

THE LETTERS OF

# 1 & 2 PETER

Rising Above Difficulty and Deception

## PART 2: SUBMISSION

Peter wanted Jesus followers to be ready for Jesus's return. That meant living their lives in a way that represented Jesus, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

### WIN

To remember that there is a bigger picture that goes beyond our individual circumstances. Having a posture of submission shows we trust that God has a bigger purpose.

### CONNECT

Talk about a meaningful time when someone took a posture of submission toward you. In other words, they chose to yield to you. How did their act of submission make you feel? Who do you know who regularly takes a submissive posture?

### LEARN

Ask if anyone was able to read through 1 Peter and if anyone was able to memorize the verses from last week.

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

*Heavenly Father, Help us to remember that you have a bigger purpose than any of our individual circumstances. Give us the strength to have a posture of submission to others. Amen.*

After praying, watch the video for Part 2.

### APPLY

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. How often do you view your life as part of God's bigger purpose? How can doing that more often help when it comes to dealing with your individual circumstances?
2. Peter commanded Jesus followers of the day to submit to the government, even though government officials worshipped other gods. How do we make sense of that?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:21–23, where Peter is telling Jesus followers to imitate Jesus by not retaliating when they are mistreated. How is that possible? Are we not supposed to do anything if treated unfairly?



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4. Read 1 Peter 3:15 aloud. Have you ever wondered about someone else's faith based solely on how they've responded to a situation? What happened? Has anyone ever asked about your faith as a result of how you've treated someone else? If someone asked you how your faith informs the way you respond to situations, what would you say?
5. Who could you practice submitting to or yielding to more? Who needs to see through your actions that you see them as important?
6. In 1 Peter 5:8, Peter writes that the real enemy is many times not what we're focused on, but rather the devil himself. When we remember who the real enemy is, how should that impact how we approach things like conflict and being treated unfairly.

## PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer. One idea is to have each group member think of a way they could take a step toward submission. Then pray silently for a minute or so. The leader can close in prayer.

## BEFORE NEXT TIME

Read through 2 Peter before your next session. In addition, try to memorize these passages from 1 Peter:

**Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.**

**1 Peter 3:15**

**Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.**

**1 Peter 4:8**

**Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.**

**1 Peter 5:8**

