

JUNE 7, 2020

OVERCOMING FEAR OF OTHERS

1 Peter 3:8-12



The Big Idea: Christians can break the barrier of fear by empathizing with our neighbors.

- **Head Change:** To know that we can have hope and peace instead of fear because God is always with us.
- **Heart Change:** To feel confidence when worry tries to take over.
- **Life Change:** To refrain from letting our assumptions about others keep us from engaging with them.

1. Christ followers can break the barrier of fear with -

- a. Empathy
- b. Curiosity
- c. Knowing your identity in Christ
- d. Unity with others because of Christ

2. The 5 Building Blocks (v.8) -

1. Live in harmony with one another
2. Be sympathetic
3. Love as brothers and sisters
4. Be compassionate
5. Be humble

3. How to deal with the world (v.9-11) -

- a. Do not repay evil with evil
- b. Do not repay insult with insult
- c. Do respond with blessing people
- d. Keep away from saying things that lack any good and avoid deceitful speech
- e. Do good
- f. Seek and pursue peace

4. Why does it matter? God opposes bad behavior (v.12) -

*“For the eyes of the Lord **are on** the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is **against** those who do evil.”*

“When iron is rubbed against a magnet it becomes magnetic. Just so, love is caught, not taught. One heart burning with love sets another on fire. The church was built on love; it proves what love can do.”

- Frank C. Laubach

LifeGroup Worksheet

JUNE 7, 2020

This sheet is to be completed DURING your LifeGroup session

Scripture Reference – **1 Peter 3:8-12**

1. Reflect- *How has God been working in your life? How has He provided, comforted, answered, reconciled or guided you? Be open to sharing both your successes and struggles.*

2. Read- *1 Peter 3:8-12 carefully several times, both with your group and alone.*

3. Engage and Explore- *What do you think God was communicating to his people when this was first written? Try to answer at least one questions below.*

- What do people mean when they say, “I don’t get mad, I get even,”?
- Why do people want to get even?
- Why should we “repay evil...with a blessing” (3:9-12)?
- Find as many phrases as you can that describe what a Christian ought to be in our scripture reading. What reason does Peter suggest for living that way? What is God saying here?
- How would following these descriptions help you, your family, and our community in the current response to the police killing George Floyd in Minneapolis?

4. Connect- *how this passage applies to you and your relationship to Jesus and others. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through this passage? Try to answer at least one question.*

- Have you experienced someone who was the opposite of what 1 Peter was asking people to be? What was it like?
- Do you experience ageism, sexism, racism, or any other form of oppression? How do you handle it?
- Believers must have compassion for one another. The word compassion (sumpatheis) means sympathy, to actually feel with others. It means to feel for others so much that...
 - One suffers with those who suffer
 - One weeps with those who weep
 - One rejoices when others are honored

Unity cannot exist unless believers feel compassion and sympathy for one another. Believers cannot be selfish and aloof; they cannot be seeking attention and seeking to get their own way if they are to be unified. Unity demands sympathy; unity demands that believers feel for one another – that they feel deeply, so deeply that they actually experience what other believers experience – pain, hurt, abuse, suffering, joy, and rejoicing.

Discuss this. What are the barriers to feeling for others? Our neighbors? Those who riot in the streets?

5. Silent Meditation- *You may want to move away from the group to a quiet spot. Silently read the scripture several more times. Write down the words/passage you want to focus on this week and how you plan to apply God’s truth to your life.*

6. Share- *Key insights with your group from question #5.*

7. Close in Prayer- *Try using different prayer models found in the LifeGroup Leader Handbook.*