

ANCHORED

finding hope in life's deep waters



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A Study in First Peter
February 27 & 28, 2010
Ron Zappia

"Finding Hope this World"

1 Peter 4:1-11

These questions will help you take home today's message and 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 interested in joining one, please contact us at 630.281.4800 or visit our website at www.harvestnaperville.org.

Core Truth

We can find hope in this world when we live for Jesus and serve others with the gifts He has given us.

Getting Started

1. Read the passage from I Peter 4:1-11 aloud and let the Holy Spirit enable you to hear the truth that Peter is endeavoring to communicate to you.
2. In your opinion, what best distinguishes followers of Jesus (Christians) from those who are not followers of Jesus (non-Christians)?
3. Rehearse how your life is different now that you "live for the Lord". What do you have to celebrate as a result of what Jesus has done for you?

Going Deeper

4. What does the phrase in verse 1, "whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin" mean? Can it possibly mean that we no longer sin if we suffer? (See I John 1:8)
5. Peter makes it clear that we should no longer live for human passions but for the will of God. What specific human passions does he address and why is it important to avoid these actions, activities, and attitudes?
6. What is God's will for us? Review the four words all beginning with an "S" that Ron talked about in his message. Examine the following Scriptures as you ask yourself what area is most challenging for you.
 - S_____ I Timothy 2:4
 - S_____ I Thessalonians 4:3
 - S_____ I Peter 2:13-15
 - S_____ I Peter 4:19
7. In verse 4 Peter states that the Gentiles (a term he uses for non-believers) would be "surprised when you do not join them in their debauchery" and they "malign you". What is the meaning and significance of this statement and why does it matter?
8. When you think of "the end of all things is at hand", does it strike fear in your heart or eager anticipation? Why? Look at Philippians 3:17-21, Hebrews 9:27-28, Hebrews 10:37-39.

9. What specific instructions does Peter give in verses 7-11 that encourage believers to “do the right thing” as the end approaches? Why were these instructions important for believers then? for us now?

Verse 7 –

Verse 8 –

Verse 9 –

Verse 10 –

Verse 11 –

10. Peter encourages believers to utilize their gifts, as each one has been given gifts by the Holy Spirit, according to the biblical teaching, so that we can serve the church. See I Corinthians 12:7, 11. How are you using your gift(s) for the benefit of the church and the glory of God?

Applying the Truth

11. Think of the way of life Peter urges in the passage studied as well as the motives he gives. Is there anything in his words that you think should make a difference in the way YOU act in your current circumstances? Try to focus on one area for growth and look for ways to take on Christ's attitude in that area.
12. Three areas that were central to Ron's message focused on praying effectively, loving earnestly, and giving hospitably. Who are you helping in need? Are you seeing through God's eyes? What specific area is God speaking to you about? Ask Him to reveal Himself to you and seek to walk in steps of obedience as you respond to Him.
13. There seems to be a sense of urgency in Peter's words in these verses. How can you, as a result of being exposed to this teaching, endure suffering, embrace hope, and embody the example of Jesus Christ, in your relationships at home, in the church, in your workplace, at school, and in the world in which you live? Be specific in your answers.

FAMILY QUESTIONS: 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, junior high, or high school, 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.

Here some questions to ask your kids following the weekend services:

4th-5th Graders, Jr. High and High School:

- What do you not do anymore because you are a Christian?
- What do you do differently because you are a Christian?
- What specific thing is God calling you to do because of the lesson?
- How are you using the gifts that God has given you to help meet the needs of the church body?