



Today we're continuing our sermon series, *Real Talk*. Last week we looked at the words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount. Today we're going to look at Peter's words to the early church. The early church struggled with anxiety and worry. The early church was persecuted for their faith and needed to be encouraged by the truth of God. But they also needed to know who they were up against. In our passage today, the Bible teaches us that the devil is like a roaring lion. Some might imagine the devil as a puny, weak, and defeated being, but that is not how the New Testament describes him. Read the questions below and discuss them with your group.

1. Neal started the sermon with a story about his love for lions as a young child, but as he grew into an adult, he realized their true power. What is something you admired as a child but as an adult you now realize its true power?
2. **Read 1 Peter 5:5b-7.** Peter gives us three truths about God: God shows favor to the humble, God lifts us up, and God cares for you. Which one of these truths do you need to focus on the most this week in your walk with Jesus?
3. Peter tells us to "cast our cares on God because He cares for you." In the sermon we heard a story about an 11-year-old boy who didn't ask his dad for help. What is an example of how you need to ask God for help?
4. **Read 1 Peter 5:8-9.** Peter encouraged us to resist the enemy and stand firm in our faith. **Read James 4:7, Ephesians 6:11, and John 10:10.** What are some tools you've picked up in your faith walk that help you to resist the enemy?
5. Peter wrote this letter to a group of believers who were suffering for their faith and needed to be encouraged. What are some practical ways your small group can encourage others in their walk with Jesus?
6. **Read 1 Peter 5:10.** There is a repetitive theme of being strong, firm, and steadfast in our faith. **Read 1 Samuel 17:45, 1 Kings 18:22, and Daniel 3:16-18.** Who are some of the people who encourage you to be strong in your faith?
7. **Read 1 Peter 5:11.** Peter prompts the original audience to think about a lifestyle of worship. **Read Psalms 91:1-2, Psalm 100, and Romans 12:1-2.** Would you describe your life as a lifestyle of worship? If not, what would you like to change?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for alertness for the enemy's attack.