

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In “Faithful Through Fire,” Pastor Steve encourages us to remain faithful to Jesus when our faith faces friction or opposition. Drawing from 1 Peter 3:8–16, the message begins inside the church: Peter urges believers to stay close through humility, compassion, and family-like love. Then, Peter calls Christians to refuse retaliation and instead repay insult with blessing—echoing Psalm 34’s themes of watching our words, doing good, and seeking peace. Finally, the sermon emphasizes letting hope in Christ be stronger than fear, revering Jesus as Lord and being ready to gently and respectfully share the reason for our hope. Through every trial, Peter directs us to live clear, Christ-shaped lives that give credibility to the gospel and bless those around us.

SHARE

Share about a time when showing kindness or compassion to someone—perhaps even someone difficult—surprised you or impacted you. What happened, and how did it make you feel?

READ

Let’s read **1 Peter 3:8–16** aloud together.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember, the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. Looking closely at 1 Peter 3:8, Peter lists five qualities for church life: like-mindedness, sympathy, love, compassion, and humility. Why do you think he emphasizes these traits before addressing how we respond to outsiders? What do these qualities reveal about God’s vision for the Christian community?

3. In verses 9–12, Peter quotes from Psalm 34. Read verses 10–12 carefully. What does the Psalmist teach about our words and actions, and how does this shape our understanding of the connection between integrity, peacemaking, and God's blessing?

4. Pastor Steve shared that, "Our words matter. They can wound or heal, divide or reconcile, tear down or build up." As a group, reflect on the power of speech. Are there ways you've seen words—either your own or others'—bring blessing or harm in your life or community? How does this relate to Peter's instructions?

5. Peter says, "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord" (vv. 14–15). When have you been tempted to let fear shape your response to others? What does it look like for you to let hope in Christ be stronger than your fears, both personally and as a group?

6. From Pastor Steve's story of "Fred," what did you notice about how simple, faithful presence and care in the neighbourhood can become an expression of the gospel—even to those who start off resistant or skeptical? How might you or your group join God in similar ways?

7. How does being ready "to give the reason for the hope that you have, with gentleness and respect" (v. 15) challenge or encourage you? What would it look like in your daily life to be both clear and gentle as you share about Christ.

NEXT STEPS

Consider this week:

- Practice blessing someone who challenges you—through words, prayer, or action.
- Take note of your speech: Are your words reflecting compassion, humility, and hope?
- Reflect on who in your neighbourhood, workplace, or relationships might be noticing your hope in Christ. How can you gently share your story if asked?

PRAY

Invite the group to pray for:

- Strength to embody Christ-like love, humility, and compassion—especially under pressure or misunderstanding.
- The ability to speak and act with grace and truth, especially towards those who disagree with or misunderstand us.
- Readiness and courage to share the hope you have in Christ, with gentleness and respect.
- Specific needs within the group and opportunities to bless others this week.

CONNECT

Be alert for opportunities where your group can serve together or engage in community—check "**The Hub**" for workshops, serving projects, and ways to join in what God is doing around us.

CLOSING

Thank God for His faithfulness and for shaping us into a people of hope, compassion, and peace—faithful through the fire.