



## LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 31st December 2023



### 1 Peter 2:11-17 Faith in Hostile World

#### Warm Up

Have you ever been ridiculed because of your faith? Conversely has someone thanked God because of your Christian witness? Share a story.

#### Background and context

The letter of 1 Peter was written to churches across Asia minor, possibly when Peter was in Rome. The Church was facing persecution from Rome under the direction of the Emperor Nero. Many of the new Christians Peter wrote to were not Jewish and had lived pagan lifestyles, indulging in idol worship, sexual immorality and debauchery. Peter urges them to abstain from pagan practices and build a life centred around Christ, even though it will and does lead to suffering and persecution.

#### Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



**Read 1 Peter 2:11-17.** *What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand? This could be a time to discuss and share reflections and ideas on the passage or watch a Bible project type video that helps explain things.*

1. In what way were the readers of Peter's letter "exiles" or "foreigners"?
2. **Read v 11.** What are the sinful desires that wage war on our souls?
3. How do questions 1 and 2 relate to us as Christians today?
4. **Read v12.** Why is it vital that our lifestyle is different from the world around us?
5. **Read Ephesians 6:12.** Does this verse help us in understanding the world we live in?
6. **Read v 13-15.** Why are we called to submit to all authorities?
7. What does this look like in reality for the modern Christian? Should we oppose unjust law? Should we protest? Should we vote?
8. How does the example of Christ help us submit to authorities?
9. **Read v16-17.** what does it mean to live free under the rule of Christ?
10. How can you be free and a slave to Christ?

#### Growing in discipleship: Practical application



11. Through which parts of the passage has God spoken to you personally? ( you don't need to share personal details)
12. How are you going to develop an "in the world but not of it" attitude this week?

#### Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.