



# PETER

*THE DISCIPLE MAKER*

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

## This Week's Memory Verse

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

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,  
arm yourselves with the same way of thinking,  
for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,  
so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh  
no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

- 1 Peter 4:1-2 (ESV)

## Week Four, Day Three

### Scripture Reading

1 Peter 3:14; John 16:33

### Devotional Reading

It is one of Jesus' most often-repeated commands to his followers. The prophets claimed the charge; the apostles reiterate it to us. Over and over throughout the witness of scripture we are encouraged and rebuked. "Do not be afraid."

In walking with his disciples and showing them the way, Jesus never promises that it won't be hard.

He often assures them of the opposite. And this is what Peter tells us here, plainly, in regards to almost certain suffering for doing good, "Do not fear."

Why? Because God wins.

God has already defeated evil in the ultimate end of things, and we are on his side. "In this world you will have trouble," he says, "but I have overcome the world." Any suffering we face in this vapor of a lifetime, though deeply painful, pales in temporal comparison to the eternity of perfect, victorious righteousness we will all enjoy together in unity with Christ in heaven.

In the Message version of today's Scripture Reading, Peterson interprets it this way: "If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped?" The answer is no. You have an already purchased eternity of truth and victory in Christ.

Continue to do the good you've been called to do. Though it might be frightening, though you may feel terrified, choose the pursuit of righteousness, and do not be afraid. Know you are under the protection and vindication of the eternal, all-powerful, resurrected Christ.

### Faith In Action

Do something you're afraid of this week. Extend forgiveness to someone who has hurt you. Talk about your faith with someone who may not know about Jesus' impact on your life. Or stand up for what's right in a situation where it may feel "easier" to just sit back and not do anything. As you step out in boldness, may you experience his presence and liberation in the middle of your fear!

### Today's Prayer

Jesus, help me not to be afraid of fully following you, wherever you lead. Increase my faith and give me eternal perspective, so that I can be fully obedient to you and not limited by fear. Thank you for definitively leading me into ultimate victory!