

Resilient

Scripture and Background Information for March 5-11.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

1 Peter is written to help Christ-followers thrive in the midst of a world under pressure. They were struggling to navigate a world where they were a spiritual, political, and social minority. They were suffering to the point they had even started to turn on each other at home and at church. Peter wrote to show them how to live with resilience: why we need it, where to find it, what it looks like, and what to do with it when you've got it.

Background for 1 Peter 1:13-2:3:

In the greeting of this letter (1 Peter 1:1-2) we find out that the recipients of 1 Peter are in a dire time of their life. They are Christians who are suffering unjust persecutions because of their faith, have been pushed out of their homes, and were forcibly spread out in unfamiliar places with unfamiliar people. Their lives have been completely uprooted and their future is uncertain. It is under these circumstances that Peter writes this letter to them as a way to encourage them to persevere and stand firm in their faith no matter what situations they are facing (1 Peter 5:12).

In our passage for today, Peter calls his audience to look to their eternity to determine how they are supposed to live in light of their current circumstances. He notes that if our hope is in God then this should effect the way we live our lives. Specifically, Peter says that we are to be holy because the God we represent is holy, too, and the result of our holiness should be seen in the way we extend brotherly love to one another as God's children. He recognizes that this new way of living is a process in which we grow up but ends by giving suggestions on things that we need to avoid in order to have our relationships defined by the love that was extended to us by Jesus.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. At the end of this passage, Peter commands his audience to do certain things if they have tasted that, "the Lord is good." What does it mean that the Lord is good? Is this something that is always easy for people to believe? Why or why not?
2. Look at the list in 1 Peter 2:1 that includes examples of what Peter tells his audience to avoid. Which one of these is hardest for you to deal with in your own life? Why? What effect could this have on your relationships with others?
3. In verse 15-16, Peter challenges his audience to be holy because God is holy. What does he mean by this? If this is our goal, how do we achieve it? What role does God play in our holiness?