

Living Hope

Week 3 – Living Word

Transition: In last week's text Peter emphasized our response to our great salvation with three commands: set your hope on the future grace you have in Christ, be holy in all your conduct, and live your life before Christ with reverence and awe.

Context: In this week's text, Peter continues speaking about what living life in light of the Living Hope looks like in the Christian community. Peter shares two essentials (commands) that promote a healthy Christian community in a world that doesn't feel like home.

Opening Questions:

- What is one food that you crave more than all others? Where do you normally like to enjoy this food (cooking it at home, restaurant...)?
- Think of a product or food brand that you tried and stuck with because it was superior to what you had before. What made it better?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Discipleship Questions:

- Explain how love in the body of Christ would help these Gentile believers who were experiencing rejection, abuse, and other forms of persecution. How does love from others in the body of Christ help you personally during your hardships? How is God leading you to express love to others in the body?
- Explain how a purified life by obedience to God's word and the born again experience connects to the command to love one another.
- How have you seen malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander harm the body of Christ? How can you safeguard yourself against participating in these sins?
- How has the word of God and abiding in Christ grown you as a Christian? What kind of growth do you hope to see in your life this year as a result abiding in Christ and his word? How is God using you to help other believers grow?
- Describe to the group what your time in the word and time with Christ looks like. What are your biggest obstacles to maintaining this discipline? Explain what helps you overcome those obstacles.
- Share with the group the ways that you have tasted the Lord's goodness. How does tasting the Lord's goodness whet your appetite for more of Christ and more of his word?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: Upcoming Zimbabwe Mission Trip

- Pray for the Zimbabwe Mission trip team as they begin praying for the Pastors and families they will be training. Pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of those on the field in Zimbabwe, along with our team preparing to serve them.
- Pray for the Lord to have his will with all decisions made during the planning process of the April mission trip.