

Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for May 21, 2023:
An Ancient Letter to a Modern Church: The End is Near



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS
Community or family

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT** with each other

- It's graduation season! Share a memory of your High School graduation. How did it feel to end a chapter in your life and begin a new one? Did people treat you differently?

- **GROW** in Christ

The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:7-11

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- How could the end have been "near" almost 2000 years ago? How near is it now? What developments in the world might point to the time being near?
- What applications does Peter give them based on the fact that the end is near?
- Describe being "alert" and "sober minded" in your own words?
- How is your prayer life? Is it improving? Are you spending more time in group and individual prayer than before? Are you satisfied with your prayer life? What is one specific, simple step you could take to improve it in the coming week?
- Explain the word "fervent".
- What would it show about our heart if we show hospitality to others and then complain about it afterwards?
- Read Acts 1:1-11. Put yourself in the shoes of Jesus' disciples for a moment. Do you think you would feel joy as they did or another emotion? Why?
- Jesus Ascended to the right hand of God the Father, according to our Creedal confession. Where exactly is that? Does that affect the way we understand Jesus' presence in the Lord's Supper or Baptism then?
- If Jesus never ascended, but stayed on Earth after his resurrection and continued to appear to

people, would the church have grown like it did? How would the work of the church look different?

- **SERVE** *others*

The second offering during the month of May is the Family Promise of Butler County has a mission to help address the needs of children and families who are homeless in Butler County by providing shelter, meals, and comprehensive support services. Royal Redeemer supports Family Promise by providing monetary assistance and donations. To donate to the Second Offering, visit www.royalredeemer.org/worship

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**