

## Resilient Faith: A Study of 1 Peter

### Group Guide | February 22

#### Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Invite God to be humble, gentle, and without fear in your conversations this evening.

#### Reflect (10 minutes).

Tonight, we're looking at a passage from 1 Peter about marriage. For many of us, our assumptions about marriage are ingrained in us by what we did or didn't see in our younger years. What did you observe about marriage in the home you grew up in? If your parents were married, what were the dynamics like in their marriages?

*Explain that tonight you will have some time for whole group discussion (for groups comprised of both men and women), then you will divide by gender for further discussion. (If your space doesn't allow for that, choose which questions from the women's and men's sections you think would best serve your entire group.)*

#### Read 1 Peter 3:1-7 and then discuss the sermon as a whole group (10 minutes).

1. What connected to you most from Dan's message?
2. What personally challenged you most from Dan's message?
3. How would marriages look different if the principles Peter teaches here were followed?

#### Questions for women in the group (25 minutes).

*We recognize that some life groups contain both married and single individuals. Please keep the conversation inclusive of both groups if both are present.*

- Peter begins this passage calling wives to submit to their husbands. How do you tend to respond to the word "submit" in this context?
- How did Dan's message provide clarity for what submission in marriage is and is not?



Dan outlined four ways Peter teaches wives to honor God in marriage: submit to their husbands, pursue virtue, cultivate inner beauty, and renounce fear. While the first one is specific to married women, *most* women (married or not) find elements of the other three to be challenging.

- As you reflect on your life right now, which of those elements are you needing to pay more attention to right now? Feel free to close your eyes and listen prayerfully as I read these (*read these slowly, repeat twice, leave a space for quiet when you are done*): submitting to your husband if married, pursuing virtue, cultivating inner beauty, or renouncing fear?
- (*After providing prayerful space*) What is God inviting you to notice?
- How can we help each other embody these qualities more faithfully, both in our marriages (if married) and in our lives?

*If time allows, pray for each other, for your marriages (if married), and for the Holy Spirit to empower you to live lives that pursue virtue, cultivate inner beauty, and renounce fear.*

Questions for men in the group (25 minutes).

*We recognize that some life groups contain both married and single individuals. Please keep the conversation inclusive of both groups if both are present.*

Reread 1 Peter 3:7.

Dan shared that the command for husbands to “be considerate” was translated from a word that means “according to knowledge.” Dan explained that this means that husbands are to be sincerely curious about their wives, becoming an expert in “her story, her struggles, her joys, her burdens, her hopes, her dreams.”

- If you are married, would you share an honest assessment of how you are doing as a husband in being an “expert” on your wife? Whether you are married or not, would you suggest some practical ways of doing this?



- If unmarried, what aspects of being “considerate” would you like to see cultivated more so in your life now?

Dan also instructed husbands to respect their wives, serve their wives, and treasure their wives.

- If applicable to your group, spend some time encouraging the married men in ways you see them living out these characteristics.
- If applicable to your group, discuss ways husbands can improve in these areas. (Both married and unmarried men may have helpful perspectives on this!)

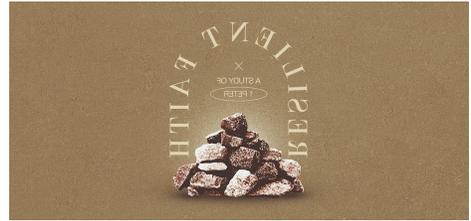
Peter teaches that the way a husband treats his wife has a direct impact on his prayer life. Jesus teaches a similar principle about all our relationships in Matthew 5:23-24.

- Can you think of a time in your life when you realized the way you were treating your wife (or other people) hindered your walk with Jesus, specifically your prayer life?
- If that time is *now*, what needs to change in how you treat someone else so that your relationships with others *and* your relationship with God are enriched?

If time, pray that whether married or unmarried you may be men who honor and serve others well. Pray that the husbands may grow in their capacity to fulfill God’s vision for them as husbands.

**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 (5 minutes).**

*If time allows, come back together for a final prayer time.*

In mixed groups, invite one of the men to pray a prayer of blessing and encouragement over the women, and one of the women to pray a prayer of blessing over the men. In single-sexed groups, invite someone to pray blessing and encouragement over the group.