

Equipped to Live

Believers honor God by loving others in all circumstances.



The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

1 PETER 4:1-11

September 22, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: 1 PETER 4:1-11

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. ² As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. ⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- Put yourself in Peter's shoes. If you believed the return of Jesus was imminent, what 4 things would you tell Christians they most need to focus on before Jesus comes back?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

LIVING FOR GOD

> Read 1 Peter 4:1-4

- What attitudes do people exhibit when facing suffering? What attitudes did Jesus demonstrate when facing suffering? When considering Jesus' suffering on the cross, what kind of encouragement does it provide to you for living life as His follower?
- This passage outlines pastimes that are sinful and a complete waste of time for Christians. Why do lost people think it's strange when we no longer do these things? How are we to respond when people notice our different way of living?

ANSWERING FOR THE GOSPEL

> Read 1 Peter 4:5-6

- Why is it easy to forget we will be held accountable by God?
- What can we do to live our day-to-day life in light of the fact of Jesus impending return? How will our daily lives and the lives of others be impacted by living this way?

REDEEM THE TIME

> Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

- Why do we need to be sober-minded and alert when we pray? What does that look like?
- How does love cover a multitude of sins? How have you seen this in your own life?

- What are some ways you have experienced hospitality from others? What impact did it make on you? Why does Peter add the instruction that when offering hospitality, we should do it without grumbling?
- What are some specific ways we can show love and hospitality to others?
- What do you believe your spiritual gift is? What are some ways to discover your spiritual gift?
- Look around your LifeGroup, how have you seen the people in this group offer you love? How have they showed you hospitality? How have they blessed you with their spiritual gifts?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Notice that Peter's first command in 4:7 deals with our relationship with God (prayer). His next three commands (love, offer hospitality, and serve) deal with our relationship with others. Consider each one of these areas. What do you need to do this week?

- **Prayer**—set aside time each day to communicate with your Creator. What do you need to pray about this week? Who do you need to pray for?
- **Love**—who do you have a hard time loving? Maybe it's even yourself. What is one way you will show love this week to someone?
- **Hospitality**—what is 1 small act of hospitality you can do this week?
- **Serve**—how are you using your spiritual gift this week?

Pray: Close with a time of prayer, asking the group to pray for one another as they honor God by loving others in all circumstances.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read 1 Peter 4:12-19
- Why do you think Peter spends so much time in this letter talking about the way we handle suffering? How applicable is this for today? If he wrote this letter today, what do you think would be the topic he would spend the most time on?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

22nd – Daniel 9-10; Psalm 123; Luke 5 | **23rd** – Daniel 11-12; Luke 6 | **24th** – Ezra 1; Psalm 84-85; Luke 7 | **25th** – Ezra 2-3; Luke 8 | **26th** – Ezra 4; Psalm 113, 127; Luke 9 | **27th** – Haggai 1-2; Psalm 129; Luke 10 | **28th** – Zechariah 1-3; Luke 11

Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE
CHANGED BY HIM IN A
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR
THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.
CREATE COMMUNITY.
MAKE DISCIPLES.
