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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Life in Exile: Clothe Yourselves With Humility (1 Peter 5)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Peter addresses community elders as a fellow elder who shares their witness and future hope. He calls them to shepherd God's flock amid suffering. Leadership is a responsibility to care for people who belong to God, rather than a claim of personal ownership.

Elders should serve willingly and eagerly, without selfish gain or domination. Their conduct should provide an example for the community. They remain accountable to Yeshua, the chief Shepherd, whose appearing brings the promised unfading crown of glory.

Younger believers should respect their elders, and everyone should practice humility toward one another. The teaching highlights the value of older believers' wisdom and experience. Humility includes accepting God's authority and entrusting anxieties to him because he cares.

Peter urges mental self-control and watchfulness because the adversary seeks to devour believers like a lion. Resisting him means remaining firm in faith, prayer, and obedience rather than returning to former sin. Believers can take courage from others enduring similar trials.

Suffering lasts only a little while compared with the eternal glory God promises. Peter closes by urging his readers to stand firm in grace, greeting them through fellow believers, and wishing them peace in Messiah even amid persecution.

The concluding review gathers the letter's themes: belonging to God's family, living honorably in exile, pursuing holiness, and bearing faithful witness. Humble service and perseverance flow from the hope of Messiah's kingdom and the assurance that present suffering will end.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Peter approaches elders as a partner in service and hope.
- The flock belongs to God rather than its human leaders.
- Elders should lead willingly, eagerly, and by example.
- Domination and selfish gain contradict faithful leadership.
- Yeshua is the chief Shepherd to whom elders answer.
- Younger believers should honor their elders' wisdom.
- Everyone is instructed to put on humility.
- Believers can entrust their anxieties to God because he cares.
- Resistance to the adversary requires steadfast faith and watchfulness.
- Temporary suffering is set beside eternal glory and peace in Messiah.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Peter tells elders to shepherd the _____ of God.
2. Leaders should be examples rather than _____ over those in their care.
3. All believers are to clothe themselves with _____.
4. God opposes the proud but gives _____ to the humble.
5. Believers can cast their _____ on God because he cares.
6. The adversary is compared to a roaring _____.

Challenging

1. The Greek word translated elder is _____.
2. Faithful shepherds will receive an unfading _____ of glory.
3. Peter instructs believers to resist the adversary, firm in their _____.
4. The faithful brother commended in the closing greeting is _____.
5. The teaching explains Babylon as a symbolic reference to _____.
6. Peter calls the younger disciple or colleague _____ his son.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Peter establish partnership with the elders he addresses?
2. What distinguishes shepherding by example from controlling people for personal benefit?
3. How can younger and older believers practice mutual humility while honoring elders?
4. How does entrusting anxiety to God fit the chapter's call to humility?
5. What practical forms of resistance to the adversary does the teaching identify?
6. How do shared suffering and hope in eternal glory strengthen the believing community?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. flock
2. domineering
3. humility
4. grace
5. anxieties
6. lion

Challenging

1. presbuteros
2. crown
3. faith
4. Silvanus
5. Rome
6. Mark