

Beacon Church — from Sunday 25 February 2018

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS FOR CONNECT GROUPS FROM 1 PETER 4:7-11

Please select a few questions to consider — do not try to cover everything in one evening. Thanks.

“...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

Read 1 Peter 4:7 — the end of all things is near... pray

- According to Scripture the end of all things is simultaneously the beginning of what?
- “Praying is planting. Each prayer is like a seed that gets planted in the ground. It disappears for a season, but it eventually bears fruit that blesses future generations. Even when we die our prayers don't. Prayer is the inheritance we receive and the legacy we leave.” (Mark Batterson) Discuss how we are enlarging our legacy.

Read 1 Peter 4:8 — above all love each other deeply...

- Danny Silk talks about ‘keeping your love on.’ What sort of events can make us feel like turning our love off towards someone?
- What might ‘keeping your love on’ look like when the other party is acting maliciously against you?

Read 1 Peter 4:9 — offer hospitality without grumbling

- Once again, the emphasis is on ‘how’ we obey God’s command. Look through this passage (vv.7-11) and see how often the commands are qualified or governed by adverbs or phrases suggesting what attitudes are required as we obey. What does this tell us about what Father is looking for in us? Do we need to recalibrate at all?
- Read Matthew 25:34-36 to see what Jesus said about the sort of people who will be part of God’s new beginning. How are we, as a church, fulfilling each of these works?
- On Sunday Andrew shared about an epic failure when an opportunity presented itself to help someone out by buying their groceries, and he did not do it. Such failures reveal our hearts and drive us to Father for heart surgery. They can also prepare us to succeed next time. Discuss.

Read 1 Peter 4:10 — use whatever gift you have received to serve others

- Every one of us has received something from God. Since it is received as a gift, it cannot be something we earned. What are the implications of that giftedness for how we exercise the gifts?
- The emphasis is not on finding out your gift, but on serving others. Discuss.
- What is a steward? Who is the steward in this scenario? And who does the steward work for?
- The illustration of planks in the loft was used. What was the point of the illustration?

Read 1 Peter 4:11 — speak the words of God, and serve with the strength of God

- Why is it so important that the strength to serve was God’s, and the words that blessed came from God? Maybe the end of the verse tells us.

Read 1 Peter 3:18a — Christ suffered... to bring you to God

- This verse says some things we might find offensive. What are they?
- This verse also tells us some wonderful gospel truths. What are they?
- In what ways is God’s salvation like an air-sea rescue?