



Home Away from Home

UALC Small Group Discussion Guide

Week Three

Week 3: Respect and Subvert

Primary Text: 1 Peter 2:13-3:9

Week 3 is structured differently from the other weeks in the main Discussion Guide. The primary text, 1 Peter 2:13-3:9, addresses sensitive questions about authority, slavery, marriage, gender roles, and suffering. Rather than asking groups to work through these issues in our typical Bible study method, the sermon and podcast on ualc.org/learn will provide more extensive teaching and discussion of the passage to aid in careful study and respectful discussion.

The Week 3 podcast is designed specifically to support small groups. This discussion guide accompanies that content and will help your group process what you have heard together.

For Week 3, please plan to:

- Listen carefully to the sermon.
- Listen to the Week 3 podcast before your group meets, or during your meeting, as a group.
- Use these questions to process the teaching.
- Help the group listen carefully, speak honestly, and respond thoughtfully to one another. Do your best to help the group remain respectful even if disagreement emerges.

As your pastors, we hope to help your group process this text well. We don't want to hide from challenging texts. This approach is meant to tackle hard topics head-on with the clarity, gentleness, and reverence that Peter speaks about in 1 Peter 3:15.

Discussion Questions

1. Peter calls Christians “foreigners and exiles.” What do you think it looks like to belong to God while still living fully in the world around you?
2. Peter tells Christians to fight against the sin within themselves while seeking the good of people who may be hostile toward them. Why is that different from the way we naturally respond when we feel opposed or mistreated?
3. Peter tells Christians to “honor the emperor,” even though the Roman government could be unjust. What is the difference between honoring an authority and agreeing with or always obeying that authority? Where might that distinction matter for Christians today?
4. Where in your life are you facing a situation you cannot easily change? How might the question shift from “How do I get out of this?” or “How do I fix this?” to “How can I live faithfully as a Christian within this?”
5. How do we distinguish Christlike self-sacrifice from enabling another person’s harmful behavior? What might help us discern the difference?
6. Sometimes resisting injustice can itself be an act of neighbor love, especially when doing so helps protect others. How does that complicate the idea that Christians should simply endure suffering?
7. Peter is deeply concerned about Christian witness—that others might see the lives of Christians and ultimately see something of the goodness of God. If someone watched the way you handle disagreement, authority, unfair treatment, or suffering, what might they conclude about Jesus?

Reflection on the Sermon

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon this week? Was there an idea, Scripture, or challenge that you have continued thinking about?
2. Was there anything in the sermon that challenged you, raised a question for you, or helped you see this passage differently?

Personal Discernment and Prayer

1. Where are you currently tempted to focus more on changing another person or your circumstances than on what faithfulness to Jesus looks like for you?
2. Is there a difficult relationship, authority, or circumstance where God may be inviting you to practice greater honor, courage, patience, or love?
3. Where might you need wisdom to discern between enduring faithfully and acting to change something that is wrong?
4. As you think about the week ahead, what is one specific way you sense God inviting you to live as a faithful witness to Jesus?

Close in Prayer

Share one situation in which you need God's wisdom, courage, or grace this week, and pray for one another.
