



# PETER

*THE DISCIPLE MAKER*

**Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Three**

## **This Week's Memory Verse**

..to keep in your pocket, memorize, and hide in your heart:

For to this you have been called,  
because Christ also suffered for you,  
leaving you an example,  
so that you might follow in his steps.

- 1 Peter 2:21 (ESV)

## Week Three, Day One

### Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:11-22

### Devotional Reading

The definition of obey according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary is, "to follow the commands or guidance of; to conform to or comply with."

How do you define obedience? Is it a word that implies absolutes? Or does it involve some leniency, at times dictated by circumstances?

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother." (Ephesians 6:1-2a) When we are children, we are taught to obey: obey our parents, our teachers and those in authority. But as we age and mature our relationship with authority figures evolves alongside us.

Perhaps you know more than your own parent in a particular area, or you've become a parent yourself. Perhaps you've been placed under the authority of a leader half your age at work. Do these life changes influence the way we obey or respect others? Do the various situations we find ourselves in give way for us to pick and choose, perhaps obeying when it's most convenient for us? Our tendency is to want to obey when we like the authority and/or vision before us.

May we regularly consider what the Bible tells us about authority. 1 Peter 2:18 reminds us that we are called to respect those placed in authority over us. We are challenged to respect and obey those that are good to us, those that we love following, but we are challenged just as much to respect and obey the "harsh!"

As we obey those in authority over us, we are ultimately obeying and honoring our God.

### Faith In Action

Of course God does not want us to follow someone who is leading us into sin. Apart from a clearly ungodly directive, can you think of a situation in your life where you do not want to follow someone in authority over you? Ask God to give you the grace you need to obey respectfully.

### Today's Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for your Holy Spirit who is able to change the condition of my heart! I pray for this person in authority over me to whom I sometimes have a hard time yielding. Bless them and show me how to willingly serve them despite my reluctance. May you be lifted up as a result.