

ONE CONVERSATION

Parents: Read 1 Peter 2:11-20. In verse 11, Peter picks back up on a concept that he introduced at the very beginning of his first letter to the churches of Asia Minor—the concept of living as aliens and strangers in the world. Followers of Christ should not feel at home in the world in its present state, but rather look forward to a new heavens and a new earth (2 Pet. 3:13). Until Christ returns (1 Pet. 2:12), He expects us to live as strangers, to live as if we do not fully belong here. In other words, Christians are to stick out, to refuse to conform to the way of life and assumptions of the lost people around them. Peter gives us three ways we do this: by remaining faithful to Christ even when we are slandered (2:11-12), by submitting to and honoring the governing authorities in our lives (2:13-17), and by embracing unfair circumstances as opportunities to glorify Christ (2:18-20).

Discuss what authorities we have in our local governments, as well as those who are in administration at your son or daughter's schools. Be relational and share a time when you learned a lesson about the importance of submitting to those in authority. Also explain how this is a testimony of our faith in Christ when we submit and point others to Him by our actions.

CENTRAL TRUTH

God calls us to submit to the authorities in our lives and point people to Christ in all circumstances.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Evaluate whether your words, attitudes, and actions in your day-to-day life are seasoned by your relationship with Jesus. If maintaining a Christlike attitude is a constant battle for you, pick one area of your life where you want to make strides this week. Seek out a parent or leader at your church to hold you accountable in that area of your life. Ask that person to pray for you and check in to see how you are doing this week.
- › **Memorize:** 1 Peter 2:12
- › **Pray:** Ask God to help you to live more consistently out of your identity in Christ, even if that makes you seem strange to the world around you. Pray for the authorities in your life, and ask God to help you submit to them. Pray that in all you do, you would seek and take advantage of opportunities to point the people around you to Christ.