



Resilient Faith: A Study of 1 Peter

Group Guide | March 8

Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Create a “transition” from the conversations that happen as your group gathers into a time of reflection. Invite people to settle themselves and provide 30-60 seconds of time for silent reflection before opening in a prayer: “Father God, may our hearts be attentive to what You have to teach us tonight. May we be receptive to Your Word, Your Spirit, and Your Son. May we be mindful of the way You have provided this community where we can develop resilient faith together. Amen.”

Reflect (10 minutes).

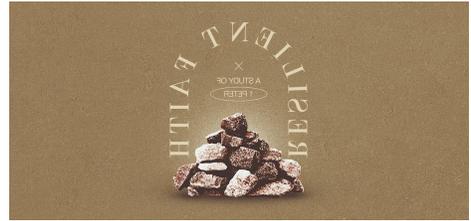
- What have you noticed about the resilience of your faith over the course of this series so far?
- In what areas of your life are you willing to do hard things or suffer for an end goal?

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11 and then discuss the sermon (30 minutes).

- What stood out to you most from Dan’s sermon?
- Peter commands us to “arm ourselves with the same attitude” as Jesus had toward suffering and to change our expectations of the Christian life. Share an area of life where God is inviting you to shift your expectations.

Peter called believers to separate themselves from their former ways of life—not to waste our time living as “pagans” do. Dan listed ways we may waste time: sin, social media scrolling, binge watching, online debate, or an obsession with gaming, sports, or news. He called these “expensive distractions.”

- Is there one of these “expensive distractions” that entraps you? Or is there something else?
- What would your life look like if you were free from those traps?



Peter makes it clear that we aren't just supposed to *stop* doing certain things. We are also to *pursue* other things. We are to give ourselves to God and others.

When Peter tells believers to be alert and sober-minded so that they can pray, he is surely remembering his own failure to stay awake and alert when Jesus asked him to “watch and pray” in the garden of Gethsemane so that he wouldn't fall into temptation (Matthew 26:36-46). Peter had learned that the spiritual battle is won or lost in prayer.

- How do you rely on prayer, especially when you face temptation?
- What is one practical way you could give yourself to God in prayer in the coming week?

Peter also encourages believers to give themselves to others in loving service by forgiving sins, practicing hospitality, sharing your God-given gifts, speaking Spirit-inspired words, and serving in God's strength so that God may be praised.

Peter writes that “love covers over a multitude of sins.” Everyone we interact with has flaws. Our love determines how we respond to their sins and weaknesses. Dan compares it to a photo filter.

- What kind of “filter” do you tend to use when you look at other people?
- How does your filter affect your relationships?
- How does this passage challenge you to change that filter?
- Hospitality is a way of showing love. What does “practicing hospitality” mean to you?
- What “gifts” do you recognize in yourself? How are you or how could you use those gifts to serve God?

If applicable, reflect on the 90-Day Bible Reading Plan (10 minutes).

- What was your time reading the New Testament and Psalms like for you this week?
- What is something you learned?
- What stood out or challenged you from God's Word?



Finish with prayer (10 minutes).

This week's passage places a great significance on prayer. Let's "watch and pray" together.

Tonight, we will "pray the request." Rather than sharing our requests with each other, we will *pray* our requests to God. This prayer approach encourages to name what we are asking God to do rather than just what the problem is.

I will offer an area for prayer. You are invited to pray a word, phrase, sentence, or more for that area. I will leave some time for each area, then close our time in prayer.

Prayer

Father, help us to be alert and sober minded so that we can pray. We are grateful that you are always ready to receive our prayers.

We bring before you prayers for our community . . .

We bring before you prayers for our church . . .

We bring before you prayers for our families . . .

We bring before you prayers for the increase of our own resilient faith . . .

May you be praised in all things through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.