

INTRO

- Which artist/band would you love to see live?

READ

1 Peter 5:6-11

REFLECT & RESPOND

Peter ends his letter with hope and encouragement for our present reality, and calls us to **humble ourselves, stand firm** and **trust God** as we look to the future.

HUMBLE YOURSELF

Read v6-7.

The call to humble ourselves is to make peace with reality by surrendering to God's control over and care for our lives in our present circumstances. It's not a fatalistic or passive surrender to our circumstances. Rather, it's surrendering to the God sovereignly in control over our circumstances.

One of the ways we demonstrate humility & surrender is by casting our anxieties on God. God is neither unaware nor indifferent when it comes to what you are going through, because he cares for you.

Qu: What part of humbling yourself before God do you find the most challenging? (e.g. giving up control, not fully convinced He has the best plan, etc.)

STAND FIRM

Read v8-9.

We are to be soberly, but not fearfully, aware that our real enemy is a spiritual foe who wants nothing more than for our faith and hope in God to be eroded especially through our trials. Like a lion, Satan preys on those who are unsuspecting, vulnerable, and isolated.

Therefore, we are to stay alert (not ignorant of spiritual warfare) and resist him standing in

solidarity with one another. He may sound like the roar of a lion but he is no match for the true Lion of Judah!

Qu: What does staying alert and resisting Satan look like practically in our lives? (e.g. temptation, unforgiveness, lies, etc.)

TRUST GOD

Read v10-11.

Jesus' resurrection changed everything heralding the start of new creation and the fulfilling of God's promise to redeem & restore all things. What God has begun he will finish completely.

For all the stability and certainty we seek in this life, we are to seek them out in God himself, who has promised to fulfill those things in their fullness in the future.

I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that **this is the true grace of God.**
Stand firm in it. — 1 Peter 5:12

Qu: As we close out 1 Peter, what has been a challenge and/or encouragement you take away personally?

Qu: (outward focus) If Peter wrote to encourage people he cared for, who comes to mind for you to show love and encouragement to this month?

RESPOND & PRAY

- What area/s of our lives are we anxious about and can pray to stand firm in by God's grace?
- Pray in response to the call to humble ourselves, stand firm & trust God.