

**1. Relating to governments**

- a) 1 Peter 2:13–17 (see also Romans 13:1–7)
- b) How many of you grew up in a monarchy? How many grew up in a democracy? How many grew up in a dictatorship? What do you appreciate about the government where you grew up?
- c) Why is it important for Christians to be as good citizens as possible, even in less-than-ideal political situations?
- d) Share an example of a Christian who made a positive impact on his or her country.
  - i) William Wilberforce, abolishing slave trade
  - ii) Martin Luther King Jr, civil rights in US
- e) How should we relate to government leaders who are corrupt or oppressing and exploiting people?
  - i) Pray for them.
  - ii) Care for those who are suffering.
  - iii) Work peacefully to bring about change.
- f) How should we relate to governments that pass laws contrary to the Word of God? Acts 5:27–32
- g) Is it ever appropriate to leave a country because you cannot freely follow God there?

**2. Relating to masters**

- a) 1 Peter 2:18–23
- b) These are difficult words for 21st century Christians to read. Slavery is wrong. Why doesn't Peter just condemn slavery and call for masters to liberate their slaves?

- c) Why is Paul's counsel to slaves and masters also helpful? Ephesians 6:5–9
- d) How does this discussion relate to employers and employees?
- e) How does the suffering of Christ on our behalf help us to face suffering in our own lives? 1 Pet. 2:21–25

**3. Relating to your spouse**

- a) 1 Peter 3:1–7
- b) Some people resist the idea of submission to anyone. Why?
- c) How does Paul's counsel help us with our discussion of submission? Ephesians 5:22–33
- d) What does it mean to submit to someone as to the Lord?
- e) Why is inner beauty (character) more important than outward adornment, both for men and women?
- f) How should a person relate to a spouse who is not a Christian or who has abandoned Christianity ("do not obey the Word" 1 Peter 3:1)? 1 Corinthians 7:12–16
- g) Share a testimony of a challenge you faced relating to a spouse and how God brought you through that difficult time.

