

07 LIVING FOR HIM

KEY TEXT: **1 PETER 4:1-11**

CENTRAL truth

Amid what Peter's suffering readers are going through, he teaches them to live a life devoted to Jesus. But he knows that unbelievers will mistreat them as a result of this devotion. Peter's encouragement to believers is that we must remain devoted to the Lord because He is the ultimate Judge of all people. Living in a way that honors Him means both that we reject sin and that we are committed to loving our fellow siblings in Christ. **Believers are called to honor the Lord and love one another.**

key question

How does Peter encourage believers in verses 5-6?

Though people may judge and mistreat believers in the present for their faithfulness to Jesus, Peter makes it clear that God is the ultimate Judge. The very people who mock believers in the present will experience the Lord's final judgment if they do not turn from their rebellion. Accusations and judgment from unbelievers—even judgment that leads to death—is not final for God's people. No matter what we face in this life, we have a future hope that awaits us, and this future hope anchors us in present trouble.

keep in mind

- Peter teaches his readers about “the end of all things”—a phrase that may stir up an overwhelming fear within students. Remind them that Peter's goal is to point believers to a future hope that can give us joy and courage in the present. Visit Revelation 21:3-4 to give students a better understanding of the future we await because of what Jesus has accomplished.
- In this week's passage, Peter refers to gifts—spiritual abilities—that the Holy Spirit has given to believers. With the help of a pastor or ministry leader, identify any helpful tools you may want to use to help students discover what their spiritual gifts might be. As you take the **Leader Challenge** into consideration, see if there are any ways students can employ their gifts.

application

How can we show hospitality toward one another and toward those in our church community?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Help students understand that as we await Jesus's return, we should live with a sense of urgency and focus on the Lord, as well as a commitment to loving other believers.

FOR THE LEADER: Peter's teaching shouldn't lead us to try and calculate the day and time of the end, nor should it make us ignorant to the needs of others. Help students to identify practical ways to grow in their devotion to the Lord and love those around them.

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