

### Warm Up

Go around the room and have everyone come up with at least two words that describe safety to them. Have someone write the answers so when the group is done you can refer to them during the discussion. Any surprises? Themes?

### Time in the Words

Read 2 Timothy 3:12 and 1 Peter 3:8-9.

What warning is there for believers?

What instructions are you given regarding how you should **act**?

What instructions are you given regarding how you should **react**?

What reward is there for believers?

### Discussion

How important is safety to you ?

What are different kinds of safety?

Where do you expect to be safe? Why?

Who makes you feel safe? Why?

How do you react to feeling unsafe?

When does the world feel particularly unsafe/hostile to you? Why?

### Food for thought

Refer to the list of safety words from the first question.

This week, look for opportunities to make others feel safer during weekend gatherings, at small group, at a church sponsored activity or in your home.



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**Our Purpose**  
why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

**Our Mission**  
what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

**Our Core Values**  
how we do it

**Worship** - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ  
**Connect** - living in community, loving and supporting one another  
**Grow** - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word  
**Serve** - helping people discover and use their God-given talents  
**Reach** - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

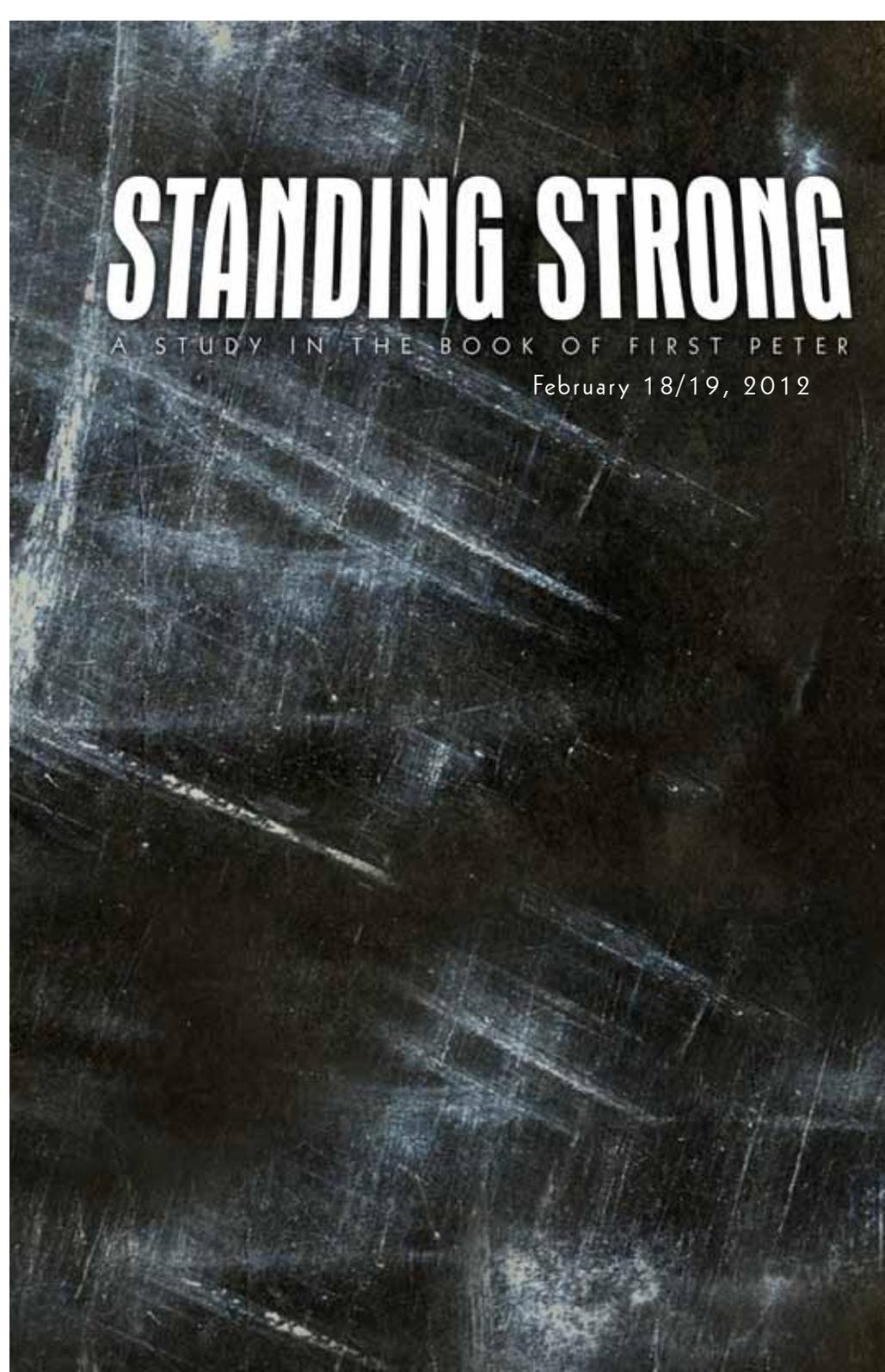
### Contact Information

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## STAND STRONG in the *Safe Place*

1 Peter 3:8-12

Pastor Rick Countryman

*I am sending you out like sheep among wolves... All men will hate you because of me...*  
Matthew 10:16 & 22 (NIV)

*If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as it loves its own. But I have chosen you out of the world, so you don't belong to it. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: A servant is not greater than his master. If people did wrong to me, they will do wrong to you, too.*  
John 15:18-20 (NCV)

*Everyone who wants to live as God desires, in Christ Jesus, will be persecuted.*  
2 Timothy 3:12 (NCV)

*Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm, but the Lord will judge him for what he has done. Be careful of him, for he fought against everything we said.*  
2 Timothy 4:14-15 (NLT)

Being a Christian in this world is \_\_\_\_\_.

It will \_\_\_\_\_ you something to follow Jesus.

*Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering...*  
1 Peter 4:12-13 (NLT)

*Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.*  
1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)

The church was designed to be the *safe place* for Christians in the midst of a hostile world.

*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*  
1 Peter 3:8-9 (NIV)

## 6 qualities that make the church a safe place

1. People live in \_\_\_\_\_ with one another.

*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another...* Verse 8

*How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head... Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion...*  
Psalm 133:1-3 (NLT)

*Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.*  
Ephesians 4:1-2 (NLT)

2. People are \_\_\_\_\_ toward one another.

*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic* Verse 8

*Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all!*  
Romans 12:15-16 (NLT)

*Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.*  
Galatians 6:2-3 (NLT)

3. People are \_\_\_\_\_ toward one another.

*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers...* Verse 8

*So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.*  
John 13:34-35 (NLT)

*Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*  
Romans 12:10 (NLT)

*For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus there's no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What's important is faith expressing itself in love.*  
Galatians 5:6 (NLT)

*If you are a follower of Christ Jesus... all that matters is your faith that makes you love others.*  
Galatians 5:6 (CEV)

*This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.*  
1 John 3:11 (NLT)

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.*  
Colossians 3:14 (NLT)

4. People are \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.

*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate...* Verse 8

*You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.*  
Colossians 3:12 (GN)

5. People \_\_\_\_\_ themselves before one another.

*Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.* Verse 8

*Pride only leads to arguments...* Proverbs 13:10 (NCV)

*If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.*  
Luke 9:23 (NLT)

*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.* Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

6. People are a \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.

*Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing...* Verse 9

*Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. Instead, if your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads. Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.*  
Romans 12:17-21 (NLT)



### Memory Verse

*Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord*  
Hebrews 12:14

### Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verse did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verse. What do you sense God saying to you?

How does the view that **you** are the church change the way you interact with others? See 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Colossians 1:24 and 1 Peter 2:9.

### Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 3:1-22.

From a dictionary, briefly define each of the five characteristics in verse 8.

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How does each apply to your life?

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Why should you put these characteristics into practice?

Cite a time when you gave a blessing, instead of returning evil with evil or insult with insult.

### Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 3:1-22. What does it mean to love life and see good days?

What do others see in you that shows you love life and see good days?

Read Psalm 39:1 and Proverbs 13:3; 21:23. How can you avoid using an evil or deceitful tongue?

### Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 3:1-22.

What helps you turn from evil and do good?

What does it mean to *seek peace and pursue it*?

How can you seek and pursue peace in a current difficult relationship?

### Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read 1 Peter 3:12. Rewrite it in your own words.

What do you learn about God from this verse?

How does verse 12 encourage you?

Read and meditate on Psalm 34. What do you sense God saying to you?

### Personal Reflection & Application

What is your typical response when conflicts arise?

What can you do to cultivate Christian love?

### Reaching Out

Identify someone in a difficult situation and offer to be his/her safe place.