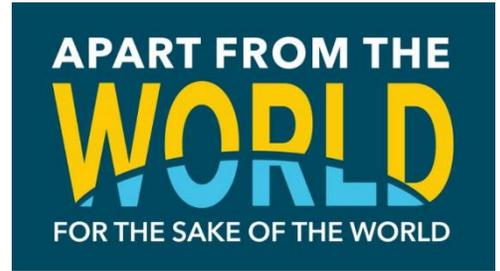


# LIFEgroups



## Leader

### Open

Go around and let everyone answer...

Have you ever been part of a group (team, class, work environment, etc.) that could be described as united?

If you have, what had to happen to make it so?

If you have not, what do you believe kept this from happening?

### DIG

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12

In your own words, what is Peter asking the church to do in this section?

In verses 9,10 and 12 Peter offers motivations for living this way.

What reasons does he give? Which is particularly motivating to you?

Read 1 Peter 3:13-22

What type of suffering do you fear most?

How does "revering Christ as Lord" keep us from fearing the threats of the world? (Hint: look up a definition for "revering")

Not everyone will say, "What's your reason for the hope you have?"

In what other ways are people "asking" for you to give your answer.

According to Peter, how does baptism now save us? (verses 21-22)

### APPLY

How do you plan to repay evil with blessing this week?

Who do you know who is asking (verbally or nonverbally) for you to share your reason for hope?

Are you prepared to give your reason?

Work as a group to make sure everyone has an answer to share.

Is there anyone in this group who believes in Christ Jesus but has not been baptized and would like to do so today with your LIFEgroup?

Today is the day of salvation!

### Big Idea

In today's passage Peter trains us to be both a loving community and a missional community.

Both reflect the heart of God!

### Atmosphere

While Christ loves every person enough to accept him or her wherever they are, he loves them too much to leave them where they are. For that reason we are challenged to create an atmosphere of acceptance in our groups, balanced with a challenge to grow more like Christ.

### Stick with It

Most groups experience cycles where participation and excitement will be higher or lower. Sometimes these rhythms are related to the time of year or challenges facing individuals in the group. Be patient with the cycles and do not give up when momentum shifts in the group. Maintain a consistent schedule and make sure every person knows when and where the group is meeting. A weekly reminder by text, email, social media, or phone is a great way to make sure people feel connected.