



# Bible Study

Rather than expect one person to be an expert in reading the Bible, we believe the Holy Spirit guides each of us to understand the scriptures together. To that end, this Bible study is designed so that small groups of 3-5 people will prayerfully listen to and discuss the passage. The passage will be read a total of three times by a different person in the group. A focusing question has been provided to guide the conversation after each reading. When the reader has finished allow a few moments for silent reflection. The facilitator of the group will invite someone to share their thoughts related to the question and passage of scripture. That person will invite another in the group to share. Each person can "pass for now," meaning they are still reflecting on the question; or they may "pass," meaning they do not wish to share. In settings where there is more than one group, a time should be provided for each group to share a summary of their conversations with everyone.

## I Peter 2:11-17

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when he comes to judge.

For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.

Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

## Discussion Questions

After first reading: *What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?*

After second reading: *Why are good deeds so important for the Christian community?*

After third reading: *What are you invited to do, be, or change through this passage?*

