

PERSEVERE WITH PETER

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting **THEME:** How you can face the future

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read I Peter 4 : 1 - 11

20.00 – 20.10 Start your meeting with this ice-breaker question: The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus will return. Look at the situation of your mother country and how the church is doing there. Are they ready for His return? What goes well and what needs attention?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and build you up when you listen to God's Word

20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage: Read I Peter 4 : 7 - 11

Look again at 4:7

- What does Peter want us to be aware of?

Compare this verse with 1:13 and with 5:8.

- What is the correspondence in these verses? What is Peter's aim in writing this?

Look again at 4:8-11a (until ... 'that God supplies')

These verses could be summarised with: 'love the brotherhood'. A theme that we saw more often throughout this letter. In their daily lives Christians should live honourable lives among the unbelievers. They should 'honour everyone'. But at the same time, they should be aware that they have become family of God, because they were born of God. Therefore, they should continue to come together and show deep love towards one another. Jesus covered our sins. He continued with us. Then we should continue with each other and not withdraw, not close our homes and hearts, not live for ourselves, but serve each other in word and deed – with the Word of God and in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

- If this had been self-evident and needless to say, Peter wouldn't have written it. Wherein do you need to hear these words?
- 'As each has received a gift'. Do you know what kind of gift you have received? How are you using it?

Look again at 4:11b ('in order that in everything...')

We learnt that Peter thinks ahead of the future when Jesus will appear. He encourages the readers to prepare for that moment. A loving, praying, worshipping, intercultural, outreaching, growing fellowship is what the Lord Jesus came for to beget and grow.

- Read 2:9. What is the correspondence with 4:11b?

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Look back at the ice-breaker question. Take some moments of silence. Pray, meditating upon 4:7-11. What has the Lord shown you today, what does He say to you, to us? You can share, or immediately pray and bring what you heard and found in prayer.

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