



November 29, 2009  
Sermon Based Studies

Group Members Guide

**“Surviving Life” #15**  
I Peter 4:1-11

Text: I Peter 4:1-11 <sup>1</sup>Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, <sup>2</sup> so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. <sup>3</sup>For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. <sup>4</sup>With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; <sup>5</sup>but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup>For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. <sup>7</sup>The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup>Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup>Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup>As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: <sup>11</sup>whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (ESV)

### **Getting to know me**

1. What things changed in your life after you became a Christian?
2. What effect do you think the “2012” movie will have on most people?

### **Into the Bible**

1. Peter is talking about suffering again; “suffered in the flesh.” Those who have, he says have, “ceased from sin.” It certainly doesn’t mean that we will not sin any more. What could it mean?

2. Your lifestyle as a Christian may, as in verse 4, bring criticism from unbelievers or, as in 3:15, may bring questions as to why your faith gives you hope. How can you be prepared for this criticism?

3. Verse 6 can be another interpretive question. It should not mean that there is a second chance to hear the gospel after death since that contradicts all of other Scripture. It may be phrased like this: "Those "Gentiles" who don't follow Christ and are maligning you will stand in judgment by God who is going to judge all the living and the dead. Some of those are believers who are now dead. They heard the gospel preached and they believed but they died as everyone does. But they are alive in their spirits in the presence of God." I Peter 4:4b-6.

If God is going to judge "the living and the dead" how does that affect your thinking about where the focus of your life is? Compare this to I Cor. 3:12-15.

4. Peter makes an interesting connection between "the end of all things" and being self-controlled and sober minded "for the sake of your prayers." What is the connection between these three phrases?

5. What is the relationship in 4:8 between earnest love and sin? Peter may be quoting a part of Proverbs 10:12. What happens to offenses when there is not love among brothers? Are there sins which should not be "covered?" What are some guidelines in Scripture for dealing with these?

### **Application Questions**

1. Is there someone that you had a hard time granting forgiveness to?
2. What steps would help you with your prayers? What is usually the main focus of your prayers?
3. The last point of the message was the importance of forging deep friendships. Have there been some people in your life that have helped you through tough times? Have you been close to someone and able to help them?
4. The "will of God" (verse 2) can be understood as the character of Christian living in general. But there is also the leading that God has for your life in particular. What is that will of God for you?