

THE POWER OF GENUINE

Community Group Discussion Guide

February 22, 2015

Week 1 | Be Holy
1 Peter 1:13-16

Read 1 Peter 1:1-16 before answering the following questions

Introduction

It can be challenging to live in an environment that's increasingly cynical toward biblical truth and resistant to biblical standards of morality. Where once the Bible was respected, it's now often discredited and labeled as extreme and narrow minded. It's no surprise that those who believe the Bible to be God's Word are finding the same labels placed on them. The message of 1 Peter shows us how to live in a sometimes-hostile environment, and live in such a way that we not only persevere but also have a positive impact for good.

Questions for Study

1. Have you ever been in an environment (e.g. a family setting, at work, in your neighborhood, etc.) where it was difficult to live as a follower of Christ? Explain.
2. In those situations where living as a follower of Christ can be difficult, is it easier to maintain Christian values and behaviors, or is it easier to compromise?
3. Why is upholding Christian values and behaviors important, even in difficult situations?
4. In 1 Peter 1:15-16, Peter tells followers of Jesus to "be holy." The word "holy" basically means to be "set apart." What are some of the first reactions or impressions *you* have towards this word "holy"? How do you think *Peter* (the author of 1 Peter) wants us to understand the word?
5. Look at 1 Peter 1:14. What are followers of Jesus Christ called to be set apart *from*? List some practical, 21st century examples of what this might include.
6. In 1 Peter 1:3-12, Peter spends a lot of time laying the groundwork for WHY we should be holy. Look closely at (especially) 1 Peter 1:3-9 again. Write down everything you see about (1) What God has given us; (2) How it's given; and (3) What that means for us. One example in each category has been done for you:

What God has given us	How it's given	What that means for us
New birth into a living hope (v. 3)	"in his great mercy" (v. 3)	Rejoicing (v. 6)

7. Why is it so important to lay all this groundwork reinforcing the greatness of the salvation God offers (in 1:3-12) BEFORE Peter tells us to be holy (in 1:14-16)? Or stated another way, how should the salvation God has made available through Jesus be a factor motivating our holiness?
8. In what practical ways should this message be influencing your life this week?
9. What else – either directly from the sermon or something related to it – were you hoping to discuss? Consider especially questions you still have and/or major take-aways from this week's message or the passage we are studying.