



Your Real Enemies WEEK 6 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In the final message of the series, *Out of Darkness - A Study In The Book Of 1 Peter*, we will discuss three life questions Peter challenges us with.

DISCUSSION

In **1 Peter 5**, Peter wraps up his letter to Believers in Asia Minor who are facing pressure and persecution because of their new-found faith. His final thoughts in this last chapter are deeply insightful and challenging.

Three Life Questions:

1. Will you... serve yourself or serve others?

1 Peter 5:1-4: *The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.* As he wraps up this letter, Peter takes a moment to speak to pastors and church leaders. Our posture as leaders is critical, and we should take care of those entrusted to us. He reminds us that it is an honor and privilege to lead those God has put under our care and that we are to willingly, eagerly love and serve them. And as we do, we will be richly, eternally rewarded.

The purpose of leadership is to add value to followers. The leader exists for the followers. Jesus said in **Mark 9:35:** *And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."* Servant leadership is the biblical model of true leadership.

- How does 1 Peter emphasize the importance of the leader's posture and attitude towards those they lead?
- Why do you think Peter emphasizes servant leadership and the attitude of willingly and eagerly serving others in the context of church leadership? How might these principles apply in other leadership roles outside the church setting?

Peter calls us to a higher level in **verse 3:** *...being examples to the flock...* Our lives should be an example to those around us. And our ultimate accountability and motivation as servant leaders are found in **verse 4:** *And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.* When we serve others, we are actually serving God.

- What are some practical ways you can be an example to others?
- When we serve others, we serve God. How does this knowledge impact the way you approach your role as a servant leader or your interactions with those around you?

2. Will you... humble yourself or be humbled?

Verses 5-6: Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. Here, the Apostle Peter broadens his challenges to everyone. He calls for all of us to walk in submission and humility.

- How can we practice the qualities in verses 5-6 in our daily lives?

Verse 5: ...“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” We really see God responding in two ways to us. If we are prideful and arrogant toward Him and others, God gets involved by actively resisting us. On the contrary, when we are humble, He gets involved and pours out grace and favor on us, and actively exalts us. Pride is a major enemy. Pride repels God. Humility attracts God.

- How does pride affect our relationship with God and those around us?
- What are some areas we can tend to be more prideful?
- Share a time when you've seen the impact of pride or humility in people's interactions.

Three Ways to Clothe Yourself In Humility:

- a. Start with self-awareness.
- b. Listen twice as much as you talk.
- c. Own Your Stuff.

- Which of the three ways to clothe yourself in humility is most challenging to you? How can you grow in that area?

3. Will you... resist the enemy or be devoured?

Verse 8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Peter's telling us – the first step to winning in spiritual warfare is to be aware, sober, and vigilant. The apostle Paul says something similar in **Ephesians 6:12: For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.** We are all in a battle, and our prayers are key in spiritual warfare.

Peter gives us a second key to winning at spiritual warfare in **1 Peter 5:9: Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.** We resist and stand steadfast when we stand on God's Word. To resist the enemy means we stand in faith. We stand on the Word of the Lord. The Apostle Paul says in **Ephesians 6:13: Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.** To resist is to have an assertive posture against the adversary. Be alert and watchful, withstand the attacks of the enemy with God's Word coming out of your mouth. We are not just aware of the enemy's attacks – but we advance against him and push him back.

- In what ways can we stay vigilant in our faith and maintain awareness in our spiritual battle?
- How can we better engage in God's Word, especially during times of spiritual warfare?

LIFE CHALLENGE

Reflect on your daily interactions and make a conscious effort to find opportunities to serve and add value to others. Practice humility by embracing self-awareness, actively listening to others, and taking responsibility for your actions. Identify specific areas where pride may be a challenge and work on nurturing humility.

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER