**Living Faithfully in a Watchful Society Study Guide and Small Group Discussion Questions**

After the Apostle Peter established and reminded his audience of their identity in Christ, he moved on to calling them to live according to who they were. By defining how they were to live despite their persecution and dispersion, Peter held his audience accountable for their actions and deeds. The sojourners were encouraged to live as Christians showing their faithfulness to God to the masses, the government, and their employers.

*12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

How would you define living a good life according to God’s standards? How can this good life bring non-believers closer to God?

How should we, Christians, respond to accusations that are baseless or wrong? How do we prove our integrity in a loving manner?

*13 Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.*

What are some ways that you are faithfully submitting to human authorities placed over you?

Do you think you need to submit to authorities even if you are more knowledgeable and experienced than they are?

How can we hold the government or human authorities accountable to their God-given duties?

*18 Slaves, in reverent fear of God, submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.*

Have you had a boss or master who treated you harshly? Why do you think he/she did so? How did you respond to this harsh treatment?

How did God vindicate you during this time of persecution? What are some lessons you learned from this experience?