

## Exiles: Week 12 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*. We're reading from 1 Peter 5:6-14 where Peter brings the letter to close with final instructions for the community of exiles.

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

<sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

<sup>8</sup>Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>12</sup>With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

<sup>13</sup>She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. <sup>14</sup>Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

### Discuss Together

*As a discussion leader, your goal is to foster a conversation that leads people a little bit closer to everyday life like Jesus—using this week's scripture text as a basis. Always feel free to add in additional questions of your own, and don't feel like you need to get through every single question. If you have a big group, it can be helpful to let people discuss a question in groups of 2-3 so that more people get a chance to talk.*

- **What is something that struck you from an initial reading of this text?**
- Like many ancient letters, the last few paragraphs of 1 Peter are full of final instructions. **What are some of the final instructions Peter gives the community of exiles?**
- On Sunday, instead of just focusing on what these instructions meant for us as individuals, we focused on what three of these instructions mean for what kind of community we're called to be: *humble (5:6), non-anxious (5:7), and resilient (5:8-11)*.
  - Humility is about holding power in service of others. **What did humility look like in the life of Jesus? What could it look like for us to be a humble church or discipleship community?**
  - Being non-anxious (on a community level) is about not overreacting, circling the wagons, or victimizing ourselves in our cultural moment. **How do you think social media amplifies our cultural anxiety levels? What could it look like to be a non-anxious church or discipleship community?**
  - Resilience is about outlasting difficulty and getting stronger because of it. **What could it look like to be a resilient church or discipleship community? Why does knowing what other believers are experiencing around the world help us in our own difficulties? How do difficult, uncomfortable experiences make us stronger?**
- Each of these instructions is grounded in a truth about who God is, what he's done, or what he will do. **What's the theologically grounding do you see in these verses for being humble, non-anxious, and resilient? Why do you think it's important that Peter's instructions are grounded in a truth about God?**
- **Ten years from now, what kinds of stories do you hope we're telling about what God did through our church?**
- **Is there anything else from this passage that you'd like to discuss more?**

## Pray Together

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12 again since it's the theme of this whole series. Pray that God will sink in what we've learned through this series and show us how to be different so that we can make a difference. Pray that God will use us to add unbelievers into the faith.