



Discussion Guide: Faithful Exiles at the End

Passage: 1 Peter 4:7-19

Summary: According to Peter (and REM), It's the "end of the world" as we know it. What does Peter have to say about "the end of all things" and how do we live as faithful exiles at the end? What should we expect to happen in the "end times" according to Peter and how do we live in the midst of this reality?

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Peter mean by saying "the end of all things is near"? (Remember, he's not making a prediction...he's stating that we're in the last phase of God's redemptive plan...the time between Christ's resurrection and his return to rule as king.) What are common responses to "the end" in our world? How does Peter call the church to live at "the end of all things"?
2. Being "sober-minded for the sake of prayer" is about not managing the pain of this world through intoxicating action, but facing it with courageous prayer because of our living hope (see 1 Peter 1:13). How do we often cope with the pain of this world through intoxicating action?
3. Peter invites us to an "earnest love" for one another because it will heal the fractures that sin causes within our community. This kind of love is hard, but possible because it is the kind of love we have received from Jesus. This will lead us to be hospitable to each other...not just to our best friends, but we will open our lives to those who are hard for us to love. Reflect on your relationships. Are they marked by this kind of "earnest love"?
4. Last, Peter invites us to serve one another with the gift God has given us, through the power He supplies. Are you serving God's people with your gift or are you holding back? What are some of the barriers to you serving? (You don't know what your gift is? You're too busy? Something else?) What would be a next step for you?