

04 AN HONORABLE LIFE

KEY TEXT: 1 PETER 2:11-17,21-25

CENTRAL truth

We all have plenty of authority figures in our lives. While some of these individuals can be pleasant and helpful, there may be some leaders in our lives whom we struggle to honor. This week, we will see Peter specifically challenge his readers to honor governmental authorities. He will also challenge those who are enslaved to honor their masters. As those who have experienced freedom in Christ, **we must use this freedom to honor God through our actions and attitudes.**

key question

How does Peter invite us to respond to unjust treatment based on Jesus's example?

Jesus, the Son of God, was cruelly treated and killed. However, it's this suffering that brings true spiritual healing and offers us an example of how to patiently endure our own suffering. We don't need to ignore our pain, nor should we seek opportunities to retaliate and get revenge. Peter invites us to rely on God as the ultimate Judge who will reward His people but will not allow the guilty to go unpunished.

keep in mind

- Peter challenges his readers to respect and honor those in authority. For students, this instruction includes parents and guardians, teachers, coaches, bosses, and so on—and at times, it will be difficult to do this. Invite students to be honest with their difficulties doing this, and remind them that our ultimate allegiance is to the Lord.
- In this week's passage, Peter addresses those who were enslaved. It can be tempting for us, as modern-day readers, to read Scripture through the lens of our own culture, rather than through the lens of the ancient world in which the New Testament was written. Use the **History Note** provided in this session to help students understand what slavery in the New Testament world was like.

application

Who are some authority figures in our lives we can pray for? How can we pray for them in a way that honors God?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should understand that out of the freedom we have received from Jesus, we are called to honor and respect those in authority.

FOR THE LEADER: Help students to identify a few leaders in their lives who they can be praying for this week. Take time at the end of group to reflect on how we can all treat the authority figures in our lives with honor and respect.

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