

THE POWER OF GENUINE

Community Group Discussion Guide

March 1, 2015

Week 2 | Live as Strangers

1 Peter 1:17-21

Read 1 Peter 1:17-21 before answering the following questions

Introduction

It can be challenging to live in an environment that's increasingly cynical toward biblical truth and resistant to biblical standards of morality. Where once the Bible was respected, it's now often discredited and labeled as extreme and narrow minded. It's no surprise that those who believe the Bible to be God's Word are finding the same labels placed on them. The message of 1 Peter shows us how to live in a sometimes-hostile environment, and live in such a way that we not only persevere but also have a positive impact for good.

Questions for Study

1. Think about a time when you felt like a "stranger" or a "foreigner" in another place – maybe a time you visited another country, or maybe just an environment that was very different than what you were used to.
 - Describe this situation, and explain how being a "stranger" influenced how you felt, what you did, etc.
 - If you knew that being a "stranger" in this different place was only temporary, how did that influence the way you acted? In other words, how did knowing you had "another home" influence your thoughts, feelings, and actions when you were away from home?
 - What did you miss most about home while you were away? Were you homesick at all?
2. Look at 1 Peter 1:17-21 again. In what ways are followers of Jesus Christ "strangers" on earth? In your response, use words and concepts brought up in these verses as much as possible.
3. How should our identity as strangers impact the way we live now? Again, use words and concepts from this passage in 1 Peter, but also feel free to branch out into other truths from the Bible related to this as well.
4. What is the "other home" that Christians have – our true home? How should knowing we have this "other home" influence our actions, perspectives, and values? (Hint: Other verses you may want to look up on this point include Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:13-16; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
5. In what practical ways should this message be influencing your life this week?
6. What else – either directly from the sermon or something related to it – were you hoping to discuss? Consider especially questions you still have and/or major take-aways from this week's message or the passage we are studying.