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**Small Group Discussion Guide**

The God I Want // Week 1

The King

**Small Group Challenge:** Ready or not the end of fall and beginning of winter is here and with it brings shorter days and longer nights. But we’re not going to let that bring us down! For this month’s Small Group challenge, we want to see you plan an activity with your group. For some it could be going to the movies, for others it might be a classic board game night, or baking a seasonal treat together. Whatever it is, plan it, prioritize it and get a picture of it. Post your picture on social media and tag your church.

**ICEBREAKER:**

* What are your hobbies? What do you like to do in your spare time?
* Favorite place to shop? (excluding online)

**DISUCSSION:**

1. This week’s message today centered around 1 Peter 2:11-17, addressing the role of believers as strangers in a foreign land. This passage emphasizes the call to live in a way that glorifies God while being respectful and obedient to human authority. Read

1 Peter 2:11-17.

* In what practical ways can Christians abstain from sinful desires while living in a culture that may promote such behaviors?
* How do you navigate the tension of living as free individual while also being God's slaves, as mentioned in verse 16?

1. How did Jesus manage the tension to fear God, but respect human authorities? What can we learn from his example?

* How does the idea of living as "ambassadors" for Christ influence our interactions with society and its institutions?
* Do you believe different people are called to different standards when it comes to this matter of submission to human authority?
* When it comes to sanctification (pursuing being more holy) versus evangelism (reaching out to others), do you feel one is more important than the other? Is it a matter of finding balance between the two?

1. Can you think of any examples from your own life or someone you know that apply to the passage of 1 Peter 2:11-17? Maybe some kind of conflict that perfectly fit and worked out, or a conflict that wasn't easily resolved, if at all, and goes against such ideas?

Prayer: For many we make many different plans for Christmas. Could we take this time to plan and pray for those we want to show Jesus’ love to this Christmas season?

**GOING DEEPER:**

Considering the historical context of persecution, how might the message of 1 Peter provide comfort to believers facing challenges today?