

# LG | Leader

[1 Peter 4:7-9]

## WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go the Lord in prayer.

- After hearing the sermon from Sunday, what most resonated with you? What were the takeaways for your family as a whole?
- In light of Sunday's message, have you resolved to make any life changes?

## ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read first Peter chapter 4. Let's first gain some context for this passage. Who is the author and who is the audience? What genre of literature is this? Who recalls the theme and purpose of first Peter? [Let's take a moment to find these answers]

Peter is the author though the book was dictated for him by Silvanus (1 Peter 5:12). The genre of literature is a New Testament epistle (letter). Peter is writing to numerous churches in the asia minor province to encourage the Christians being persecuted by the Roman government.

2. How would you define stewardship in the context of God's grace?

Managing and applying the good gifts God has given to His people. This applies to spiritual gifts but also more general gifts given like time and money. Acts 6 describes Stephen as being full of grace and power, this is what set him apart in the early church. Stewardship of God's grace is His children being able to direct and distribute His goodness through service and love.

3. What does the text mean when it says, "love covers a multitude of sins"? In light of our discussion, have you ever heard someone use this verse out of context/improperly (maybe even you)?

Peter is describing that within relationships love has the power to bring forgiveness. The context he is speaking in is of believers sticking together and strengthening one another. The point being that sin can cause division within any group of people, unless love in the form of forgiveness is primary.

Many people see this as a secondary solution to the sin problem that doesn't require repentance and acceptance of Christ, this is a false doctrine. Love doesn't excuse sin nor does it eliminate the need for repentance or the consequences of our sinful actions.

4. What is the importance of hospitality without grumbling? What does this look like for you in your work/home life?

This question is best answered by Philippians 2:14-16, "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life..." Hospitality without grumbling sets believers apart, allowing them to be uplifting embodiments of Christ's love. Hospitality means serving out of joy and love in your heart.

5. Verse 7 states that, "the end of all things is at hand." If this is the case, why does Peter emphasize self-discipline (...self-controlled and sober-minded...)?

Peter is suggesting that now more than ever believers are necessary to one another. We are to stand in the gap for one another as often as we can. Being tossed by the chaos of the world weakens the Church and keeps us from acting as the support system for one another.

6. Looking forward to verses 9 and 10, why does God give good gifts?

To glorify God. 1 Peter 4:11 "in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." Paul states in Ephesians 4:12 that gifts are to "build up the Church", which in turn glorifies God.

7. Considering what God has given you, what does hospitality look like in your daily walk? How is God calling you to love/change?

Anything; giving random gifts, picking up extra duties for others at work, hosting life group, opening your home to your neighbors etc. Allow the group to get introspective and vulnerable.

## **PRAY**

**Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.**