**PREPARATION**

* Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
* You can watch the sermon online [HERE](http://3crosses.org/about-us/sermons/).
* Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
* You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

**Welcome:** *Icebreaker – What is one act of kindness you have received that you will always remember?*

**Study Context:** Throughout this series, be sure to check out the 3Crosses Podcast for *Going Deeper* episodes on 1 Peter! Click the image below to access the podcast content.



What’s Going on This Week

This week, Pastor Danny Strange led us into the fourth week of our series titled *EXILES: Strangers in a Strange World*. In our methodical walkthrough of Peter’s first epistle, Pastor Danny directed our attention to *1 Peter 1:22-25* to help shift our minds to the idea that in the midst of feeling like a stranger in a strange land, we are called to obey the gospel and love one another deeply. Even though loving others in the church might be extremely difficult, Pastor Danny emphasizes that we can find a constantly renewable and imperishable source to love in the way Jesus commanded. As you engage in this study guide, ask the Lord to reveal any hidden heart attitudes or values that are effecting your ability to love one another and meditate on some practical ways God might be calling you to intentionally engage with other members of His church!

**“Since we will be together forever, let’s start loving each other now!” – Pastor Danny Strange** *Sermon Notes*

**GROUP MEETING** (60 – 90 minutes)

**Worship** (10 – 15 minutes)*Take time with your group and prepare your hearts as you enter the presence of God for this meeting.*

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| **Worship Music**Have someone share their favorite song. You can find it online, play it, and even sing along with your group! Have them explain why the lyrics have impacted them! | **Meditation (John 13:34-35)**At the beginning of this study guide, spend some time meditating on the idea of love. Ask the Lord to search your heart as you deliberate the highs and lows of trying to love others. | **Praise (1 John 4:19)**To begin the meeting, spend some time intentionally praising God for the ways He has shown love in your life. Use this as the fuel and source of this entire discussion! |

**Word #1: Meditate on the Love You Have for the Church** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Primary Text: 1 Peter 1:22-25*

*Supporting Texts:* *Leviticus 10:7, 11:44-45; James 4:1-10; 1 John 3:1-3 (Purify Yourselves) Luke 22:44; 1 Corinthians 13; Matthew 5:23-24 (Love Deeply) Isaiah 40; Mark 1:1-3 (Quote)*

In our primary text this week, Peter reminds the church that we have been purified and born again through the word of God that is imperishable in which we were filled with sincere brotherly love for one another as the church. As we continue to obey the Gospel message, God continues to fill us with this love so that we might love one another DEEPLY! What stands out to you the most about our main text this week? What are some of the challenges you face when it comes to loving one another in the church? Has there been a season in your life where you have done this well / poorly…what was the difference between those seasons of life? What is a time where you have been the recipient of love from the church community?

**Host Tip:** This set of questions is designed to gauge where everyone stands in terms of loving one another inside the church. A lot of people might feel drained in this question so I would HIGHLY encourage you to remind everyone that this is a space where people can open up!

**Word #2: Commit to Loving One Another Deeply** (15 – 25 minutes)

*Supporting Text: John 15:1-5; Galatians 5:16 – 6:10* – When we understand the gospel, we lean into the fact that the Spirit is empowering us to love, especially those who belong to the church. This can look like (a) getting a life update from someone we haven’t connected with in a while, (b) taking a step to build a relationship with someone we don’t know well, (c) walking with someone through a difficult season, (d) praying for those who are hard to love. What are some practical steps God might be calling you to take to grow in your love for those around you? How might your Life Group collectively strive to love those who are the most difficult to love and how might your group be accountable to one another for this practice?

**Host Tip:** Peter was a man of action!! In this series, I encourage you to spend a significant amount of time pressing into the application section of this study guide being personal as well as specific about application. Think of ways your group can hold each other accountable and seek to develop this practice over this series.

**Witness**(20 – 25 minutes)

* Pray that the Holy Spirit would remind us of His imperishable nature.
* Pray that the Holy Spirit would empower us to love one another on a deeper level.
* Pray for any individual prayer request that comes up in your group.
* **Pray for the entire group and how they may be able to participate in future group meetings.**
* **Pray for an interaction with someone who you can invite into your next group meeting!**
* **Pray for God’s hand in the multiplication and revival of your group!**
* **Pray for the** [**local ministry**](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood/) **at 3Crosses and** [**the global mission**](https://operationworld.org/) **of God!**

Stay up to date with our Prayer Ministry by signing up to be an intercessor online at 3Crosses.org/pray!

**Throughout the Week**

* **Prepare for Next Week:** *[Guest Speaker] 1 Peter 1:22-25 —* When we’re faced with commands in the Holy Scriptures to make the diligent effort to grow up in our faith, how should we respond? What is the foundation upon which Peter is able to call the Church to action?

Suggested Reading Material: [The Message of 1 Peter](https://www.christianbook.com/the-message-peter-bible-speaks-today/edmund-clowney/9780830825127/pd/825127?en=bing-pla&event=SHOP&kw=academic-0-20%7C825127&p=1179517&dv=c&msclkid=5d7fce0404e51c5fd0e8acd0df2cf2a1) by Edmund Clowney

* **Follow up between group members:** Have each member of the grouppick one other group member to follow up with about how they are growing in their faith as they learn to keep in step with wherever the Holy Spirit is leading them.
* **Join relief efforts locally and around the world:** Looking to contribute to what is going on both locally and around the world? Visit our website and volunteer in our[neighborhood resource center](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood/) or help sponsor an [indigenous missionary](https://3crosses.org/missions/)!
* **Life Groups 2022:** For more information about joining a group, hosting a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org or Carmela at carmela@3crosses.org