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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Life in Exile: Be Holy (1 Peter 1:13-25)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Peter's call to holy living follows his explanation of the hope believers have through Yeshua. Because God has given them a new identity and a future inheritance, they must prepare their minds for action. Their hope should remain fixed on the grace to be revealed when Messiah returns.

Being sober-minded means exercising mental self-control. The teaching urges believers to direct their emotions and desires rather than let those feelings govern their actions. Recognizing weaknesses and establishing appropriate boundaries helps believers resist temptation and remain focused on their calling.

Holiness includes separation from the secular and dedication to God. Avoiding evil alone does not express the whole calling. God's children must also actively serve, love, and worship him. The teaching follows the pattern of salvation first, followed by the responsibility to live faithfully.

Peter grounds his command in Leviticus. The teaching therefore looks there for concrete examples of holy conduct: honoring parents, helping the poor, honesty, justice, and love for neighbors. It also includes Sabbath observance and distinguishing clean from unclean foods, applying this calling to Jewish and Gentile believers alike.

Believers should live in reverent fear because their Father judges impartially. They were ransomed from their former way of life through Messiah's precious blood. Yeshua's sinless sacrifice and God's plan of redemption give them reason for gratitude, obedience, and sincere love for one another.

God's enduring Word gives believers new birth and shapes a life different from the surrounding culture. The teaching emphasizes forgiveness instead of dwelling on offenses, gratitude instead of constant complaint, and service instead of self-centeredness. Holy conduct glorifies God and may draw others to him, even when it also brings opposition.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Future hope in Messiah provides the basis for Peter's instructions.
- Preparing the mind means becoming ready for faithful action.
- Sober-minded believers exercise self-control over emotions and desires.
- Boundaries can help believers resist temptation in areas of weakness.
- Holiness includes both separation and active dedication to God.
- God saves his people and then calls them to faithful service.
- Leviticus supplies Peter's biblical definition of holy conduct.
- The teaching includes Sabbath and dietary commandments in that conduct.
- Messiah's precious blood ransomed believers from their former lives.
- Forgiveness, gratitude, service, and brotherly love bring glory to God.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Peter tells believers to prepare their _____ for action.
2. Believers are to be holy in all their _____.
3. Peter quotes the command to be holy from the book of _____.
4. Believers were ransomed with Messiah's precious _____.
5. Yeshua is compared to a lamb without blemish or _____.
6. Peter tells believers to love one another from a pure _____.

Challenging

1. The teaching explains sober-mindedness as mental _____.
2. Holiness means being separate from the secular and dedicated to the _____.
3. God saved Israel from Egypt before giving them the _____.
4. The Father judges each person's deeds _____.
5. Peter describes the seed of believers' new birth as _____ rather than perishable.
6. In contrast to constant complaining, believers' lives should be characterized by _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Peter connect future hope with present obedience?
2. What does the teaching mean by leading our emotions, and how can boundaries help?
3. Why does holiness require dedication to God as well as separation from evil?
4. How does the teaching use Leviticus to explain Peter's command to be holy?
5. How do God's impartial judgment and Yeshua's sacrifice motivate faithful living?
6. How can forgiveness, gratitude, and service make believers' conduct a witness to God's goodness?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. minds
2. conduct
3. Leviticus
4. blood
5. spot
6. heart

Challenging

1. self-control
2. sacred
3. Torah
4. impartially
5. imperishable
6. gratitude