

Grow
Next Steps
February 27, 2022
1 Peter 1:13-2:2

OPENING PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, we need Your direction as we enter into the Scriptures today. We ask You to give us clarity and understanding, as well as a willingness to respond in obedience. Fill us with Yourself, so that we may fully know and experience Your presence as we study and grow. If our hearts are far from You, draw them back to You. If other things distract our minds, we ask You to help us be fully present. We want to hear from You. Thank you, Holy Spirit. Amen.

BREAKING THE ICE:

- What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
- Who was your best teacher or coach? What qualities did they exhibit that helped you grow?

WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:¹

Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:2.

- How does the call of holiness in this passage challenge you in all areas of your life?
- What does it mean to 'live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear' (v. 17)?
- What makes loving others deeply and actively possible (v. 23-25)?
- Which of the characteristics in 1:13-16 and 2:1-2 is the greatest challenge for you?
- What has been the 'pure spiritual milk' in your life (2:2)? In what ways do you still need this milk?
- How are you actively growing in your salvation?

MORE TO PONDER:

In the New Testament, the Greek word for disciple is mathetes. That word simply means 'learner' or 'pupil'. This means that every time we see the word disciple in the Bible, we can insert the word 'learner'. Thus a Christian (a word used only two (2) times in the Bible) is defined as someone who is a mathetes (used 268 times in the Bible) – a learner. Here comes the key question: from whom am I learning? A disciple is someone who is intentionally choosing to learn from Jesus, in every area of life. Simple! ...Two (2) core questions of discipleship: What is Jesus saying to you? What are you doing in response? Alex Absalom and Greg Nettle, *Disciples who Make Disciples*

- What strikes you about this passage?
- From whom are you learning?
- Where are you intentionally learning from Jesus?
- What is Jesus saying to you right now?
- What are you doing in response?

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Holy God, it seems to be our natural human inclination to resist the truth that suffering is part of life. We go to great lengths to avoid it for ourselves and to spare those we love from any pain, struggle or discomfort. When, despite our best efforts, suffering comes crashing upon us, we do everything in our power to mitigate its impact - we anesthetize it through watching TV or drinking alcohol or shopping; we explode in anger; we distance ourselves from people or events. Merciful Savior, grant us the wisdom to embrace suffering as a gift, to receive the lessons that pain alone can teach us with thankfulness, to submit to the growth and maturity that difficulty can bring in our lives. We ask for courage to follow in Jesus' footsteps, as he greeted his own suffering with dignity, humility and grace. Amen.

¹Adapted from *The Serendipity Bible* (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1998)