Respect for Authorities
1 Peter 2:11-17

Never does the Bible contemplate God's people's faith as being purely personal. There has always been (and will always be) a public witness for God's people. Indeed, that public witness is arguably the _____ _____ of it all.

Discussion 1. Peter says our conduct should cause others to praise God...that it should actually influence unbelievers to turn towards God. How do you think we (the church) are doing on that front? How does this motivate you personally?

In a culture that has lost all respect for governmental authorities (especially when they are not the ones I voted for), Christ followers have an opportunity to _____ _____ by showing submission and respect even when it has not been earned.

Discussion 2. Can you give any examples of what it looks like for a Christ follower to stand out from everyone else in terms of how he/she engages in conversation about a governmental leader? Are there specific areas of your life where you find it most difficult to be Christlike in this way?

In a world of t-shirts, yard signs and bumper stickers, it is easy to "fly the colors" of Christianity via public symbols; but it is altogether different (and far more effective) to show people Jesus through our outrageous _____ _____ _____.

Discussion 3. Why do you suppose our culture is so obsessed with stories of Christians breaking the law or misbehaving? Given today's passage, what do you believe Peter would have to say about that problem?

As Christ followers, our fear of the Lord should produce a love for others and an honoring of our governmental leaders. When we dishonor those leaders with our words and attitudes, it is because we have _____ _____ of the Lord.

Discussion 4. True or false: If I struggle with submission in one area of my life, I will struggle with submission in most areas. Discuss your answer.

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?