Name



A Life Transformed (1 Peter) Week 8

4G Series - 2021 - www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html Calvary Baptist Church cbcfamily.net / 512.303.1697 / office@cbcfamily.net

Introduction to the series:

A Life Transformed (1 Peter) – Weeks 5-8

We live in a culture where you are your own boss, and you do what you want. Peter's first letter shows us another way to live — A Life Transformed. In this next section of the series, Peter wants us to know that this transformed life has a different way of honoring authority and that we demonstrate God's authority over our lives by submitting to the earthly authorities. Peter encourages us to transform the way we honor authority in all of society as well as in our marriages. This transformation will allow us to live a life where we are blessed because we are a blessing. It is my prayer that you will allow your life to be transformed as Paul wrote to the church in Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God."

Bendiciones, David Spalding
Campus Pastor – Calvario

Introduction To The 4G Guide

GATHER - GOD - GROUP - GIVE

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.



Using The 4G Guide

Each week is divided into four sections:



Gathering Time

God calls us to worship together. On Sunday mornings we gather (in person or online) to worship, hear God's message, and be challenged to apply His word. This booklet includes weekly sermon guides.



Group Time

We learn from one another! Each week, either on Sundays or at various other times, 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet features weekly Group Time outlines simple enough for anyone to facilitate. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page. *



God Time

Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we have written five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once the devotional time is finished, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day.



Family Time

Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple, once-a-week devotionals just for families. In addition to the weekly outline, video or story guide links may be posted on our 4G web page* to help get the conversations flowing.

* 4G Groups, video links, resources, and 4G Guides are posted weekly on our 4G web page: www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html



The 3-Step Encouragement Process

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:23-25

- 1. Choose partners. Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, triplets are OK, but you need to work swiftly.
- 2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	"Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE each day this past week?" 2) "Did you spend specific time	These are "Yes" or "No" questions. Any hesitations or	
÷	in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?"	"Well" responses are circled "No."	
\bigcirc	3) "Did you do something specific to show Godly LOVE to someone this past week?"	 If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, 	
9 .	4) "Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?"	on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they	
Å	5) "Did you DISCIPLE anyone this past week?" (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	showed love to, shared the gospel with, or discipled. If not, leave the line blank.	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other. No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!

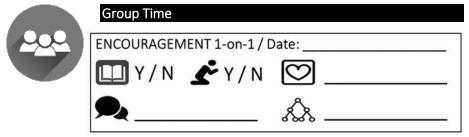
Gathering Notes



Date: _____

A Life Transformed Are You _____? • For The _____ 1 Peter 3:14 • For The _____ 1 Peter 3:15 • For The _____ 1 Peter 3:16-17 For The • Keep Your _____ On ____ • Know The _____ • Stay _____ To ____

WEEK 8: BE PREARED



LOOK BACK:

Point: To be blessed, be a blessing!

• Review last week's lesson. Decide what you will do this month as a group. Come up with a plan and address it on the next page.

Question: Why do you pray before you eat? What do you pray for?

LOOK UP: Watch this week's Group Guide video on our 4G web page.

Recap: Pursuing a godly life means not just learning about one's faith but acting on it by loving others and telling them the Good News about Jesus. While this can bring others to faith, it can also lead to conflict and suffering. The question is, "are you prepared?"

In 1 Peter 3:14-17, Peter addresses three things to be prepared for. The first is blessing. While the blessing may not come from others, it will come from God. The second is a question. Others are going to want to know why you believe what you believe and do what you do. The question may even be, "what gives you the right?" Finally, we must be prepared for battle. The battle we are called to is expanding God's Kingdom.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- Why is it necessary to "prepare" for blessing? What does that look like?
- How would you answer this: "I thought a life of following Jesus was one of peace, love, and acceptance? Why are you pushing your beliefs on others?"
- How would you answer this when trying to witness to someone and they ask you: "What makes your life so special?"

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: There will be a battle. We can win if we are prepared!

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Are You Prepared?

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God Time Day 1 – Are You Prepared?



The letter we know as 1 Peter was written to people who were facing severe persecution due to their faith in Jesus. It should not surprise us when life is hard. Our responsibility as followers of Christ is to be prepared for both the blessings and the struggles that come our way.



Read 1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

At the end of verse 7, underline the "result" of genuine faith.

We need regular reminders that God is on our side. In the Garden of Eden, the serpent made Eve wonder if eating the forbidden fruit would get her something good that God was keeping from her.

When we are dealing with difficulties, the devil often tempts us with the idea that if God really loved us we wouldn't have to struggle so much. We can avoid the devil's trap and stay on God's path if we are prepared in three areas:

Prepared for a blessing: Expect that God is working for our good in all circumstances. Remember last week's lesson: when we are a blessing to others, we too will be blessed.

Prepared for the question: When people see our faith, they will ask why we expect good to come out of bad situations.

Prepared for the battle: When the enemy tries to confuse us and distract us from our calling, we keep our focus by remembering God's goodness and faithfulness.

Being prepared takes work and is a choice we must make.



God promises us that the eternal result will certainly be worth the effort.

God Time Day 2 – Prepared for a Blessing



Read 1 Peter 3:14

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled.

<u>Underline</u> "even if you should suffer" and "you will be blessed."



Circle the reason for this suffering.

Suffering for doing God's will is different than the kinds of suffering that come from making foolish choices or the brokenness of our world. Only when we live by faith does suffering lead to blessing.

Let's use the example of exercising for better health. It is understood that some level of discomfort while exercising will result in better health and wellness (no pain, no gain). Yet how many of us choose not to receive the resulting benefits because of the initial discomfort?



Pray that God will help you get out of your comfort zone and be willing to "suffer for righteousness' sake" based on the knowledge that He will provide a blessing as a result.

God Time Day 3 – Prepared for The Question



Read 1 Peter 3:15 NIV

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. 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.



Circle **what** people will ask when they see your faith at work.

<u>Underline</u> **how** we are to answer them.

Notice how this verse begins – keeping Jesus as our top priority. This is the basis for the rest of the verse. Unless we are obviously following Christ's ways, no one is going to ask us to explain why.



Live a life fully devoted to Jesus and be prepared for people to ask you, "why?" $\label{eq:condition}$

God Time Day 4 – Prepared for The Battle



Read 1 Peter 3:15b-17 NIV

^{15b}But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

It is not enough just to avoid talking bad about someone else when they have not done anything wrong. We may feel that we have a right to attack and mock those who disagree with what we believe is right, but that is not God's way.

In verse 15, how are we to respond to people who question why we believe what we believe and do what we do?

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Circle "keeping a clear conscience."

The main point of this passage is that keeping a clear conscience depends on both what we choose to do and how we treat other people. When others talk bad about us, we do not win by fighting back. Peter makes this even more clear in an earlier passage.



Read 1 Peter 2:21-23 NIV

²¹To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

If we are prepared for the battle, we should not go out of our way to avoid those who will insult, slander, and otherwise speak evil of us. In fact, those people are the very ones who are the most in need of God's grace. If we are willing to suffer those encounters, without attacking or resenting, God promises a blessing that makes it all worthwhile.



This week, how can you engage with someone who may be triggered (react negatively to) by your faith?

God Time Day 5 – Staying Close to Jesus



All this week we have been challenged to maintain a state of readiness so that we can be prepared for both suffering and blessing. Living this way may seem a little crazy and is impossible without trusting in God's power at work in us.



Re-read 1 Peter 2:21 NIV

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Jesus has already been down this road ahead of us. He knows what it is like to suffer and continues to call us to follow Him. We must keep our long-term focus: an expectation of the blessing God has for those who trust Him. There are many passages in the Bible that encourage us when we experience suffering:

•	John	16:33
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• Romans 8:17-18, 28-31

 2 Corinthians 4:16- 	. I X

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Do you have another passage which helps you hold on to hope when things are hard? Write out your favorite passage of hope here:

If you are having difficulty maintaining hope, it may be worth examining how you are spending your time. Remember the point from Day 3 this week? Putting Jesus first is essential. Are you spending more time with Him (in prayer, Scripture, worship, discipleship, service) than you are in other activities (news, television, movies, social media)?



Write a prayer expressing your desire to spend more of your time with lesus.



Family Time

Main Idea:

Are You Prepared?



Key Verse: 1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Set it Up:

If you were to make bubbles, what would you need? Would it be best to follow a recipe to make your bubbles or just do it on your own? Let's take a look at this short video about bubble making.



Watch: Week 8 Video

This week's video is on the playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link under the Family Guide section.



Discuss:

What would happen if we decided not to put the sugar in the solution? What would happen if we wanted to make bubbles but did not have any dish soap? We would not be prepared. According to the verse above, what do we need to be prepared for? We need to make sure we are ready to answer questions people might ask us about our faith. We need to be ready to tell people how Jesus has changed our life.

What kind of attitude should we have when we talk to others about Jesus? We should do it with gentleness and respect, like the verse tells us.



Family Activity:

If you have all the supplies to make the bubbles from the video, then take some time to make the bubbles. After you have made the bubbles, go outside and have some fun blowing bubbles and laughing together as a family.