



PETER

THE DISCIPLE MAKER

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Five

This Week's Memory Verse

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

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins

- 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)

Week Five, Day Four

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 5:6-11

Devotional Reading

A life of faith is full of adventure, risk, mystery and challenge.

To remain devoted, believing, loving and holy can prove, at times, to be intensely difficult. When we first began to follow Jesus, it might have been all wonder and excitement. But as God allows us to grow and mature, along with that comes struggle and opportunities for perseverance.

How do we remain faithful when it's no longer easy?

What can motivate us to, as the book of Hebrews says, "run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith?"

In a word: eternity.

Peter, like his teacher before him, used eternal realities to spur along his disciples in their journeys of faith. We sometimes have the tendency to dismiss eternity and focus on the here and now. But Jesus and Peter held that our future with God is truth, and such a glorious and awesome truth is great motivation to keep running the race.

As we fix our eyes on Jesus, let us look ahead to that glorious day when he will come and make all things new. "...may the God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you." (v. 10)

May we take comfort today that our suffering is strengthening and establishing us. It will not last forever.

Faith In Action

What are some ways that the enemy has tried to discourage you in your suffering? What are some ways that you can resist despair and anger in the midst of your current trials? Ask God to give you courage and his eternal perspective on the obstacles that you are facing.

Today's Prayer

God, thank you so much not only for your presence and love now, but also for the security of my future with you forever. Remind my heart of the hope of heaven! I am looking forward to the day when there will be no suffering. Lord, help me to treat others and face today with eternity in mind.