

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 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



# *A Life Transformed* (1 Peter) Week 5

## 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.

4G Series - 2021 - [www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html](http://www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html)

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## 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](http://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 <b>BIBLE</b> <u>each day</u> this past week?"	These are "Yes" or "No" questions.
	2) "Did you spend specific time in <b>PRAYER</b> <u>each day</u> this past week – not just for meals?"	Any hesitations or "Well..." responses are circled "No."
	3) "Did you do something specific to show Godly <b>LOVE</b> to someone this past week?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or discipled.</li> <li>• If not, leave the line blank.</li> </ul>
	4) "Did you intentionally share the <b>GOSPEL</b> with anyone this past week?"	
	5) "Did you <b>DISCIPLE</b> anyone this past week?" (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	

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!

## A Life Transformed

1 Peter 2:13-15

1 Peter 2:16-17






- Do You Reflect \_\_\_\_\_ Or \_\_\_\_\_?

[illegible]

## WEEK 5: RESPONDING TO AUTHORITY



### Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 / Date: _____			
 Y / N	 Y / N	 _____	
 _____	 _____		

### 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!

- Be honest. What is your first reaction to authority you do not agree with?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who is that type of authority in your life? Write their name:  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Do you build them up or tear them down?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Do you help carry their burden or add to it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - Do you reflect selfishness or godliness?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Commit to praying for them twice a day this next week. Write a prayer of blessing upon their lives and authority:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Near the end of the week, tell someone, "I do not agree with \_\_\_\_\_, but I've been praying twice a day this week that God would bless them."
  - Then discuss what God has been teaching you.  
Pray for one another to be a blessing to those in authority.

## WEEK 5: RESPONDING TO 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

*<sup>13</sup>Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution [authority], whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup>or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup>For 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)

*<sup>1</sup>Let 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. <sup>2</sup>So 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) \_\_\_\_\_



In verse 2, circle what the “one who resists the authority” is opposing.

Fill in the blank: They will “bring \_\_\_\_\_ on themselves.”



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*?

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Read 1 Peter 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup>*Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup>Honor 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, underline 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?

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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

<sup>13</sup>*For 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. <sup>14</sup>For 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?

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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!



## Family Time

Main Idea:

Submit to God's Authority.



### Key Verses: 1 Peter 2: 13-15

<sup>13</sup>Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup>or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup>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](http://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.

