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Group Guide

Born Again to a Living Hope

January 18, 2025

Main Passage: 1 Peter 1:3-12

Theological Theme

In His great mercy, God gives us the gift of salvation, and with it, a hope that is alive and well. Unlike earthly possessions, this hope can never be taken away from us.

Introduction

- ❓ How would you describe hope to another person?
- ❓ How do Christians define hope differently than the world?

1. A Living Hope (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Before we knew Jesus, we were spiritually dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13-14), but when we place our trust in Him, we experience a “new birth.” We are now new creations. The “old” us, who was a slave to sin, “has passed away” (2 Corinthians 5:17), and now we have a “living hope” (v.3) that is alive and well, just like Jesus. As believers, we have this hope because we know that, after our earthly body passes away, we are promised a glorious eternity of living with God. There is no greater hope than that found in Jesus.

- ❓ How did Peter describe salvation in these verses?
- ❓ What do you think it means for a Christian to have a “living hope” (v.3)?
- ❓ How does God protect us by His power (v. 5)? How have you experienced this protection?

2. Trials of Faith (1 Peter 1:6-9)

As James wrote, trials produce endurance in our faith (James 1:2-4), and Peter wrote a faith that has been tested and remained true is “more valuable than gold” (v. 7). In this, too, we should rejoice and “consider it a great joy” (James 1:2). We can have this counter-cultural reaction because we are rooted in Christ, and when we rely on Him, God shows up during the trials of our lives. God does some of His very best work in the valley. When we are desperate and think there is no way out, He can work in miraculous ways that are bigger and better than any rescue we could’ve dreamed up ourselves. Our perseverance of faith will “result in praise, glory, and honor” (v. 7) at Jesus’s second coming.

- ❓ What reason do Christians have to rejoice, even in the middle of grief and trials?

- ❓ What did Peter mean when he wrote, “so that the proven character of your faith . . . may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (v. 7)?
- ❓ What can we learn about joy and rejoicing from this passage?

3. The Good News (1 Peter 1:10-12)

Peter said the salvation God offers us is such an incredible gift that the Old Testament prophets who proclaimed the coming grace in the Messiah longed to know more. Though God revealed some about the Messiah to them, they did not fully comprehend what was coming. The Old Testament prophets’ careful investigation revealed that proclamations were for the future.

Peter’s letter told the believers that the time that the Old Testament prophets sought after and looked forward to had arrived. So great is the blessing of salvation that “angels long to catch a glimpse of these things” (v. 12).

- ❓ What did Peter say the prophets searched for? Why?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about the blessings of salvation in Christ?
- ❓ How do these verses impact your thinking about the importance of the gospel message?

Conclusion

Peter reminds us that trials and suffering aren’t optional, but part of the Christian life. Even in light of trials and suffering, we can have hope and rejoice because of our salvation and eternal destination. Our lives on earth are temporary, but eternity with the Lord awaits all believers.

We also rejoice knowing that, even in the hard times, God is working and helping strengthen our faith. Peter wrote that a faith that has been tested and remained true is “more valuable than gold” (v. 7). This honors God today, and will “result in praise, glory, and honor” (v. 7) at Jesus’s second coming.

- ❓ Consider the truth of salvation that Peter conveyed in his letter. How would you summarize this for someone who doesn’t yet know Jesus?
- ❓ How does the fact that our inheritance in Christ cannot be taken away give you hope for the future?
- ❓ What are some ways you could share your faith with others this week?