

Living Hope

Week 1 – A Living Hope

Transition: Last week we wrapped up our Christmas series, “A Weary World Rejoices.” In Isaiah 9:7, Isaiah expressed the certainty of the hope we have looked at throughout Isaiah 9:1-7. We learned that God will accomplish what he sets out to do.

Context: This week we start a new series through 1st & 2nd Peter. In this week’s text, Peter praises God for the believer’s new birth to a living hope, which rests on the resurrection of Jesus. This new birth leads to an eternal inheritance and is a source of true joy amid the various trials a believer will encounter in this life.

Opening Questions:

- If you have ever received an inheritance, what was it, and what made it special to you?
- What makes you hopeful? What brings about feelings of hopelessness in you?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Peter 1:1-12

Discipleship Questions:

- Why is it important to maintain a habit of praising God? What helps you foster an attitude of praise to God?
- Describe the impact that God causing you to be born again has had on your life. Share with the group your salvation experience.
- The believer’s new birth is “according to God’s great mercy.” How do you know God is a merciful God? What makes God’s mercy meaningful to you? Describe what causes you to struggle in showing mercy to others. How is God working in your life to overcome any reluctance in showing others mercy?
- Compare and contrast the hope you have in Christ with the things people look to for hope in this world. Describe any experience you have had in placing your hope in the things of this world and share what you learned from this experience.
- Not much is secure in our lives like our inheritance in Christ. What things in your life are perishing and fading? What difference does it make to you that your inheritance in Christ is secure?
- What is the link between the blessings mentioned in 1 Peter 1:3-5 and having joy in trials in 1:6-9? What is the purpose of trials and why would they be necessary? If any, what trials are you experiencing currently that are testing your faith? How does this passage encourage you in your trial? How can the group pray for you through your trial?
- What challenges hinder you from inquiring and searching God’s Word diligently rather than just relying on a favorite teacher or preacher? How do you stay motivated to spend quality time reading God’s Word?
- God revealed to the prophets that they were serving a future generation. How is God calling you to serve future generations of Christians to set them up for success?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: Hope Roberts

Pray that Hope would desire the Lord above all and prioritize her relationship with Him - 60 incoming students coming to the training center in August. - Health and endurance of their campus. Praise God for a great, restful, and rejuvenating time of being home with family and friends for the last month. - Praise God that Hope is going into the new year 100% funded!