

**THINKING DIFFERENTLY**  
**1 PETER 4:1-11**

**LESSON PREP**

As Peter reaches the end of his letter, he challenges his readers to see the world differently as they step into a new mentality in Christ. Living differently begins with thinking differently. In this lesson, your students will consider the importance of thinking differently about God, other people, and their approach to life in general.

Talk about the mentality the Bible calls us to have in life, and challenge your college-age people to think critically about whether or not they are living this out. Help them discover areas in their lives where they are still chasing after their own will, versus the will of God. Look for opportunities to discuss how they can think differently about specific people in their lives and how they can view these individuals as God views them.

**PRE LG Text MESSAGE QUESTIONS**

- What role does your mind play in following Jesus? Share your thoughts at small group tonight.
- How can we view people more like God views them? Let's talk about it tonight at small group.

**SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION**

Philippians 1:12-14

**1ON1 FOLLOWUP**

Come up with a plan for the summer. What will they use to possess a real devotional life, real community and real

**INTRODUCTION**

- What's the connection between the way we think and the way we act?
- Can you think of a time when you had to change your attitude or your mindset, in order to change your behavior? What was that process like?
- In your opinion, what role does the mind play in following Jesus?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** This may sound simplistic, but how we think shapes how we live. When the Apostle Peter wrote to Christians in the first century, they had plenty of things to think about—they were facing heavy persecution and threats, and they were being tempted to revert back to the old ways of worldly living. Peter reminded them of the importance of winning battles in their minds and thinking the way that God called them to think about life. As followers of Jesus, it's so important to understand that how we think about life really does matter.

**1. Christ's mindset is our standard**

- *When you hear or read about having the same mindset or the same kind of thinking as Jesus, what does that mean to you? How would you explain that concept?*
- *How does a Christ-centered mindset differ from the mindset of the world?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Living differently begins with thinking differently. Jesus is the ultimate example of the mindset we ought to have as followers of Jesus. If we have the same mindset as Jesus, then we can have the same attitude toward suffering and difficulty in life—realizing that God is in control, whatever we go through. Most people in the world have a mindset of avoiding suffering and difficulty at all cost, and living the most comfortable lifestyle possible. The mindset of Christ expects and prepares for difficulty, counting the cost of what it means to live for something far greater than yourself.*

**2. God's will is what we pursue**

- *How can you know what God's will is? What does it take to be sure that you're following God's will rather than your own?*
- *Look at verses 3-4. If we start thinking like followers of Jesus, what kind of reaction can we expect from our friends in the world? How have you seen this play out in your own life?*
- *How can Peter's words in verse 7 serve as motivation for committing your mind to disciplined prayer? How can this cause you to think differently or have a different perspective on daily living?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Peter contrasts the mentality of Christ from the mentality of the world. The mentality of the world means that your aim is to chase after your own desires in life. Putting on the mindset of Christ means your aim is to do God's will in your life. Our job is to daily search out the Scriptures for God's will and follow the Holy Spirit's leading to pursue God's will with our lives. When we think this way, we can expect that some of our friends will be surprised and may slander or reject us because it doesn't make sense to them.*

**3. God's view of people is what we seek**

- *Look at verse 8. How can the mindset of Christ change the way we see other people?*
- *What does it mean for love to cover a multitude of sins? What does this kind of love look like when it comes to loving other people in our lives?*
- *In verse 9, Peter encourages us to show hospitality to those who are in need—and to have the right attitude while doing it. Have you ever had someone show hospitality to you when you were in need? What was it like? How did it impact you?*
- *Why does our attitude matter when serving others?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Peter invites us as Christians to see other people with new eyes—to see people as God sees them. If people are the objects of God's love and affection, then we should seek to show deep love for each other and look beyond their sins. Because God seeks to help those who are in need, we should seek to do the same with much hospitality. When we understand that God has gifted every Christian uniquely, we should seek to use the gifts God has given us to serve others. We ought to view our brothers and sisters as gifted people and seek to help them cultivate and use their gifts for God's glory.*

**APPLICATION**

In what ways does your attitude or mindset need to change in order to become more Christ-like?