

Resilient

Scripture and Background Information for April 2-8.

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 5:6-11:

Peter's audience was spread throughout the Roman Empire because of the persecution they faced in their homeland. They were in new places, around new people, dealing with new problems so Peter writes to them to encourage and guide them in this unfamiliar season of life. He wants them to stand firm in the grace of God even as they experience various struggles in many different areas of their lives (1 Peter 5:12). So, throughout the book, he talks about how they should live in light of the suffering that they face, what their relationships with each other and culture around them should look like, and why they should base these actions and interactions on Jesus Himself.

In chapter 5, Peter begins to conclude his writing by giving practical advice on how relationships should be managed within the church. He begins in verses 1-5 by talking about the relationships between elders and those younger than them in the church. Elders are meant to lead well humbly knowing that they are being led by Jesus and the younger people are supposed to submit to the leadership of the elders in humility, as well. Humility, therefore, becomes the great theme of our passage today (1 Peter 5:6-11). In these verses, Peter defines what it looks like for all to have humility under God and calls his audience to have this type of humility in their lives given the circumstances they face.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. At the beginning (verse 6) and end (verse 11) of this passage Peter alludes to the power God has. What does it look like to humble yourself under the power of God? How can understanding the power of God help people who are going through various struggles and sufferings in their lives?
2. In verse 7, Peter claims that God cares for us. In what ways do you think God is/could be caring for you in your life currently? How can we remind others of the care God has for them as they go through struggles?
3. In verse 10 Peter says that after his audience suffers for a while, God will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish them. In what ways do you think that this truth applies to you? How can this truth help us find comfort and peace during our own struggles?

4. In chapter 5 Peter addresses both the leader and the one's being led. As you think about the different commands he gives to both, which do you find most challenging or convicting for where God has you currently? What active steps do you need to take to lead/be led like he describes?