

GroupWork

Bible Study Discussion Starters

Life application materials for use in Connector Groups, home devotions, and other small groups.

God's Power to End Well

1. Share the story of someone from your past who modeled to you what “ending well” really means.

2. Read the text: 1 Peter 5:6-11.
 - a. What are some of the anxieties or cares that “divide the mind” and cause people to lose hope especially during the COVID-19 pandemic?

 - b. What do you think is the connection between a person humbling themselves (verse 6) and casting anxiety on God (verse 7)?

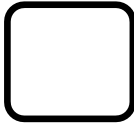
3. Read a portion of John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress* (published in 1678).

Now before he [the Pilgrim] had gone far, he entered into a very narrow passage, which was about a furlong off the Porter's lodge, and looking very narrowly before him as he went, he espied two lions in the way. Now, thought he, I see the dangers that Mistrust and Timorous were driven back by. (The lions were chained, but he saw not the chains.) Then he was afraid, and thought also himself to go back after them; for he thought nothing but death was before him. But the Porter at the lodge, whose name is Watchful, perceiving that Christian made a halt, as if he would go back, cried unto him, saying, Is thy strength so small? Mark 4:40. Fear not the lions, for they are chained, and are placed there for trial of faith where it is, and for discovery of those that have none: keep in the midst of the path, and no hurt shall come unto thee. (<http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/christn/chfijba2f.html>).

 - a. What do you think John Bunyan was thinking about when he said the lions were chained? What “chains” the devil so that he cannot destroy you?

 - b. Read Mark 4:35-41 that Bunyan refers to in this reading. How can this miracle reassure you when your anxieties threaten to overwhelm you?

4. Jesus foretold that Peter would suffer a martyr’s death (Read John 21:18-19). How does knowing that Peter was facing a martyr’s death make Peter’s statement in 1 Peter 5:10-11 even more powerful?



NoteSheet

Sermon Outline

Take notes during the sermon to help you remember the main points

“If... Then...” If Jesus has risen, then I will end well. I Peter 5:6-11

1. Then I can trust God’s mighty hand.

- a. What divides your mind?

- b. What anxiety can you give to God as an offering? What makes your cares and fears an excellent offering to God?

2. Then I will not be devoured by the enemy.

- a. What is the point of story about the lions from John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*?

- b. “The God of all grace” – How does God’s grace heal you after you have been mauled by your enemy, the devil?

3. Then God’s plan for me will succeed.

- a. How will you stay connected to God’s power so that he can keep you “strong, firm and steadfast”?

- b. What are the references to “time” in this lesson? Why are they important to remember as you ask for God’s help to “end well”?

My Next Steps

- **See the danger:** Many great Christian leaders of the past and of the present have failed to “end well.” What anxieties is Satan using to attack you? What are temptations that could destroy your faith?
- **Find the healing:** Peter promises that “the God of all grace... will himself restore you.” Find a friend who can help you apply the healing message of God’s grace (forgiveness) to the wounds that Satan has inflicted on you.
- **Tap into God’s power:** Consider Pastor Kuehl’s suggestions about staying connected to your Savior. What daily practices could you begin that would help you tap into the power of God that can bring you safely to eternal glory in Christ Jesus?