SCATTERED · HEAR LEADER'S GUIDE · SESSION 5

1 Peter 3:1–12 Won without a word

45–60 MINUTES
ANY SMALL GROUP
ONLINE OR IN PERSON

The big idea. Peter turns to the people closest to us. A believing wife may win an unbelieving husband without a word, by the way she lives. A husband is to honor his wife as a fellow heir of the gracious gift of life. And then Peter speaks to everyone: be like-minded, compassionate and humble, and when someone insults you, answer with a blessing, because that is what you were called to.

Who this is for. Anyone leading a small group through this passage: a Discord voice channel, a Zoom room, a home group, a youth group. You don't need to be a pastor. Your job is to keep the group in the text and make room for everyone to speak.

Before you meet

- Read 1 Peter 3:1–12 twice this week, once out loud.
- Watch the moments from this week's session linked below, or the whole replay at https://thechurch.digital/scattered/ if you have time.
- Pray for each person by name. In an online group, check that everyone has the link and can unmute.

HEAR in one line each

- **Highlight**: the phrase that stops you.
- **Explain**: what it meant to its first readers.
- **Apply**: not taught; answer what people notice from the text.
- **Respond**: one thing you'll do, and a prayer.

· Open — 5 MIN

Welcome everyone. Ask each person to name someone whose quiet example of faith shaped them. Open in prayer, or ask someone ahead of time to pray.

· Read — 5 MIN

Read the passage aloud twice, with two different voices. If your group uses different translations, let them; hearing two wordings helps. Ask people to listen for what each person is asked to do, and for the words about blessing.

H Highlight — 10 MIN

Go around: which verse or phrase stood out to you, and why? Don't explain anything yet. Just collect the highlights.

1. Which phrase caught you, and what did you feel when you heard it?
2. Which part of this passage is hardest for you to hear this week?

Listen for: In this week's session people asked whether the passage feels out of step with the rest of Peter's letter, noticed that Peter moves from building faith to showing it, talked about church turning into a fashion show (verses 3–4), saw one thread of submitting to one another, and stopped on verse 7 (fellow heirs) and verse 9 (a blessing for an insult). Any of these opens a good conversation.

WATCH Ian Kirk on submitting to one another (11:42–12:38): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTO0L85Dopg&t=702s

E Explain — 10 MIN

Now ask what it meant to the people who first read it. Use the background below only as much as the group needs; this isn't a lecture.

1. In Peter's world a wife was expected to follow her husband's religion. What would it take for a believing wife to keep following Jesus, and to win her husband 'without a word'?
2. Verse 7 calls husbands and wives 'fellow heirs of the gracious gift of life.' How does that phrase shape the way you read the rest of the passage?

WATCH David, from David's Daily Show, on submission and silence (25:14–26:20): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTO0L85Dopg&t=1514s

A Apply — 15 MIN

Don't teach the application. People will start to say what they notice for their own lives. When they do, respond by taking it back to the passage: "Where do you see that in these verses?" Read that verse again together and let Scripture confirm, sharpen or gently correct it. The text does the work, not the leader.

Respond

10 MIN

> Ask each person: what is God asking you to do with this? Keep it to one concrete thing for this week. Then pray for each other's responses, briefly and by name.
>
> 1. What is one thing you'll do this week because of this passage?
> 2. Where will you answer an insult, online or off, with a blessing this week?

The passage

BSB

[1] Wives, in the same way, submit yourselves to your husbands, so that even if they refuse to believe the word, they will be won over without words by the behavior of their wives [2] when they see your pure and reverent demeanor. [3] Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair or gold jewelry or fine clothes, [4] but from the inner disposition of your heart, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in God's sight. [5] For this is how the holy women of the past adorned themselves. They put their hope in God and were submissive to their husbands, [6] just as Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord. And you are her children if you do what is right and refuse to give way to fear.

[7] Husbands, in the same way, treat your wives with consideration as a delicate vessel, and with honor as fellow heirs of the gracious gift of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. [8] Finally, all of you, be like-minded and sympathetic, love as brothers, be tenderhearted and humble. [9] Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. [10] For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. [11] He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. [12] For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are inclined to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Going deeper

> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
> **Ephesians 5:21 (BSB)**

Paul says the same thing to the whole church, the thread the group saw running through Peter's words.

> So she laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?"
> **Genesis 18:12 (BSB)**

Sarah calling Abraham her master, the moment Peter points to in verse 6.

> Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. **Psalm 34:14 (BSB)**

"Seek peace and pursue it": the psalm Peter quotes in verses 10–12.

Notes for the leader

- Silence is fine. Count to ten before you fill it.
- In an online group, call on people by name, gently. Chat-only voices count: read their typed answers aloud.
- If someone shares something heavy, like grief, a crisis or thoughts of self-harm, pause the study and care for the person first. If anyone is in danger, contact local emergency services. In the US you can call or text 988. Outside the US, https://findahelpline.com lists local lines.
- Words about wives submitting can be heard as "stay where you're being hurt" or "keep quiet about it." Peter is not telling anyone to stay in danger or to stay silent about abuse. If someone in your group is being abused or controlled, help them get safe and connect them with people who can help, then come back to the passage: verse 7 says both are fellow heirs, and verse 12 says the Lord's eyes are on the righteous.
- Your group will include people who are single, married, divorced, widowed or in a hard marriage. Don't ask anyone to share about their own home. Verses 8–12 are for everyone.

Next week. 1 Peter 3:13–22, suffering for doing what's right, and being ready to give the reason for the hope that is in you. Find the next session at https://thechurch.digital/scattered/.

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain · theChurch.digital