

Living Hope

Week 9 – Giving an Answer

Transition: In last week's text, Peter continued the theme of how our identity in Christ impacts the way we live. He showed how our new identity in Christ impacts the way Christians treat each other, and how Christians should respond to insult from the world.

Context: In this week's text, Peter shows how our suffering has the potential to make people inquisitive about our hope. When others inquire, we must be ready to give an answer with the right attitude.

Opening Questions:

- Tell of a time when you felt well prepared. Why did you feel well prepared? What impact did your preparedness have?
- Tell of a time when you felt unprepared. Why did you feel unprepared? What impact did your lack of preparedness have?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Peter 3:15-17

Discipleship Questions:

- What opportunities might suffering create for one to share their faith? Is viewing your suffering as an opportunity to share the Gospel difficult for you? Why? How will you turn your suffering into an opportunity to engage others with the Gospel?
- What does honoring Christ have to do with your preparation to defend the faith? How will honoring Christ in your heart as holy keep you from taking a neutral approach in a conversation about the Christian faith?
- What would make someone inquire about your hope in Christ? Why do you feel readiness is important to defend your faith? Are you personally ready to give an answer when that time comes? Why or why not? How will you prepare yourself to be ready for when that time comes?
- What can gentleness and respect in conversation communicate to someone who is hostile to the Christian faith? Why do you feel this demeanor is critical when sharing your faith? What would gentleness and respect look like in a conversation with someone opposed to your faith in Christ? How will you show gentleness and respect the next time you have an opportunity to share your faith?
- What makes a gentle and respectful response difficult for you when you feel insulted? Why do you feel this makes it difficult? How can your security and significance in Christ make responding to insult with gentleness and respect easier?
- Why is it better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil? What does suffering well look like? Why would it be God's will for someone to suffer for doing good? What about this is hard for you personally?

Prayer time: Favor International

- **Pray** for the Favor Staff and missionaries as they enter a 21-day fast to pray for a breakthrough in a war-torn country. May the Gospel go forth with strength. - **Pray** for all missionaries being sent out to conduct Portable Bible Schools. May many draw near to Jesus through these Bible Schools. - **Pray** for strength and protection for Favor staff and missionaries as sickness has been attacking the team during this season. - **Pray** for resources and provision so that the work can be accomplished. - **Pray** that Muslims will turn to salvation in Christ. - **Pray** for the Western Church to have urgency in their hearts to spread the Gospel in foreign fields and in the 10/40 window where there are many unreached people groups.