

## I Peter – Agents of the Gospel

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I Peter 2:11-25

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **The true story of your life is about winning over people to the gospel through your good deeds**

We are agents of God's Kingdom in a world that is not ours, disrupting and undermining the ways of this world.

Read and discuss I Peter 2:11-12(ESV)

*<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup> Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

\*What do these verses say about God? About us?

\*How does Peter talk to these believers like they are an insurgency?

\*What does it look like to be behind enemy lines, but with loving and merciful conduct and good deeds?

#### **Rely on your good deeds to change people's minds about Jesus**

Do not try to use political or governmental power to accomplish the mission.

Read and discuss I Peter 2:13-17(ESV)

*<sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.*

\*What do these verses say about God? About us?

\*How do we, as American Christians, tend to believe power changes the world?

\*Are there ways you have put too much focus in the power of government?

\*Are there ways to focus on our mission, and honor leaders that we disagree with?

#### **Finding Jesus may not change your position, but it does change your mission**

You now have a new purpose – to be an agent of the Gospel

Read and discuss I Peter 2:18-25(ESV)

*<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. <sup>19</sup> For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

\*What do these verses say about God? About us?

\*How have you gotten caught up in the story of your circumstances instead of the mission of the Gospel?

\*Are there ways you have put too much focus in the power of government?

\*Where is he showing you you've been distracted? Where is he calling you to be an agent of the Kingdom in your current position?

## **Join us as we read through the book of I Peter this winter as a church**

[I Peter Reading Plan](#)

**January 17th – 23rd:**      I Peter 3:8 – 4:19

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)\***      [Untitled](#) by Lee Mullican

**Song for reflection**      [Hallelujah Here Below](#) by Elevation Worship

\*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.