

Week 8 Connect Group Lesson: WE share our hope.

Big Idea

Christians are called to **honor Jesus as Lord**, live with visible **hope**, and be ready to **share that hope** in a way that is respectful, humble, and sincere — even when the world pushes back.

1 Peter 3:15–16 (NIV)

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

Opening

Icebreaker:

“What’s one product or thing you’ve recommended to someone because you love it (e.g., a favorite food, book, or app)?”

Transition:

Just like we share what we love, Jesus calls us to share *Him* — with our lives and our words. But how we do that matters just as much as what we say.

Review

- What did you learn from the WE study?
- What are you trying to apply to your life from the WE study?

Explore the Scripture

Read 1 Peter 3:15–16 out loud (twice). Possibly one other version.

Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to “revere Christ as Lord in your heart”?
- Why do you think Peter tells us to **always** be ready to give an answer?
- What kind of “hope” do you think he’s talking about?
- How do **gentleness and respect** change the way people hear our message?

Teaching Point:

Peter is writing to Christians who are being **mistreated for their faith**. Yet he calls them to live in a way that makes people curious — and to respond with **truth, grace, and integrity** when asked about it.

Apply It to Life

Reflective Questions:

- When was the last time someone asked you about your faith or why you live the way you do?
 - What should be different about our lives?
 - Should we share our faith even if no one asks? If so, how?
 - Would you feel **prepared** to share your hope in Christ if someone asked today? Why or why not?
 - What might it look like to answer someone with “gentleness and respect” in a tough or hostile conversation?
 - What situations challenge your ability to maintain a clear conscience or respond with grace?
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4. Takeaway Challenge

This week:

- **Pray** for one opportunity to share your hope. Reach your one.
- **Practice** responding with gentleness — even when challenged.
- **Prepare** your answer now, not later.

You don’t have to be perfect. Just be real, respectful, and ready.

5. Closing Prayer

Pray together:

- That Jesus would be **honored in our hearts and lives**
- That we’d be **ready to share our hope**, not just with words but with actions
- That we’d have **gentleness, respect, and courage** in every conversation