



Session 2

The Foundations of Hope

1 Peter 1:3-12

WARM-UP

Do you think hope is just wishful thinking or is it something more? Explain.

BIBLE STUDY

Background of 1 Peter

Writer: The Apostle Peter

Audience: Believers throughout Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)

Date: Probably 62-63 AD, just before emperor Nero, started his official persecution of Christians.

Situation: Believers were facing increased opposition and suffering because of their Christian faith.

Purpose: To provide hope, encouragement and instruction on how to stand strong in trying times.

1. Read 1 Peter 1:3-12 and then work together as a group to fill in the outline found on the last page. Outlining is a valuable tool in interpreting Bible passages by making it easier to follow a writer's train of thought. As you study 1 Peter, you will also be developing this skill each week.
2. Looking back over your outline, what would you say is the major theme of this passage? What title would you give it? Write the title at the top of your outline.
3. What stands out the most to you in this passage? Why? Does anything leave you puzzled?
4. How is salvation described in this passage?
5. Why do you think Peter added his comments about prophets and angels?
6. Hebrews 11:36-40 summarizes what the prophets endured because of the message they spoke. Read the passage. What does that say to you about the value they placed on the salvation that we now enjoy and the value we should also place on our salvation?

7. What can you learn about faith from 1 Peter 1:3-12?
8. Peter says in verse 6, “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer...” What does “in this” refer to? What is it that Peter says gives us joy even when we are suffering?
9. Notice that both times Peter mentions joy (verses 6 and 8) he does so immediately after talking about something else his readers have. What is it? How does the one lead to the other?

APPLICATION

1. What do trials reveal to us about our faith? Is there value in this?
2. What is the difference between saying “I’m about to lose my house. I hope I win the lottery” and saying, “I’m about to lose my house, but I have hope because I know I have my uncle’s inheritance coming.”
3. When Peter says that we have been given a “new birth into a living hope” what kind of hope is he talking about? Why is it a “living” hope? What is this hope based on? What is required to have this hope? What will this hope do for you?
4. Peter says that he cannot put words to the joy we can experience – it is “inexpressible”. It’s safe to say that we would all like to experience more of that kind of joy. Given what you have learned. What specific things could you do that would lead to experiencing more joy in any circumstance?

PRAYER

Split into pairs (men with men and women with women) and share your prayer needs with each other as well as any commitments you want to make as a result of this study. Then, pray for each other.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Next session you will be studying 1 Peter chapter 1:13-2:3. In this week’s devotions you will prepare for that session by digging into the meaning of some of the instructions Peter gives in the passage. If you apply what you learn in these devotions, it will be life-changing. Use the “4 C” questions to help you apply what you discover. Be sure to finish your study with a time of prayer.

The 4 C Questions

CELEBRATE: What can you praise God for from this passage?

CONFESS: Does this passage convict you of something you need to confess to God?

COMMIT: What commitment does this passage challenge you to make?

COMMUNICATE: What did you learn that you could share with someone else?

Day 1: Read 1 Peter 1:13 and then read the following passages to learn more about what it means to “Prepare you minds for action.” Deuteronomy 11:18, Jeremiah 31:33, Romans 8:5-8, Ephesians 4:22-24, Philippians 3:19, Colossians 3:2. What is God saying to you? Use the 4C questions to apply what you have learned.

Day 2: Read 1 Peter 1:15 and 1:22 and then read the following passages to learn more about what it means to be purified and holy. 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1, Philippians 1:9-11, Philippians 2:14-16, James 4:8, 1 John 1:9, 1 John 3:2-3. What is God saying to you? Use the 4C questions to apply what you have learned.

Day 3: Read 1 Peter 1:22 again and then read the following passages to learn more about loving one another. John 13:34-35, Romans 13:8, 1 John 3:11-18, 1 John 4:7-12. What is God saying to you? Use the 4C questions to apply what you have learned.

Day 4: Read 1 Peter 2:1 and then read the following passages to learn more about what it means to rid yourself of all malice. Ephesians 4:17-24 and 31-32, Colossians 3:1-11. What is malice? Look it up in a dictionary. According to these passages, what is the reason for ridding ourselves of malice? Would this have been a difficult instruction for Peter's original readers considering what they were facing? Is it a difficult instruction for you? What is God saying to you? Use the 4C questions to apply what you have learned.

Day 5: Read 1 Peter 2:1 again and then read the following passages to learn more about what it means to rid yourself of all envy. Proverbs 14:30, Proverbs 24:19-20, Galatians 5:22-26, James 3:13-18. What does it mean to envy? Why is it dangerous? What can it do to our faith and our relationships? Consider the situation of Peter's original audience, what might they have been envious of? What, or who, are you envious of? What is God saying to you? Use the 4C questions to apply what you have learned.

Day 6: Read 1 Peter 2:2 and Isaiah 55:1-3. Picture a baby who wants to be fed. Can he or she be distracted? Will anything other than being fed satisfy the baby? That's a picture of craving? What do you crave? Is it pure spiritual milk? What is pure spiritual milk? What is God saying to you? Use the 4C questions to apply what you have learned.

Outline of 1 Peter 1:3-12

I. God's great mercy has given us:

- A. New _____
 - 1. Into a _____
Through the resurrection
 - 2. Into an _____
 - a. that can never _____
 - b. Kept in _____ for you

II. Through FAITH you are shielded

- A. By God's _____
- B. Until the coming of the _____
 - 1. That is ready to be revealed _____

III. In this you greatly _____

Even though you may have had to _____ grief in all kinds of trials

IV. These trials:

- A. Will last _____
- B. Have come so that your _____
 - 1. May be proved _____
 - 2. May result in _____ when Christ is revealed

V. Excursus on Faith

- A. VALUE of Faith
of greater worth than _____ which perishes
- B. EXPLANATION of Faith
Though you have not seen Him...
 - 1. You _____ Him
 - 2. You _____ in Him
- C. RESULTS of Faith
 - 1. You are shielded by God's power (from verse 5)
 - 2. You are filled with an _____
for you are receiving the...
- D. GOAL of Faith
 - 1. The _____ of your souls

VI. Excursus on the Value of your Salvation

- A. The prophets
 - 1. Searched intently and with the greatest of care
 - 2. Tried to find out the time and circumstances
 - 3. Prophesied by the _____ about:
 - a. the sufferings of Christ
 - b. and the glories that would follow
 - 4. Spirit revealed to them that they were _____
 - 5. Their message has been told to you by the preaching of the gospel
 - a. Those who preached the gospel did it by the _____
- B. Even _____ long to look into these things