

PERSEVERE WITH PETER

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting **THEME: Anxiety deeply dealt with**

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read I Peter 3:8 – 4:6

20.00 – 20.10 Start your meeting with these 'Ice-breaker' – questions:

- Can 2 or 3 of you share something you have recently felt anxious about?
- Was what you believe helpful herein, or not (you may be honest!). If yes: how did it help you?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Before you pray, read I Peter 3:8-12 and let these verses inspire your prayer.

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read I Peter 3:13-4:6

Look again at 3:13-17

When Peter's readers heard how he encouraged them to show their new identity, they will have had the question: but if we start living that way, it will lead us into trouble, won't it? Now see how in these verses Peter answers their question.

- What – in your own words – is Peter's answer?

Look again at 3:18-22

These verses have led to a lot of speculations: did Christ, after his death and before his resurrection go to unconverted spirits? Could those who did not obey God in Noah's time, still be saved? You can fill a whole LG-evening with discussing such questions. However, probably these verses were not meant for such speculation, but to prove and to ground the answer that Peter just has given (in vs.13-17) on the question of the readers.

- How – in your own words – does Peter prove in these verses that the answer he just gave, is right?

Look again at 4:1-6

Peter's aim in answering the question: 'won't we get in trouble when we start to live the new life?' is to motivate and inspire them to overcome their hurdles of fear and anxiety, when they want to break with the old life and want to start to live the new way.

- 'Arm yourselves with the same way of thinking': what way of thinking should we learn to practice and to help each other with when we come together?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Not only did Peter's original readers face hurdles when they wanted to put into practice their new lives in Christ. We face hurdles also. At first sight, we may not see such hurdles. We are free to follow Christ, aren't we? But don't overlook that we may face similar problems. We need the help of the Holy Spirit to identify our hurdles and to overcome them. Take some minutes of silence. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where anxiety plays a role in your life. And ask the Holy Spirit for courage to share about it. Take some moments of sharing and mutual encouragement. And pray for each other concerning what has been mentioned.

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.