



EVERYDAY CHURCH
(5) Hope at the margins
1 Peter 3.8 – 5.14

Opening up! Connecting with each other.

Share a time of finding good news amidst bad news, whether it's a small thing or a big thing in your life – from missing a bus, to a real crisis.

You might like also to share whether last week's study has had an effect on your thinking or living during the past week.

Listening in!

- Read 1 Peter 3.8 – 5.14

In previous weeks we have seen how Peter's readers certainly knew what it meant to live at the margins of society with references full of suffering, rejection and persecution. But his letter is also full of hope (1 Peter 4.12-13) and joy (1 Peter 1.6).

What is the source of this joy?

- (1) Suffering is shared with Jesus (4.13)
- (2) The care of the Father (4.19)
- (3) The support of God's family (1.23; 2.1; 2.17; 3.8; 4.8; 5.14)
- (4) The hope of glory (1.6; 4.13)

With such comfort and joy, Peter urges them to be a good church. Sometimes people think that a good church is about music, great preaching and beautiful buildings. While all those can be wonderful, for Peter, a good church is one characterised by love, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, service and grace (4.7-11)

Looking out!

1 Peter 4.10 says we are stewards who are to faithfully administer God's grace.

- **Either**

Share what (a) encourages (b) challenges you in the whole passage for your everyday life on your frontline.

- **and / or try this exercise**

Write down (together or on your own) your skills, time and possessions. Then ask why God has blessed you with these things.

- **and / or**

ask how the following characteristics of this passage challenge us in our everyday lives.

Peter encouraged:

- living generously with what we have. (4.10)
- being generous in relationships. (4.8)
- taking a lead. (5.2) We can all be leaders in different situations and roles.

Include in your discussions how you can support and help to equip one another to fulfil God's calling on your lives.

Looking up!

To close, turn your reflections into prayer. Ask God to show you how we can be living Peter's dream of church every day.