

- How we live while we wait for Jesus to return matters. What are the contrasts between the old life and the new life Christians are called to adopt?
- Peter says people are surprised when believers don't join in their lifestyle, and they malign them (vv 3-4). Where have you felt that pressure or mockery? How does knowing Jesus will return—and has already borne your judgment at the cross—help you stand firm?

Verse 7 marks the turning point: because "the end of all things is at hand" and godliness in these last days really matters, Peter moves from the big gospel frame to very practical "one another" commands that should shape everyday Christian community.

PRAY (from verse 7)

- What does this verse suggest about the kind of prayer life Peter expects Christians to have in the last days?
- What most often undermines your "self-control" or "sober-mindedness" when it comes to prayer (distraction, tiredness, screens, worry, sin, etc.)?

LOVE (from verse 8)

- What do “above all” and “loving one another earnestly” tell us about the *priority* and *intensity* of Christian love?
- Personal Reflection: Is there a specific hurt or failure you’re still holding onto? How could you move toward “covering” it with Christ-like forgiveness?

HOSPITALITY (from verse 9)

- In Peter’s context, what might “show hospitality to one another” have looked like among scattered, suffering believers?
- Why do you think Peter adds “without grumbling”? What does that imply about how hospitality can feel? What’s one practical way you can show hospitality this week?

SERVE (from verses 10-11)

- According to these verses, where do our gifts come from, and what does that mean for how we view and use them?
- How could you more deliberately use those gifts to serve people in our church family this month, “by the strength that God supplies,” so that God gets the glory?

Prayer: In response to the passage.

Vision Prayer: Father God, by your grace, enable our church to be a city of refuge within the city of Brisbane. Empower me this week, by your Spirit, to offer one person the refuge, security, and hope found in Christ Jesus. Amen.