

## Exiles: Week 3 Discussion Guide



### Read Together

We're walking through the letter of 1 Peter as part of a series called *Exiles: Why We Must Be Different to Make a Difference*. This week we're studying 1 Peter 1:13-2:3. In particular, we're looking at what it looks like to have a *different life*.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup>But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup>for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

<sup>17</sup>Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup>For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup>He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. <sup>23</sup>For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup>For,

"All people are like grass,  
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;  
the grass withers and the flowers fall,  
<sup>25</sup>but the word of the Lord endures forever."

And this is the word that was preached to you.

<sup>2:1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup>Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <sup>3</sup>now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

## Discuss Together

*Always feel free to add in additional questions of your own, and don't feel like you need to get through every single question. Your goal is to foster a conversation that leads people a little bit closer to everyday life like Jesus.*

- **As we read through this section, what were some things that struck you from it?**
- *Holy* is a significant word in this section. It shows up 4x in the first paragraph. **What comes to mind when you hear the word *holy*? And, how do you think holiness got a reputation for looking down on other people?**
- One of the things that holiness means is *moral difference*. On Sunday, Austin said that “to be holy as God is holy” is about moving further from who *you* were and closer to who God is. **How might thinking about holiness that way prevent us from looking down on other people as we pursue holiness?**
- Peter says that we've been redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect” (1:19). One thing this means is that we no longer need to make animal sacrifices in order to get right with God. It also means that it's trusting in the holiness of Jesus, not your own personal holiness, that makes you right with God. **What difference might it make knowing that it was the holiness of Jesus, not your own personal holiness, that saves you?**
- When Peter sums up what it means to be holy, he uses the word *love* (1:22). That word can be a little slippery in our cultural moment. **What are some ways people understand the word *love*?**
- One way to understand what the Scriptures mean by love is “doing what is good for someone else, often at cost to yourself, with no expectation of anything in return.” **What makes the things Peter lists out in 2:1 (malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander) so unloving?**
- At the end of the sermon on Sunday, Austin asked two questions: 1) What is one thing about *who you were* that still hasn't changed? 2) What is one thing you can do to move further from who you were and closer to who God is over the next thirty days? **Is anyone willing to share how they might answer those questions (or, at least, how you'd answer question one and invite us to help you with question two)?**
- Holiness has a bit of a yuck-factor for people because it's often associated with looking down on other people who aren't as “holy” as you, but as we talked about: becoming more holy means becoming more loving. **If we were committed to radically pursuing that kind of holiness, how might that actually be attractive to unbelievers in our lives?**
- **Is there anything else from this passage that you'd like to discuss more?**

## Pray Together

*As you pray, thank God for making you holy and ask him to guide you further into holiness.*