



**SERMON STUDY GUIDE**  
For the sermon preached on  
5/17/2020:  
“Be Good News”  
2 Peter 1:1-7

**How to use the Study Guide During Our “Stay at Home” Online Group Meetings**

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly, there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). “The One” is to spend time in study. As our Stay at Home continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Tim, on behalf of the Group Life Team

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For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

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For the Group:

As mentioned, throughout our Stay at Home quarantine, we have shortened our study, given the confinements and attention spans on Zoom calls. So these three questions are designed to be less inductive, and more practical. Let's get started.

This is Week 5 in our "What Now" series, and Pastor Leah preached a message called "Be Good News."

Q – Pastor Leah shared some stories from her childhood about wanting to be perceived as "a good girl." We all have many different areas in our lives in which we want to be seen as good—we may want to be perceived as a good parent, a good husband or wife, a good sibling, a good neighbor, a good boss, a good employee, a good co-worker.

Is there one of these areas in which you particularly want to be seen as "**being good**" at this time in your life? Why do you think this is important to you?

For you, what does "being good" look like in that area of life?

Q – The text for this sermon, 2 Peter 1:5-7, instructs us: "For this very reason, make every effort to **add to your faith, goodness**; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love." Pastor Leah invited us to consider whether this passage is an invitation to **be the good news** for the people around us in this season.

For whom in particular might God be challenging you to be good news right now?

What is one concrete next step you can take this week to bring good news to that person, family, or community?

Q – Pastor Leah explained that the biblical understanding of goodness has to do with the relationships between things, the harmony between them. In the Gospels, the good news that Jesus brought was often to restore people to communities from which they had been separated by illness or shame. Pastor Leah spoke of the calling of Jesus's followers to bring **restoration and harmony** where there had been brokenness.

Can you think of an example of someone you know personally who has worked to bring healing and restoration to a situation characterized by brokenness?

What is one situation in which you as a Christ follower can seek to be an agent of healing and reconciliation?

The passage for this week's sermon assures us that God "has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" (2 Pet. 1:3). Confident that God has given us all that we need, let's ask the Lord to help us be the good news for the people in our lives. Let's pray...