

# ANCHORED

*finding hope in life's deep waters*



## ANCHORED

A Study in First Peter  
January 30 & 31, 2010  
Ron Zappia

"Finding Hope in my  
Future"  
1 Peter 2:1-12

***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](http://www.harvestnaperville.org).***

### Core Truth

In order to find hope in my future, I must connect with other believers in the church to experience growth in Jesus.

### *Getting Started*

1. What does the spiritual house YOU are becoming look like TODAY? Describe the exterior, the interior, and the condition of one of the rooms. Do you have hope in its present condition? Does anything need to change? Why or why not?
2. Read the passage from 1 Peter 2:1-12 aloud and ask the Lord to give you clear insights as your group seeks to unpack the truth found in it.

### *Going Deeper*

3. For believers to experience hope, Peter speaks of five attitudes/behaviors in verse 1 and listed below, that must be removed from one's life. Please discuss the meaning of each one and talk about at least one of them that poses a problem for you. Why is it best for that behavior/attitude to be removed from your life?
  - malice –
  - deceit–
  - hypocrisy –
  - envy -
  - slander –
4. Psalm 1:1-2 is a picture of a person who is grounded in truth. You cannot get a dose of hope without experiencing growth and maturity in Jesus Christ. Why, according to Peter, is God's Word so crucial in this process?
5. Peter describes Jesus as "a living stone" in verse 4. The word for living is the same one used by Jesus in John 4:10 when He talked to the Samaritan woman and in John 6:51 when He spoke to the Jews. Read these passages and share why each of these descriptions of Jesus had significance then and now.

6. Webster defines the word, cornerstone, as “a stone which lies at the corner of two walls and serves to unite them; specifically, a stone built into the corner of the foundation of an important edifice as the actual starting point in the building”. Peter describes Jesus as the cornerstone in verses 6-7. Paul, likewise, in Ephesians 2:20-22 describes Jesus as the cornerstone. What are the ramifications of these statements as they relate to hope?
7. If we want to find hope, Ron suggested that we must be connected or linked up not to the church as a building or a structure of bricks and mortar but rather as a part of the people of God. He talked about the four C’s of connectedness in his message. What are they and how will they provide hope for us?
8. In verses 9-10, Peter describes believers as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for his own possession”. Talk about those descriptions in light of the amazing purpose that follows – “that you may PROCLAIM the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light”. Are you experiencing hope as you share your faith with others? If not, why not? What will it take for you to make this a priority in your life?
9. God wants to give you the strength to overcome so that you can experience hope. Peter urges believers in verses 11 -12, to “abstain from the passions of the flesh”. Why is this so important? Is it important to you? Why or why not?

### *Applying the Truth*

10. What evidences have you seen of a war being waged in your life? Where are the battle lines drawn? How are you experiencing hope as a result of the decisions you are making these days?
11. How would you explain to a person who has not yet embraced faith in Jesus Christ, the difference between his relationship to God and your own? Can you think of a specific person you would like to share this truth with this week?
12. Choose an area you need to work on in the next thirty (30) days that you have become convicted of as a result of the discoveries from this passage and Ron’s message. How will you find hope in your future? Be specific and share with the group asking for their prayers. Rehearse the promise of John 15:5 – “for apart from me, you can do nothing.”

### *Memorize*

*Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

*1 Peter 2:2-3 (ESV)*

### **Ask Your Kids:**

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

If you have a student in 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> 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 Sr. High:**

- Make a plan to stop doing a specific behavior that is wrong. Write it out.
- Develop a list of things that you want to grow up in right now. (Examples: prayer, doing good to others, reading the Bible, speech, etc.)
- How can you grow in these areas by linking up with other believers?