

ANCHORED

finding hope in life's deep waters



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A Study in First Peter
January 9 & 10, 2010
Ron Zappia

"Finding Hope in my Faith"
1 Peter 1:1-12

Core Truth

God, in His mercy and through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, has given Christians a living hope that cannot be taken away, even though our lives may be filled with pain and suffering.

Getting Started

1. If you knew you were about to enter a difficult set of circumstances that would test your faith, how would you prepare yourself?
2. Read the passage from 1 Peter 1:1-12 aloud and allow the truths found here to penetrate your heart and mind.

Going Deeper

3. Peter speaks of the Christian's identity in verses 1 & 2 by using some specific words and phrases. Ron elaborated on these in his message. They are listed below – talk about their importance for you as a follower of Jesus.

Elect –

Exiles of the dispersion –

Foreknowledge of God –

Sanctification of the Spirit –

Obedience to Jesus Christ –

Sprinkling of His blood –

4. Jimmy Carter popularized the term, "born again" during his presidency of the United States from 1977-81 but the term has been around much longer than that, with roots in the Bible. Look at verse 3 and explore and discuss what Peter meant when he said, "according to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".
5. Our salvation is spoken of as an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. What does that mean and why is it more significant than receiving a 1990 Buick Park Avenue as an inheritance from his dad? How might what you discovered here about your inheritance affect your present priorities in life?

These questions will help you take home today's message and enable you to apply these truths throughout the week. Harvest small groups use similar questions for discussion. Small groups meet at various times and locations and are designed to fit your stage of life. If you're not in a small group but are interested in joining one, please contact us at 630.281.4800 or visit our website at www.harvestnaperville.org.

6. Paul talks about our spiritual inheritance in Ephesians 1:3-14 in a parallel passage to Peter's letter. You will note like I Peter 1:7, Paul uses the word, "to the praise of His glory" three times in Ephesians. What do praise and glory have to do with salvation?
7. I Peter 1:6-9 helps us realize how we should respond to all God has provided for us in verses 3-5 by stating "rejoicing with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory". Verse 6 tells us why we sometimes fail to respond to God in this way. Why are we sometimes not joyful?
8. Look at I Peter 1:7 and compare it to James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5. Give some reasons why God allows Christians to face trials and go through deep waters. What is He seeking to do in and through our lives?

Applying the Truth

9. Explain what your salvation and your eternal inheritance (see #5) means to you. What was your life like before?
10. If, in fact, God has chosen you and is challenging you, how are you experiencing lasting change in your life, even in the midst of the trials you face?
11. How are you using the pain, the difficulties, and the deep waters in your life, to advance the Kingdom of God? How will you leverage the trials in your life for Kingdom purposes? How are you helping others find and experience the hope of Christ that you have discovered?
12. Share with others in your group how they can pray for you in the week ahead as you seek to apply the truths that you have learned from God's Word in this study.

Memorize

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf

Hebrews 6:19-20 (ESV)

FAMILY QUESTION GUIDE: ASK YOUR KIDS

Did you know that your kids are studying the same topics as you?

If you have a student in 4th/5th grade, we're providing you with additional questions to ask them this week. These questions are meant to let you in on what they're learning and provide you with a way to come alongside your student and help them apply what they're learning on the weekends.

4th & 5th Graders:

- *What does the word **faith** mean and why is it important in my life?*
- *Is it easy or hard to have faith? How about when trials come into life?*
- *What kinds of things grow your faith? How can you grow your faith?*

Jr. & Sr. High:

- *What has God given us that has his power in it? answer: the gospel is the power of God for salvation*
- *Is there reason to be ashamed of the gospel? fear, doubt etc.?*
- *Have parent share how they feel about the sharing gospel. (times they have felt ashamed, times they have shared with others) good for full disclosure.*
- *For high school students: Are there times when your hurting so bad the gospel doesn't feel powerful at all?*