

Adult Study Guide for March 21, 2021
Series: *I am an Alien*; Message: *The Demanding Journey and God's Community*
1 Peter 5:6-10

Goal: To draw strength from knowing that we are not alone in our journey of faith.

Key Verse: *Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*
- 1 Peter 5:9 (NIV)

1. What is the difference between traveling with someone or traveling alone? In what ways is it easier to take a trip when you have a companion? In what ways is it more difficult?

2. Read 1 Peter 5:5-6. Humility does not come naturally for us. What reason does Peter give us for humbling ourselves? Why is God's care and protection given as a special grace to the humble? How does humility open the door for God to lift us up? (Luke 14:7-11) Peter was probably thinking about the day when Chief Shepherd will appear (1 Peter 5:4). Why is God's recognition more important than human praise?

3. Read 1 Peter 5:7. What is the relationship between humility and giving all our anxiety to God? When we continue to carry all our worries and daily struggles by ourselves what does that say about our trust in God? (Matthew 11:28; Philippians 4:6-7)

4. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9a and 4:7 Although the Bible teaches us to cast all our worries on God, we must still be self-controlled and alert. What is the difference between casting our worries on God and becoming lazy in our faith? Why is it important for us to understand our enemy, especially when we are facing persecution or other trials? What happens when we resist the devil? (James 4:7) What must we remember to conquer our fear? (1 John 4:4)

5. Read 1 Peter 5:9. One of the ways we resist the devil is identifying with other Christians who are experiencing the same sufferings as we are. How does it help us to remember that we are part of a larger family than our own local church – the family of God? Two-thirds of Christians live in countries where government is hostile to the Christian faith. How can praying for Christians suffering persecution help your faith to grow? For more information, visit the Voice of the Martyrs websites: www.persecution.com and www.icommittopray.com.

6. Read 1 Peter 5:10, Romans 8:18, and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. When we are suffering it often feels like our pain will never end. How does remembering the promise of eternal glory help us to cope with our suffering? Pray that God will restore, support, and strengthen all those who are suffering in this day.