



## Home Worship Guide – 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:13-21

Complement to sermon on October 28, 2012

### MEMORIZE

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:16

“Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.”

### READ

Read 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:13-25

As Christians, we are called to follow Jesus Christ. Peter uses Jesus as the ultimate example of submission which he says himself in verse 21. Peter challenges Christians to “follow in his (Jesus’) steps.” He then gives specific examples of what that looks like in the context of submission.

Peter frames the examples of submission around a passage from Isaiah, specifically Isaiah 53:9. Isaiah 53 is a passage known now as the section on the suffering servant. You may want to read all of Isaiah 53 at this point to understand more why Peter quoted from these passages.

The examples that Peter gives begin with two negatives: He tells us how Jesus did not respond. Peter says that when they insulted him, Jesus did not retaliate (v23). Jesus also did not make threats when he suffered (v23). To finish verse 23, Peter tells us how Jesus did respond, “He entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” At any point Jesus could have called for an army of angels to come and give him assistance. But he doesn’t. He chooses to bear the cross. And Peter gives us the reason in verse 24: “so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.”

Notice this verse ties directly to verse 16 when Peter exhorts us to “Live as servants of God.” To live is to do something. And as Christians, we are to live for God. And that means submitting to authority, even if it costs us our lives. To follow a “suffering servant” indicates that we will have suffering in our lives, even when we do God. It is in these moments that we too entrust ourselves to him who judges rightly.

**Discussion:** (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. How does understanding 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:13-22 in light of Isaiah 53 change your perception of submitting to authority?
2. What is the difference between submitting and obeying? Talk about when it is appropriate to disobey authority of human institutions. Share some examples of when you have done this.
3. Compare biblical submission with American culture on submission. Do they clash? How is our understanding of submission affected by growing up in America?
4. Jesus was able to endure the suffering and the insults without retaliating or making no threats because he “entrusted himself to God.” How does trusting in God help us to submit even when the situations are not favorable?

**Bottom Line:** Jesus is the model we are to follow. He submitted and entrusted to God and Peter is telling us to do the same.

### SING

“You Shine” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEuuogMsD9Y>)

As you sing this song with your family, sing the lyrics in context of Jesus as the suffering servant who gave us the example to follow in life on how we are to submit to authority as we follow Him.



## SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

### Preschool (up to 5)

- Play follow the leader and Simon Says
- Make sure everyone has a turn being the leader in both games
- In follow the leader, everyone mimics the leader. This is different than "Simon Says" where the leader tells everyone what to do but doesn't necessarily have to do it themselves. Explain to your children that we are not being called to do anything that Jesus hasn't done already. In fact, it is his Spirit inside of us that empowers us to submit even during times of suffering and hardship.

### Children (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

- Set up an obstacle course in your house or outside
- Each person has to make it through the obstacle course blindfolded.
- In order to get through, they must rely on the directions they receive.
- The kids tell their parents the directions and the parents tell the kids.
- Have a debrief. How did you feel navigating through the course? Was it hard to trust? Did you find yourself questioning the directions? Did you move slowly or quickly? Were you ever afraid that you were going to bump into something? How does this relate to our call in submitting to authority?

### Students (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)

- Feel free to do the activity listed above but also do the one in this section.
- Dig deeper – Read Isaiah 53
- Discuss this passage and how it relates to 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:13-22
- Jesus lived out this passage with his life and death. We are called to follow him with our lives. Are our lives currently reflecting this? If so, how (share examples). If not, what needs to change?
- Submission is seen in our culture as weak. Talk about why it takes a person with incredible strength to submit to authority, especially when the authority is not being fair or flat out persecuting and causing suffering.

## PRAY

Lord Jesus, increase our trust in God that we can submit to our authority in all situations. Help us to do this that we may honor you.