

I. Introduction

A. Temporary work visa

1. What do these people have in common?
  - a. David Beckham, Justin Bieber, Hugh Jackman, Piers Morgan, Melania Trump, and Megan Belden?
  - b. All, at some point, needed to have a Temporary Work VISA (TWV) to gain employment in the US.
2. What is this?
  - a. A citizen of a foreign country who wants to retain their citizenship but wants to get a job here needs this.
  - b. They allow for a fixed amount of time and are not considered permanent or indefinite.
3. Me and preaching in Canada

B. Exiles and TWV

1. As a Jesus follower you have citizenship in His Kingdom.
2. But you are here in exile and have a responsibility to work until you are called to return home
3. So, we are called to work within this world's system to make it a better place while we are here.

\*Peter closes his letter to the us by setting our focus until our temporary work visas expire.

II. 1 Peter 5 - in exile

A. Care for one another (vs 1-5)

1. God has given us a structure and a character so that we can become like Jesus in exile.
2. Those who lead here
  - a. When difficulty hits, we look to those who lead and we respect.

\*If you lead anyone, remember that when suffering arrives, God calls you to think of those who are watching for your example

- b. Shepherd the flock.
  - 1) Protect, grow, encourage, correct
  - 2) Oversight – among (pastoring) and over (preaching)
- c. Don't; Do (vs 2-3)
  - 1) Laziness: sluggish/unconcerned; intentional/urgent
  - 2) Greed: not gain driven but joy driven
  - 3) Pride: power/prestige; you don't lead people by telling them what to do, you lead people by inviting them to join you as you serve.

\*Just because you have a position of leadership doesn't mean you get a reward; it is only if you resemble Jesus in your leadership.

3. Humility

- a. Younger - those who are less mature in Christ (age does not equal maturity)
- b. Every follower of Jesus without exception
  - 1) Clothed with humility
  - 2) Do you want God's opposition or grace? You choose by what you wear
- B. Remember the enemy (vs 6-9)
  - 1. How God makes much of us (vs 6-7)
  - 2. How the enemy (and this world in reflection) makes much of us (v 8)
    - a. Temptation yelling at your door to re-create you in his image
    - b. Roaring vs sneaking = Power of this temptation to seek power and self-exultation
  - 3. Common encouragement (v 9)
- C. Focus on God's work (vs 10-11)
  - 1. Suffering is temporary
  - 2. Those called will be ...
    - a. Restored: all you've lost and more
    - b. Confirmed: confident in your position
    - c. Strengthened: in our weakness and weakened state
    - d. Established: set up by God

\*God is over-all and in-all forever!

### III. Closing

- A. Final greetings and reminder
  - 1. Peter's community
  - 2. Babylon
- B. Back to the temporary work visa
  - 1. You and I are here for a period of time and we've got work to do.
  - 2. Encouragement
    - a. You don't have to defeat the world around you; they are not your enemy.
    - b. You do have to humbly make things better for them and humbly resist when asked to compromise the values of your citizenship.

\*We do this until our visa expires!

- C. My perspective and prayer
  - 1. Love all by serving and sharing why I have hope.
  - 2. That you will be able to see with eyes of an exile and that where you live will be better because you temporarily worked there.

# EXILE

A STUDY IN 1 PETER

## WHEN IN BABYLON

1 PETER 5

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019 | PASTOR MATT WHITEFORD



### GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER (USE JUST ONE OR ALL OF THESE QUESTIONS TO CONNECT AS YOU START YOUR CONVERSATION)

- 1 What are some ways you have suffered by not being alert to your surroundings? How many of these situations were caused by your focusing on something or someone else?**

Accidents happen. Sometimes we back our car into another car in the parking lot because we are not as alert as we should be. At times we take a wrong step on the stairs because we are not paying attention to our surroundings. Living life every day requires that we be alert to what is going on around us and the challenges we face along the way. This is best attempted in the context of community. In community, we can help lead each other to see where we are going with binoculars, but warn and encourage each other in moments of temptation, suffering, and weakness. Satan desires that we get distracted, and in community, we can help each other see those distractions and move beyond them so that we can live lives that bring glory to God and magnify His grace in our lives. Peter concluded his letter to a group of believers distracted by persecution by reminding them of these realities.

### QUICK REVIEW (OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE TO SHARE WHAT MOST STOOD OUT FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE)

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, encouraged, challenged, or confused you?

### DIG DEEPER (OBSERVATIONS FROM THE SCRIPTURE OR COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURES FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE)

- 1 Someone read 1 Peter 5:1-5.**

*<sup>1</sup> So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: <sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

**What guidelines and principles did Peter give for those who are leading others? What cautions does he give?**

Pastor Matt reminded us on Sunday that if anyone is watching your example, you are leading them. Also, if you are in a leadership role in the church, position alone doesn't mean you get a reward; it is only if you resemble Jesus in your leadership. Jesus desires and commands that we lead others with humility.

**Why is it important for spiritual leaders to carefully examine their motives?**

**2** Someone read **1 Peter 5:6-11**.

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist Him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, Who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To Him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**Why is humility vital when standing firm against the enemy's attacks?**

**Discuss with the group ways of recognizing Satan's attacks. How do you respond when threatened by the enemy as you see signs of his prowling?**

Peter reminded his readers that Satan was seeking to destroy them, requiring believers to be on the alert and diligent in their faith. They were to resist him and remain firm in their faith. They were to keep in mind that other believers in other places were also suffering. Peter assured believers that although they would suffer for a short time, the gracious God Who had called them to salvation and eternal life in Christ would empower them (5:8-11).

**3** Someone read **1 Peter 5:12-14**.

<sup>12</sup>By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. <sup>13</sup>She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. <sup>14</sup>Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

**Take a look at verses 13-14. What do these verses teach us about the early church?**

**LIVE IT OUT** (DISCUSS HOW YOU CAN LIVE OUT THE TRUTHS YOU JUST OBSERVED IN SCRIPTURE)

**1** **Where or with whom are you a leader?** (when others watch your example, as you reflect Jesus)

**2** **In what ways are you leading others closer to Jesus by your words or actions? What might you need to give up or stop doing that could be causing you to lead others away from Jesus?**

**3** It's not our job to defeat the world around us when we suffer because of Jesus. Pastor Matt shared that we do need to 1) humbly lead others by serving them and 2) humbly resist when asked to compromise the values of our citizenship with Jesus. **How have you been able to live out these two values with humility? How or when has it been a challenge for you to live out these values?**

## CLOSING PRAYER

God, help us to lead others with humility. God, we need Your help to resist compromising our values that we see lived out in Your Son, Jesus. Help us remember where our citizenship is and help us stay focused on where You are taking us. Thank You for your grace and the community You have given us at CrossPoint and in this group so that we are not alone in this journey!

## NEW SERIES STARTS NEXT WEEK!

### “LET’S TALK”

Prepare for next week’s message and group discussion by praying for Pastor Matt as he prepares to start walking our church family through how to speak and connect with each other in Christ-like ways, especially in the areas where we disagree with others. Pray for your home group to have conversations around the various topics we will cover that honor and reflect Christ to one another.

## PRAISE/PRAYER REQUESTS (TRY TO HAVE ONE OR A FEW PEOPLE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME)

Use this space or the back of this paper to write the requests and find a way to share those with the group so you can be praying for each other during the week.

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### How to Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create a healthy environment for Gospel community, growing in friendship, and living like Jesus together. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, please review the guide before your group meets to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don’t feel pressure to read all the content during your group discussion or to hit on all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help your group grow in Gospel community.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead. We are praying for you too!

Visit [cpmodesto.org/groupleaders](http://cpmodesto.org/groupleaders) to download the sermon discussion guide every week. Not in a Home Group, but want to be in one? Visit [cpmodesto.org/homegroups](http://cpmodesto.org/homegroups) and use the Home Group Finder!

## 1 PETER 5

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**5:1-11.** In this closing exhortation, Peter encouraged his readers who were suffering to be responsible. The word therefore in verse 1 shows that what follows in this section grows out of the preceding verses.

**5:1-4.** Peter encouraged elders to be exemplary, responsible servants. The term “elders” refers to the office of pastoral leaders in the church. The word appears to be used interchangeably here with “shepherds/pastors” and elsewhere with “overseers” (Titus 1:5,7). Peter’s appeal was based on the fact that he was a fellow elder and witness to Christ’s sufferings. This helped him identify fully with the “elders” he was addressing and gave added support for his plea. He commanded them to be shepherds of God’s flock. In other words, they were to nurture, lead, and protect God’s people without lording it over them. Elders who have served faithfully, despite suffering while on earth, will receive glory in heaven from Christ, the chief Shepherd.

**5:5a.** Here the term elders may refer to age, not office.

**5:5b-7.** Peter encouraged all believers to practice humility and trust God with their cares. Humility commends us to God and fellow humans, which is the opposite effect of arrogance and conceit.

**5:8-9.** Peter warned believers to be aware of Satan’s deceitful practices and to resist him firmly. Such behavior is fitting for temporary residents of this world. Peter strengthened his readers with the knowledge that other Christians were also suffering.

**5:10-11.** God will strengthen and honor in heaven those who endure suffering for their faith while on earth.

**5:12-14** Silvanus (Silas, v. 12) may have helped Peter write this letter as his secretary (amanuensis), but more likely he was the letter carrier. Peter conveyed greetings to his readers from the church in Rome, i.e., from the church in Babylon, and also from Mark, my son—Peter’s son in the faith, not his biological son. The kiss of love was a customary form of greeting in the first-century church. Peace is the sense of well-being and blessedness that believers have because of their relationship with Christ. This benediction is an appropriate ending to the letter because when Christians are being persecuted on Earth, Heaven’s peace cannot be taken from them.