



Discussion Guide: Faithful Exiles in Marriage & Relationships

Passage: 1 Peter 3:1-12

Summary: What does it look like to faithfully follow the way of Jesus in our relationships or in marriage...especially when you're an exile in your marriage? In a culture where marriage and relationships were all about taking for yourself and using others, Peter paints a radical vision for relationships marked by selfless love, sacrifice, compassion, and humility...a vision for relationships that selflessly give, bless, and honor others.

Note: This passage can reveal a lot of real and significant hurt that some have experienced...through both harmful marriages and even through some who have misused Scripture to justify their harm. Start by acknowledging this reality and praying for God to bring healing and help.

Please also note, this passage (or any other) does not instruct women to follow the leadership of abusive or neglectful husbands. This is NOT asking women to stay in abusive marriages. Women ultimately follow and belong to Jesus, not to their husbands.

This week's discussion may also be one that you find works better in split groups (men and women discussing separately) so that people feel more comfortable to share openly.

Discussion Questions:

1. The 1st century "household codes" were built on the broken assumption that men and women were NOT equal and therefore women should submit to men. Peter says the opposite...that men and women are co-heirs. How does Peter both subvert and affirm the household code?
2. How does the context (Peter is writing to wives and husbands whose spouses are not believers) help us understand Peter's main point? What is

it? (*Hint: It's all about how their faithful and fruitful lives as believing spouses would be used to reach their unbelieving spouse.*)

3. Peter gives wives the agency to choose to follow their husband's leadership as an act of submitting to Christ's leadership...even when the husband is a non-believer or a poor leader. What does that look like practically?
4. Peter instructs husbands not to use their power to make demands of their spouses, but instead to honor them as co-heirs and equal partners who they seek to serve. What does that kind of leadership look like practically?