

STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, November 22, 2026
Teaching: *Tough Times Part 2*
Key Scripture: 1 Peter 4:7-11

CEDARVALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: 1 Peter 4:7-19
Tuesday: Galatians 6
Wednesday: Ephesians 4:1-16
Thursday: Romans 12
Friday: Psalm 133

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

When life gets difficult, we need to remember that God never intended for us to follow Jesus alone. As Peter writes to Christians experiencing opposition because of their faith, he reminds them to stay clearheaded and prayerful, but then he emphasizes something even more important: love one another deeply. Peter gives us a practical example through hospitality, reminding us that loving one another means opening our homes and our lives to meet the needs of others. But it doesn't stop there. God has given each of us gifts, and He expects us to use them to serve one another. The church isn't meant to be something we simply attend or consume—it's a family we're called to participate in. We need people who will pray for us, encourage us, and stand with us when life gets difficult. But the church needs us, too! Someone needs our prayers, our encouragement, our friendship, our hospitality, and the gifts God has given us. So don't just come to church, be the church! When times get tough, you need the church, and the church needs you!

Questions:

Ice Breaker: Are you a morning person? Or a night person? Why?

1. Read 1 Peter 4:7-19 together as a group. What is Peter referring to when he speaks of "the end of all things"? What effect should these words have on us?
2. Contrast suffering that is a result of being a Christian and suffering that is a result of bad conduct. What is the difference?
3. Why do you think Peter emphasizes prayer and loving one another during difficult times? (See Notes)

4. What do you think Peter means by "love covers a multitude of sins" (4:8)? (See Digging Deeper)
5. In verses 10–11, Peter reminds us that God has given each of us gifts to serve one another. Why is it important to recognize that every believer has something to contribute to the church? What happens when people begin to see church primarily as something to consume rather than something to participate in?
6. Pastor Neal's "big so what" was "You need the church, and the church needs you." Which of these two truths is easier for you to embrace? Is it easier for you to receive help from others or to recognize that others need what you have to offer? Why?
7. What is one gift, ability, or resource God has given you that you could use more intentionally to serve others in the church?

NOTES

Question 3—

Peter tells them to "show deep love." The Greek word for "deep" is ἐκτενής, *ektenes* (ek-ten-ACE) which means "without slack because it's fully stretched or extended. It's a picture of earnest and persistent effort. Peter isn't simply telling us to have warm feelings toward one another. He's talking about a love that makes an effort. A love that keeps going. A love that doesn't give up on people simply because loving them becomes inconvenient.

DIGGING DEEPER

Question 4—

What does Peter mean by "love covers a multitude of sins?"

According to New Testament scholar, Dr. Edwin Blum, Peter is quoting from Proverbs 10:12. "This quotation does not mean that our love covers or atones for sins. In the proverb, the meaning is that love does not 'stir up' sins or broadcast them. So, the major idea is that love… bears all things (1 Cor. 13:5-7). Christians forgive faults in others because they know the forgiving grace of God in their own lives."

Also, Dr. Edmond Clowny says "But lest we begin to commend ourselves on forgiving others (or at least on tolerating them), Peter reminds us that love must go further. Jesus took a towel and basin to wash his disciples' feet [John 13]. Love for our [brothers and sisters] moves us to serve them."

—Dr. Edwin Blum, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, 1 Peter.* Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 1981
-Dr. Edmond Clowny, The Message of 1 Peter, IVP: Downers Grove, 1988.