

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

We love God's people and long for God's word because we love and long for God.

LOVES AND LONGINGS
1 Peter 1:22-2:3

1. REVIEW

How can we specifically care for you in the next week or two?

Read 1 Peter 1:22-2:3. Peter contrasts love with a list of sinful heart conditions which includes: malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. How would you define each of the words on the list in your own words?

What must happen before we can truly love the way scripture admonishes?

2. ASSESS

Consider the list in the second question and compare it to your life. Which of these do you notice most regularly?

Conversely, what does your love look like right now to those inside the church and those outside the church? Describe it in practical terms.

3. APPLY

Pray as a group for the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh taste of His love. Write out your personal prayer below and commit to praying it repeatedly throughout the week.

Commit to studying and memorizing the book of 1 Peter throughout our GRACE+PEACE series. Download the study guide here: www.harvestindysouth.org/graceandpeaceresources

MY GROUP'S APPLICATIONS

SERMON NOTES

- 1. We love God's people because we've been loved by God.
 - 2. We long for God's Word because we long for God
- Malice - Intent to do evil
Deceit - any form of dishonest
Hypocrisy - claiming one thing/doing another
Envy - resentful longing for what another has
Slander - false, damaging statements about others

FOR FURTHER STUDY...

Scripture quotes itself

In 1 Peter 1:24-25, Peter quotes from Isaiah 40:6-8. Most are content to overlook this quotation and its purpose. It is easy to merely contemplate the seasonal demise of grass which comes from physical seeds and then compare the eternal growth which comes from the seed of faith planted by the Holy Spirit. Does Peter quote from Isaiah to illustrate that grass dies and the word doesn't? Couldn't Peter have made the comparative analogy without quoting from Isaiah? We cannot let ourselves overlook Peter's decision to quote this particular part of Isaiah; this same principle goes for all of scripture. If we don't follow the quotation to its source, we may end up missing the message. When Jesus quotes Psalm 22: "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me," he is not taking a line from a random Psalm because he couldn't find the words to say himself. Jesus and Peter are similarly calling to mind for their hearers the entire passage and context from which they are quoting (read the passion account in Matthew 27 and substitute the entirety of Psalm 22 for Jesus quotation). Context evoking quotations are observed throughout the scriptures. So, why did Peter quote Isaiah 40? Isaiah, too was seeking to comfort a people who had been exiled, oppressed, and driven to the very brink. Karen Jobes notes that "With similar urgency Peter resends the word of the Lord spoken through Isaiah to comfort a people who are being tested and tried, tempted to turn away from God, tempted to let their faith grow cold. He reminds them that the promises God has made to his people endure forever and that they are God's people." Peter expected his audience to know Isaiah's context and message. Imagine you are suffering for your faith in a world where you are oppressed, treated both socially and politically as subhuman, then read Isaiah 40. Biblical writers are continually recounting the past faithfulness of God to encourage their present generation - quotations are a primary way to do this. Peter wants his readers to see that God's people have been in this position before and that Isaiah's encouragements extend to them. Jesus has united all of God's people together as one. Therefore, we can be encouraged by God's faithfulness to the first century Christians in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, as well as to the Israelites in Isaiah's day because we are all children of the same Father!

5 DAY READING PLAN

DAY 1

- 1 PETER 1:22-25
- What does it say?
- What does it mean?
- How should I respond?

DAY 2

- 1 PETER 2:1-3
- What does it say?
- What does it mean?
- How should I respond?

DAY 3

- 1 PETER 2:4-5
- What does it say?
- What does it mean?
- How should I respond?

DAY 4

- 1 PETER 2:6-8
- What does it say?
- What does it mean?
- How should I respond?

DAY 5

- 1 PETER 2:9-10
- What does it say?
- What does it mean?
- How should I respond?