



Discussion Guide: Faithful Exiles in Community

Passage: 1 Peter 1:22—2:8

Summary: What does it look like to live faithful, set-apart lives in community? Peter reminds us that we are not set apart into isolated lives, but into a community that is being built up to be the dwelling place of God. Our communal life and sacrificial love for one another will display the marvelous light of God's mercy in the midst of a dark world.

Discussion Questions:

1. Peter calls the church to an earnest, un-hypocritical (authentic) love for one another. What does earnest (literally “stretching”) love mean? What does pure, un-hypocritical love mean? Can you share examples from your own life of receiving this kind of love?
2. What are the barriers for you loving others in the community with this kind of love? We all struggle with this, so be honest.
3. In the first century, breastfeeding was thought to morally form a child. The child attached to his mother would be formed to become like her. Peter has this in mind when he tells them to “long for the pure spiritual milk.” How does “longing for the pure spiritual milk” (attachment to Jesus) help us love with this kind of love? How do you “attach to Jesus” in everyday, real life?
4. How does the promise that the rejected stone (Jesus) will become the cornerstone give hope to exiles who are being marginalized by the empire? How might it give hope to the church today?
5. Take some time to pray for your community to become a community marked by earnest, authentic love for one another.