

Community Groups – July 13, 2025 – A Special People: Soft Hearts

Getting Started

- What were you like as a child? Have you changed much over the years in regards to the kind of person you are?
- How would you describe your faith journey over the past decade (if you've been a believer that long)? What changes have you seen and what caused those changes?

Digging Into Scripture

- Peter talks about our new identity as a “special people” in chapters 1-2. What words, phrases or concepts have struck you?
- Read 1 Peter 3:8-12 together. Why does Peter use the word “finally?” How does this tie into the previous passages?
- In what ways does Peter draw a contrast between believers and non-believers?
- Read Psalm 34 which Peter references. Why might this specific psalm have had meaning for Peter in prison?
- What do you think is meant by the phrase “so that you may inherit a blessing?”
- What is the connection between the sympathy, compassion, brotherly love and humility? How is verse 8 a foundation for verse 9?
- How does this passage allow the believers in Asia Minor to show they are a special people?

Honest Reflection

- Ray asked us to think back on who we were 10 years ago. What changes have you seen in yourself? Why do you think we *don't* change as much as we would hope for? What prevents us from growing more in our faith?
- When have you seen yourself demonstrate a soft heart? Why was that?
- When have you seen yourself demonstrate a hard heart? Why was that?
- Which words does Peter use in verse 8 do you struggle with the most? When and why? Where have you seen breakthroughs?

Prayer Focus

- Give thanks for our new identity – and for the opportunity to live out that identity in a world that may not know the love of God or the power of the cross.
- Confess what situations are hardest for you to not respond with a soft heart. Or perhaps even what specific people cause hardness.
- Ask God to give you strength to control your tongue, your thoughts and your actions – to soften your heart and to grow in humility and compassion.
- Pray that you, too, may inherit the blessing of which Peter says we are called to receive.