



# THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | **SERIES: STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND**  
**TITLE: HOPE THAT PROVIDES DISCERNMENT**  
**SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 2.11-17**

## **One Thing Follow-up:**

Our Cornerstone is Jesus.

Q. How does that truth help you throughout the week.

## **Opening**

As Christians, our values and priorities often run different than the culture. We may feel like strangers in a strange land. Ultimately, we know our citizenship is in heaven. How do we live as people “in the world, but not of the world”?

## **Series Review**

We are continuing our "Strangers in a Strange Land" series. We are examining the book of 1 Peter. This book was written by the Apostle Peter while he was living in Rome, near the end of his life. He wrote to Christians, "living in exile," struggling with the clash of their culture and their faith. In this text, Peter will demonstrate how hope provides discernment for life.

## **Review the Message**

In light of all the struggles our nation, and the world, is facing, how are Christians supposed to live?

### **Read 1 Peter 2:11-17**

From this text we find 5 Rules for Strangers and Exiles that provide discernment and direction.

**Rule 1: Fear isn't all bad.**

Q. What does it mean to fear God?

Q. What has helped you to have a healthy fear of God? Do you?

Q. Do you struggle to believe that you belong near God?

**Read Galatians 4:4-6**

Q. Do you have issues believing that God loves you? As you were? As you are?

**Rule 2: Honor where it is and isn't due**

4 special opportunities to honor

***Be intentional to honor those different than you.***

Q. Why is it difficult to empathize with those from very different backgrounds?

Q. Why is it so important to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry?

***Be careful to honor the government***

Q. How difficult is it for you to honor national leaders? Local leaders? Police? Your boss?

***Be sensitive to honor the hurting***

“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” Romans 12:15

Q. What is the best way you can honor/help someone who is hurting?

Sometimes honoring the hurting involves confrontation and accountability. We have to be willing to stand up if we are going to love.

***Be diligent to honor those who are wrong***

Q. How difficult is it for you to honor those who you believe need justice?

**Rule 3: Always love the family**

“Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God” 1 John 4:7

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- Q. How are we supposed to love the church?  
Q. Why is this so incredibly important?

**The church is designed to be a support structure for itself.**

**Rule 4: We grab towels not pitchforks**

- Q. Do you find yourself getting caught up in the emotion of the current events?

Read Phil 2.5-11

- Q. Why is Jesus' example so incredibly important?

**We don't silence haters by arguing for our rights; we do it through loving and serving.**

**Rule 5: Be an informercial**

- Q. According to Steve, what are the best kind of stories?

- Q. Have you ever shared your story with someone? How did they react?

**Share the story of a place with no pandemics, no racism, no injustice, and a place where we get to see Christ face-to-face.**

## **Living It Out Application**

What is God saying to you through this lesson?

What will you do about it this coming week?

How can we help you?

## **Prayer:**

- Q. Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?