

Small Group Interaction Questions:

MEANWHILE: The Church that lives and waits
“A Reason For Hope: Foolish!” 4/5/09
1 Peter 3:14b-15; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 25-27

Dear Friends,

When Peter wrote these words: “Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened,” he was writing from personal experience. It is recorded around the two campfires depicted in the Gospel of John. At the first campfire, on the day of Jesus’ trial (John 18:17-27) Peter caved into the pressure, trembled in fear, and denied Jesus three times. However, at the second campfire, after the resurrection (John 21:9-19) Jesus specifically restored and re-commissioned Peter by saying: “feed my sheep.” It was out of this experience, and doubtless many others, that Peter could write to us about fear. He had at one point thought that his following of Jesus was foolish, a waste. Now, his voice lives in scripture to fortify us when we waver.

Pastor Roger

- 1) Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. What are some of the reasons the world thinks of Christianity, and Christians, as being foolish?
- 2) Have you ever felt overwhelmed by pressure, or ridicule, because of your faith in Christ? How did you respond? How did you feel at the time? What do you wish you had known, or said?
- 3) What is the “message of the Cross?” Can you defend that from scripture? Why does Paul focus everything on the Cross?
- 4) What are some of the messages, criticisms, and tactics used by the media and mass culture to send the message that Christ-followers are foolish? How do we give an answer with “gentleness and respect?” (1 Peter 3:15)
- 5) Pray for wisdom and courage for each member regarding any specific contexts where he/she is feeling ridiculed or criticized for following Jesus.