Name _____



A Life Transformed (1 Peter) Weeks 5-8

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:

	1) "Did you spend specific personal time in the BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?"	These are "Yes" or "No" questions.		
£	2) "Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?"	Any hesitations or "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, 		
P ₄	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		
众。	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!

WEEK 5: RESPONDING TO AUTHORITY

Gathering Time (Sermon Notes) Date:	Gathering Notes
A Life Transformed	
How I To Earthly	
How I Respond To God's 1 Peter 2:13-15	
We To A Authority	
For A Purpose	
Because We God	
Because Our Matters	
To Live God's Purpose 1 Peter 2:16-17	
Those In Authority	
• Do You Or ?	
Do You Help Their Burden Or To It?	
• Do You Reflect Or?	

WEEK 5: RESPONDING TO AUTHORITY

	Group Time			
202	ENCOURAGEN	1ENT 1-on-1 / [Date:	
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			众.	

LOOK BACK:

Point: Live so people can see Jesus in you. Proclaim so that they can know Him!

• Review last week's lesson. What did you start doing this last week so others could see more of Jesus in you? How were you blessed?

Question: In the 90's there was a saying, "Talk to the hand." What was the intent of that saying? How do people carry out that same intent today?

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

Recap: Many of us struggle with authority and few of us like anybody telling us what to do – unless it's what we already wanted to do. But how we respond to earthly authority reflects how we respond to God's authority.

Wait a minute. What about when that authority is maybe not inherently evil like Nero, but just plain wrong? Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:13-15 that if we do what is right, even when others are doing wrong, the world will see God in us. In other words, we submit to authority because we trust God and we know that how others see us react matters. When we submit to authority, we have the freedom to live God's purpose, and that includes honoring those in authority.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- Read 1 Peter 2:13-17.
- Share a real-life example of verse 15? How hard is it for us to really do this?
- Have each person in the group tell verse 16 in his/her own words. What are some practical examples of living this out?
- How could your group be a blessing to a local authority this next week? ("Local authority" is group defined.)

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: Because we trust God, our witness matters. Therefore, honor everyone with brotherly love and be a blessing to those in authority!

You Can Be A Blessing To Someone In Authority!

	ho is that type of authority in your life? Write their name:
 o	Do you build them up or tear them down?
0	Do you help carry their burden or add to it?
0	Do you reflect selfishness or godliness?
	mmit to praying for them twice a day this next week. Write a pracessing upon their lives and authority:

Pray for one another to be a blessing to those in authority.

God Time Day 1 – Responding to Authority



The Apostle Peter understood that people struggle with authority. (Maybe it's because Peter tended to follow his own will before Jesus transformed his heart.) In today's passage, Peter gives instructions on how we should respond to authority.



Read 1 Peter 2:13-15

¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution [authority], whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.



Circle the words "Be subject" and "to every human institution" in verse 13.

Peter reminds his readers to submit to the Roman emperor (Nero) and to Nero's governors. We learned a few weeks ago that Nero was an evil, evil ruler. The government even made false claims against Christians and severely persecuted them. How could Peter ask his readers to submit to such leaders?

Look above in verse 15. This verse is the key. When we submit to those in authority, it will "put to ______ the ignorance of foolish people."



This means that when Christians always do what's right, it silences any false claims against them! Others can see their godliness for themselves. Which sentence below reflects the thought of verse 15?

- A. The government is always right, so just submit to it.
- B. Submit to your leaders and they'll become good people.
- C. Always do the right thing and the world will see God in you.

(The correct answer is C.)



Are you on social media? Share this:

We submit to a lower authority for a higher purpose.

Then be ready to tell others why.

God Time Day 2 - Submitting Shows Trust

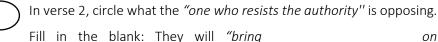
We can submit to authority because we trust in God.

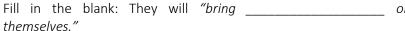


Read Romans 13:1-2 (CSB)

¹Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted [set in place] by God. ²So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.

Who sets in place all governing authorities? (Verse 1)







Pray for your government leaders today. Start with these words: "God, I trust that our leaders are part of your purpose..."

God Time Day 3 – Submitting is a Witness



The "old" Peter (before Christ transformed him) probably would have told-off a leader he did not agree with. But in the passages we read on Day 1, Peter told people to be subject to their leaders and do good.

When we submit to our leaders, it shows that God has transformed our hearts. It is a witness to others.



Read Romans 13:5

Therefore one must be in subjection [to governing authorities], not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

When we submit, we are obeying God. Obedience to God keeps our consciences clear! This prepares us to share Jesus.

On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how would someone else rate your witness based on how well you submit to authority?



How will you raise that number?

WEEK 5: RESPONDING TO AUTHORITY

God Time Day 4 – True Freedom

How would you say most Americans define the word freedom?



Read 1 Peter 2:16-17

¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.



In verse 16, circle the words "free" and "freedom," and put a box around the word "servant." Now read verse 16 again.

In verse 17, <u>underline</u> the actions (love, honor, and fear), and circle who we are to do the actions to. (Note: "Fear God" means to worship, respect, submit to, and obey Him.)



We're supposed to live as *free servants*. But.... how can we be *free* and be *servants* at the same time?

Could you give a Bible-based answer if someone asked you, "If we are free, shouldn't we get to choose who to honor, love, and fear?"

Here's the thing. While God gives us the freedom to make good or bad choices, Christians are called "servants" because we have chosen to serve Him. Because God is God, He can tell us what to do— and we recognize that He knows best! If we do whatever we want and make bad choices, we end up with big problems. (Addiction, broken relationships, etc.)



Meditate on (think about) Galatians 5:13-14

¹³For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.

Freedom means loving God and loving others. How does this differ from the definition you wrote down at the top of the page? Who do you need to love and honor? Ask God to show you and transform you. Now, go, love and honor others.

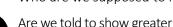
God Time Day 5 – Honor Those in Authority



Reread 1 Peter 2:17

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Who are we told to fear (worship)?	
Who are we supposed to honor?	



Are we told to show greater honor to anyone over another?

Read the verse again. We are only to fear God! Remember, to fear God means to *worship*, respect, submit, obey. (That was pretty radical since Nero was so scary.) We are supposed to show honor to *everyone*— whether that person is in a position of authority or not. That said, sometimes it's really hard to honor people in authority—especially if they are evil and/or we do not agree with them.



Read and memorize Galatians 5:14

For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself.

When we are told to submit but don't do it, it is called rebellion. But God can transform our rebellious hearts! We just need to ask for help and then obey Him. He can help us love our neighbors as ourselves.

Who is in your life that you are unwilling to submit to?



Pray about it right now, asking God to transform your rebellious heart.

Then, ask and answer these questions. Give specific answers about what you can start doing today.

- 1. How can I build them up (honor them)?
- 2. How can I help them carry their burden (fulfill their purpose)?
- 3. How can I reflect godliness in my behavior toward them?

Be a blessing to others so they can see Jesus in you!

WEEK 5: RESPONDING TO AUTHORITY



Family Time

Main Idea:

Submit to God's Authority.



Key Verses: 1 Peter 2: 13-15

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.

Set it Up:

Take out a dollar bill and show it to the kids. Ask, what are the words that are printed on the back of the dollar bill? Why is it important for us to trust God? Let's watch this video together and see what we can learn about trusting God.



Watch: Week 5 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.



Ask:

- What is the definition that Jon gives us for the word trust?
- Who is a person you can trust?
- What are reasons we can trust in God?



Encourage:

When we submit to God's authority in our lives, we are showing Him that we trust Him. The verse we read at the beginning says that it is God's will for us to submit to those that are over us, whether we agree with them all the time or not. By submitting to them we are doing God's will and we are being wise.



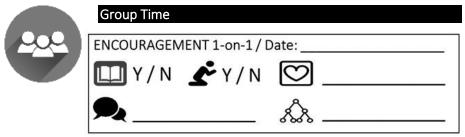
Family Activity:

As a family, make a snack item and take it to someone who is in authority. Let them know how much you appreciate all they do for you.

WEEK 6: HELPING PEOPLE SEE JESUS

Gathering Tim	ne (Sermon Notes)	Gathering Notes	
Date:			
A Life	e Transformed		
Is Gre	ater Than		
1 Peter 3:1-6			
What Do People _	?		
1 Peter 3:7			
• Who Do I	?		
1 Peter 1:6-7			
Does Your Marriage _	People		
Jesus?			
Make Your	With God Your		
Highest			
• Focus On	Up Your Spouse		

WEEK 6: HELPING PEOPLE SEE JESUS



LOOK BACK:

Point: Because we trust God, our witness matters. Therefore, honor everyone with brotherly love and be a blessing to those in authority!

• Review last week's lesson. What did God teach you by praying for that authority? How were you blessed?

Question: When Adam and Eve chose to eat the forbidden fruit, what did they hope to gain?

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

Recap: The power struggle between husband and wife began with the first man and woman. In the garden, both wanted the power of God, and it caused their relationship with Him to be broken. Then both would seek to have power over each other. Sinful behavior always results in a struggle for power.

In 1 Peter 3, we are given a godly blueprint for the marriage relationship. Wives are challenged to show the world their inner beauty as a fully committed partner to their husband. Husbands are challenged to put their wives first in all their decisions, lifting them up as precious partners. A relationship focused on God has no place for "me first" sentiment.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- While nearly half of all marriages in the United States end in divorce or separation, the rate for "active Christians" is still 33%. Why?
- How could following 1 Peter 3:1-7 change this?
- Ladies: Discuss the last sentence of 1 Peter 3:6. What does this mean for you today? How does it apply?
- Men: Discuss the last 8 words of 1 Peter 3:7. What does this mean for you today? How does it apply?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: If I give up something temporary to help people find eternity, everyone wins!

Honor Is Greater Than Power!

Men: Read .	L Peter 3:7. Lis	st ways you o	can apply this	s verse.	
•	arried, discuss	•			
	or two items		If you are sin	gle, how ca	n you
tnese items	to other relat	ionsnips?			

Pray for one another to be an honor and blessing to one another.

God Time Day 1 – God's Original Design



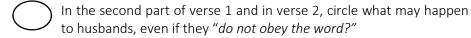
Honor is important in a marriage! Peter writes that God has a specific plan for husbands and wives and all Christians can learn from this – married *or* single.



Read 1 Peter 3:1-2

¹Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ²when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

At the beginning of verse 1, what does Peter tell wives to do?



God desires for wives to "be subject" (or submit to) their husbands. This is so powerful that it can even lead to the salvation of an unbelieving spouse. To get a good understanding of the submission Peter talks about, we need to learn from God's created order.



Read 1 Timothy 2:13

For Adam was formed first, then Eve...

Yes! God's *original design* is that a wife would submit to her husband's leadership. This reflects God's created order. Submission is about function and order, not about status. Men and women are of equal value to God!

How important is it for a husband to be a good leader and not to abuse his authority? (For example, see 1 Peter 3:7 on Day 4 of this week's God Times.)

Are things more likely to run smoothly when a wife submits to her husband's leadership?



Spend time thanking God that He values men and women equally and that He made a plan for order and smooth function within marriages.

What is God challenging you to work on today?

God Time Day 2 – Honor is Greater Than Power



In Genesis chapter three, after Adam and Eve's sin, it says that Eve would "desire to control" her husband. Some people think power is the most important thing to have. But there is something greater than power and control. It's honor.



Read 1 Peter 3:3-6

³Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. ⁵For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Later this week, we'll see that husbands are told to honor their wives. But today, we'll focus on Peter's instructions to wives to live in an honor-worthy way.

In the passage above, <u>underline</u> where adornment is *not* supposed to come from.

Where is it supposed to come from, instead? (See verse 4.)

Wives, ask yourselves:

- Do I see submitting to my husband as a beautiful adornment?
- Do I see submitting to my husband as showing my *hope* (my faith and trust) *in God*?

Whether we are a wife, single woman, husband, or single man, there is an important point we can draw from this passage: the inside is more important than the outside. We should seek to live an honorable life.

What will you do today to show honor to someone?



What one change will you make today to be a more honorable person?

God Time Day 3 – What do People See?



Reread 1 Peter 3:4 in the CSB translation:

...but rather [let your beauty come from] what is inside the heart — the imperishable [or unfading] quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

<u>Underline</u> the words "what is inside the heart."

Circle any words that describe the "imperishable quality."

Wives, ask yourselves: "Do I focus on developing the beauty of my spirit? Do I draw attention to myself or to Christ?"

Everyone: Do you draw attention to yourself or to Christ?

What change will you make to set your heart on making Jesus your priority? (E.g., I will spend time in worship today, I will pray, I will study my Bible, I will serve, etc.)

God Time Day 4 - Who Do I Lift Up?



Read 1 Peter 3:7

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Circle what type of "way" husbands are supposed to live with their wives.

Fill in the blank: What should a husband show his wife?

"...showing ______ to the woman..."

"Weaker vessel" may sound offensive, but Peter makes the point that though husbands are often physically stronger than their wives, they should never abuse their strength and power. The focus is not on a woman's weakness, but on the husband's behavior! As Peter says, women are equally valuable "heirs" (recipients) of the "grace of life" (eternal life).



Do you make it a priority to show understanding and honor to others? Pray and ask God to help you see all people as co-heirs of equal value.

God Time Day 5 – Help People See Jesus



Memorize Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

While the previous passages we've studied this week were originally written to husbands and wives, there are lessons for everyone! Married or single, we can let our "light shine before others" and bring glory to God.

Work through the following questions. If you are married, consider working through them with your spouse. As you go through them, think in terms of how you can (or will) let your light shine.



- 1. **Is your relationship with God the highest priority?** (Examine where you spend your time, money, and attention.) Confess any sin and ask God to help you make Him your ultimate priority.
- 2. For married couples: Does your marriage help others see Jesus?
 - For singles: Do your relationships help others see Jesus?

In what areas do you do this well? Where is there room to improve? (Showing others honor, serving, sharing the Gospel, etc.)

This week we've focused primarily on marriage— on wives living in an honor-worthy way and husbands showing honor to their wives. But there are lessons here for all Christians, whether married or single!



How is (or isn't) your life worthy of honor? List your own answers or circle an area below you will commit to growing in:

Sharing Jesus / serving others / prayer / s	spending time with	God /
giving / faithfulness / other:		

Pray that God would transform you into a more honor-giving and honor-worthy person.

In all our relationships, we can point to Jesus.

WEEK 6: HELPING PEOPLE SEE JESUS



Family Time

Main Idea:

Our family is called to help people see Jesus.



Key Verse: Matthew 6:33

But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you.

Set it Up:

Start by having everyone get a piece of lined paper and a pen/pencil. Say, "Each one of us is going to write a letter to someone to thank them." You might need to spend a little time helping the kids think of who they write a thank you note to and what they might say in the note. Say, "When we write thank you notes to other people, we are showing them that they are important to us and that we want to honor them and what they have done."

Now check out this video that talks about honoring others and why it is so important.



Watch: Week 6 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 did Douglas say *honor* means? Re-watch this part if the kids are not able to remember.

What did Douglas say the Bible says about honoring others?

Should we tell people about how awesome we are or how awesome they are?



Encourage:

Reread the verse for this week in Matthew 6:33. God wants us to put others first and then worry about ourselves. Go around to each person in the family and have everyone else say one thing they like about them. As you do this, remind everyone that it is important to honor others first.

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN'S NIGHT OF WORSHIP:

Glorify

Saturday, July 31st

6:30-8:00 p.m. (Bastrop Campus)

Women and teen girls, come glorify God with the Women@Calvary. Encounter God's presence together as we worship and fellowship through singing, Bible reading, prayer, and communion.



Register online:



Or call the CBC office.

Next Men's Event Saturday Evening

August 14, 2021

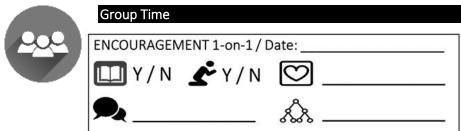
Food / Fellowship / Entertainment &

A Really Cool Keynote Speaker
(Or Something Like That)
Details coming soon.



		WEEK 7: BE A BLESSING	
Date:	Transformed		Gathering Notes
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• The	Of Blessing		
• The	Of Blessing		
How Will You			
•	-		

WEEK 7: BE A BLESSING



LOOK BACK:

Point: If I give up something temporary to help people find eternity, everyone wins!

 Review last week's lesson. What did you decide to apply? How were you blessed?

Question: Look up the definition of *benevolent*. If you were made king of the world, what is the first thing you would do as a benevolent king? (Enjoy the music while you discuss.)



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

Recap: As Jesus' ambassadors, it is our job to change the world. One way we can do this is by being a blessing to others. To do this takes attitude, action, and focus.

The right attitude requires unity, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind – sounds like Jesus. The right actions mean that we don't give people what they deserve, we give them what we need, what Jesus gave us – forgiveness and grace. The right focus involves every part of our lives – thoughts, words, and deeds – working together to bless others. A lifestyle of right attitude, action, and focus promises a blessed life.

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- When serving with a mission or ministry, how did your attitude towards those you were serving change over time? Did it change from judgmental to blessing?
- Go around the group and list some of your gifts and skills that could be used in mission or ministry to bless our community.
- List some mission or ministry activities that your group could do to be a blessing in our community.

LOOK FORWARD: Application

Point: To be blessed, be a blessing!

Be A Blessing To Someone today!

• A list of the gifts and skills in our group:

	<u>Name</u>		Gift/S	<u>skill</u>
List of missi	on or ministry ac	ctivities we ca	an do to be	a bless
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 Pray over these lists this week and next week decide on a mission or ministry activity you can do as a group this month.

Pray for one another to prepare to be a blessing.

God Time Day 1 – How to Change the World God's Way



Many conflicts between people are over HOW to make the world a better place. Even when finishing our Pledge of Allegiance — with liberty and justice for all — we might be thinking, "at least for my people." Peter speaks to this struggle from his experience as a Jewish man who lived his whole life under Roman oppression. Before we look at what Peter says, let's look further back in God's word:



Read Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God reminds us that our ways and thoughts are not His ways and thoughts – they're not even on the same level as His. And He wants us to recognize that His way is better.



Read Proverbs 14:12 (also in 16:25)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Everyone who advocates for a better world has their own idea of the right way to accomplish it. <u>Underline</u> what this verse in Proverbs says is the result (*end*) of human ways?

In our efforts to make things better, we will be tempted to use human logic, science, economics, and other arguments to pressure others to do things our way.

God has a different – higher – way to change the world. That way is by being a blessing.

This week we will look at how to be a blessing. An approach that relies not on wielding power, but on gentleness, kindness, and love. We will see how we are meant to be like Him and meant to be a blessing!



Write a prayer expressing your willingness to follow God's way of changing the world when you are tempted to use power instead of blessing others.

God Time Day 2: Qualities of Blessing



When we turn away from using the world's methods to force change, we can choose the ways of blessing.



Read 1 Peter 3:8

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Peter lists five qualities we need to have. Each of them reflects the way of blessing and stands in contrast to the world's ways. Read about each of them. You might also look up the other verses provided for each quality:

- 1. *Unity of mind* we are not all the same, but we all seek the same blessing (see Psalm 133:1)
- 2. Sympathy we put ourselves in someone else's place, to understand how they feel (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-5)
- 3. Brotherly love we care for each other like family (see Romans 12:10)
- 4. Tender heart we open our heart to others (see Ephesians 4:32)
- 5. Humble mind we put others ahead of self (see Philippians 2:3)

Think back to a time when someone attempted to force, nag, or manipulate you to change your beliefs or behavior.

Do you feel that their attempts reflected the five qualities listed above?

What was the result of your interaction with them? Did you change anything?



What if they had exhibited the five qualities listed above towards you? Would you have been more open to their opinions or instruction? How different would your interaction have been with them?

Which of the five blessing qualities will you work on this week? How will you do so?

God Time Day 3 - Action of Blessing



Read 1 Peter 3:9 NIV

⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Underline how we are to "repay evil."



Circle the result of this different way of living.

It is so easy to express normal human reactions: when someone yells at us, we tend to yell back; when they talk bad about us, well — you get the idea. As we learned in Proverbs 14 from Day 1, this cycle of revenge leads to death and is not at all effective at making the world a better place.



Think about that person you know who is always making nasty comments. Prepare a response that would bless them. For example, you might offer to pray for them or their situation.

God Time Day 4 – Attitude of Blessing



Read 1 Peter 3:10-12

¹⁰ For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

An attitude of blessing takes work in this evil world. The following sayings highlight the progression from our thoughts to our destiny and the power of our words.

Watch your thoughts, for they become words.

Watch your words, for they become actions.

Watch your actions, for they become habits.

Watch your habits, for they become character.

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.



Pray, asking God to focus your thoughts on being a blessing.

God Time Day 5 – Reward of Blessing



Read 1 Peter 3:13

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

A casual reading of this verse might raise objections about how many people have been harmed for doing good. God is not promising that nothing hurtful will happen to those who pursue good and seek to be a blessing; the point of the verse is that there is no power greater than God and no permanent (eternal) harm can come to those who are following His ways – not even if they are killed.

Another verse (Romans 8:31b) says the same thing another way: *If God is for us, who can be against us?*

When we remember that no power can prevent God from blessing His people, it leaves us free to focus on how we can bless others and trust God to bring about transformative change in the world.

Blessing through Giving: What gifts can you share with others for their benefit – time, skills, finances?



Write one gift you will share this week:

Blessing through Encouragement: Examples of ways to encourage others:

- Emphasize something good you see in someone.
- Share how God brought you through a similar challenge.
- Share a Bible story about God's blessing in hard times.

Write the name of one person you will encourage this week:



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Whether through words or actions, being a blessing always points others to Jesus.



Family Time

Main Idea:

Be a blessing.



Key Verse: 1 Peter 3:8-9 NIrV

⁸ Finally, I want all of you to agree with one another. Be understanding. Love one another. Be kind and tender. Be humble. ⁹ Don't pay back evil with evil. Don't pay back unkind words with unkind words. Instead, pay back evil with kind words. This is what you have been chosen to do. You will receive a blessing by doing this.

Set it Up:

Does anyone know what the word blessing means? It means "something promoting or contributing to happiness, well-being, or prosperity." Those are a few big words. Let us watch this video to help us understand better what a blessing is.



Watch: Week 7 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:

Based on what we just saw, what is the answer to the question: What does the word *blessing* mean? God wants us to bless others. What are ways we can bless each other in our family? How can we bless people who are not in our family? How can we bless people we do not know?



Family Activity:

We have the opportunity to be a blessing to others by making blessing bags today. This has been a tough year for so many.

Blessing Bags, also known as Necessity Bags or Care Kits, include a variety of items for people who are homeless, hungry, and in need of basic items. We can keep these bags in our cars to offer when we see someone asking for help.

Below are some ideas of items you can get to make the blessing bags. After you get everything, set it out on a table and form an assembly line. Then stock your car(s) with them.

Always ask someone first if they would like a bag. (Maybe it goes without saying, but please don't toss it out your car window at anyone.)

- Socks
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush + Toothpaste
- Comb/brush
- Shampoo
- Lip balm
- Face/body wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Bottled water
- First-aid kit with single-dose packs of Advil, band-aids, and antibiotic ointment.
- Peanut butter crackers
- Applesauce
- Granola bar
- Mints
- Gallon-sized zip-top bags to hold everything.

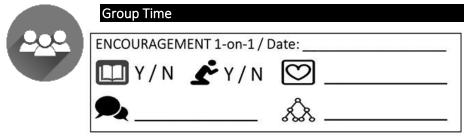


Date: _____

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 ____

Gathering Notes

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!

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.

Underline "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?

	Circle	"keeping	a clear	conscience	."
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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

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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 Jesus.



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.