

Resilient

Scripture and Background Information for March 19-25.

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 3:8-12:

The recipients of 1 Peter are in lands that are unfamiliar around people that are unfamiliar because of circumstances that were less than ideal. Peter's audience was scattered across the Roman empire because of the persecution that they faced and they needed help understanding what it looked like to live faithfully in these new situations that they faced. Up to this point in the book, Peter has laid the foundation for what the lives of these Christians should be built on. He has casted a vision for what their lives could look like. Now in 1 Peter 2:11-3:7, he gets incredibly practical by showing how this vision should play out in the relationships people have with the government, between slaves and masters, and between spouses.

In our passage for today, Peter sums up this discussion on these various relationships by calling everyone receiving this letter, regardless of their relationship, to treat each other in ways that are glorifying to God. In verses 8-9 Peter gives some helpful commands that instruct people on how to act towards each other. Through living in harmony, being kind, and staying humble, Peter's audience will be able to glorify God in their relationships. Then, in verses 10-12, Peter quotes Psalm 34 to remind his audience that living righteously, in accordance with his commands, truly matters to God. They are to live in this way towards each other not simply because it makes interactions with each other better, but because God ultimately desires for them to live this way too.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What does it mean for the eyes of the Lord to be on the righteous and the face of the Lord to be against those who do evil? How do we make sense of this in light of the grace we know God gives to His people?
2. Of all the commands given in verses 8-9, which ones do you think we do well at our church/in our group? Which ones do you think we need to grow?
3. What does this passage reveal to us about the values God has for His people? How can we be people who live up to the calling Peter gives to us in these verses?