

## Studies in 1 Peter - Discussion Guide for Community Groups

### Session 5: The Enduring Word (1 Peter 1:22-25)

#### Background

*I try to build the landscape around my house with perennial plants. That would include all the plants that survive the winter months and emerge and bloom into new life when the Spring weather arrives. Contrast this with the annual plant that completes its life cycle in a year and must be replanted from seeds or as a new plant from a nursery. Annual plants are often beautiful but require more work and the annual expenditure of funds. Peter compares our life span to the annual plants of the field that wither and fall away. We have a finite period of time in our sojourn on the earth, but bring greater significance to our lives by building on a foundation of God's enduring Word.*

#### Bible Text: 1 Peter 1:22-25 NKJV

**Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, [23] having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, [24] because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, [25] But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.**

Since life is relatively short—it makes sense to build our lives on a foundation of truth and virtue. King David referred to the value of God's Word in his life.

Psalm 119:105 NKJV "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."

- What significance does the wisdom of God's Word have in your life?
- How does God's Word illuminate the pathway of life?

**Read Verse 22: Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.**

- One of the cornerstones of the Gospel is the call to "love one another." Why is this so important to the health and well-being of the Church?
- What do you think it means to "love one another with a pure heart?" (Unlike much of what we see in the way the world expresses its version of love—the Church is called to practice a love that is pure in both motive and deed)

**Read Verse 23: Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.**

- **John 1:12-13 NKJV** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: [13] who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- What you believe matters. John indicates that we are given the right to become God's children on the basis of what we believe. Specifically, believing in Jesus. We further deepen our faith as we absorb God's Word and make God's eternal truth our personal truth.
- Contrast God's incorruptible truth with the corruptible "truths" of our time, where our culture is finding it difficult to define gender. What are some of the ramifications of a culture that resists God and builds on a foundation of their own wisdom?

**Read Verses 24 & 25: because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, [25] But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.**

- God's Word endures and does not change. That means that the truth we are building our lives on is not shifting or unstable. What are some examples of some cultural changes that are being presented by secularists as truth?
- The other consideration that must be given some thought is that the essential truths—the eternal truths—the enduring truths that lead to salvation must be the primary truths of our lives. (Not all secular ideas are false, but very few if any of them, have any eternal value)

**Wrap-up:** 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NKJV For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, [5] casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

- The clear message of this passage is that we must hold on to the truth as delivered to us through scripture, and we must either qualify or reject any other ideas based on how they measure up against God's Word.