

Coming Into Focus: Laying Down Your Rights

Small Group Discussion Guide—2/24/2019

What is something you feel strongly about – something you want to convince other people to feel the way you do? It could be serious or silly (a favorite product, restaurant, app, etc).

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12

1. Why do we often feel the need to and defend our own ideas and positions? What might we be seeking to protect?
2. We learned that Peter is asking us to "sympathize" with one another (which is to feel what another person is feeling). What are some obstacles toward doing so? Why do we tend to resist doing this?
3. How might claiming our identity in Christ as a son or daughter of God shape our ability to engage those with whom we disagree? What is the effect of allowing God to empower our engagement with others?
4. What might it look like to claim the promises of 1 Peter 3:12?

CHALLENGE :

- Meet for coffee or a meal with someone different than you (someone who thinks differently, someone from a different race, someone with differing viewpoints, etc.)
- Ask questions. Listen. Hear their hearts (what they desire, what they hope for, etc.).
- See the goodness of the other person's interests (the things they desire and hope for) and be willing to be shaped by them for yourself
- Share your heart with love and grace without seeking to persuade. Appreciate common interests and be shaped by one another. Oneness!
- Do you have any ideas for how you can practically implement these ideas this week?

Pray as a group, for one another, thanking God that in Him we can find unity and oneness with each other, and asking Him to help us appreciate each other's differences rather than running from them.