

ANCHORED

finding hope in life's deep waters



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A Study in First Peter
January 23-24, 2010
Ron Zappia

"Finding Hope in my Past"
1 Peter 1:13-25
Week #2

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.

Anchored – Finding Hope in Life's Deep Waters

Core Truth

So many people live trying to get free from their pasts, but as followers of Jesus with eyes fixed on Him, we know that we can have hope . . . even in our pasts.

Getting Started

1. We all have "a past" which we may not be too proud of remembering. As we have embraced Jesus as our Savior, our lives have been redeemed and transformed. In light of that thought, what pressures does our society place on you which may be associated with "evil desires" and "passions of your former ignorance"?
2. Read the passage from I Peter 1:13-25 aloud and allow the truth found in this passage to penetrate your heart and mind. Ask the Holy Spirit to make these words "come alive" for you.

Going Deeper

3. In view of our salvation and our position in Jesus Christ, consider the five exhortations in verses 13-16 and talk about the meaning and importance of each one:
 - "Prepare your minds for action" –
 - "Be sober-minded" –
 - "Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" –
 - "Do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance" –
 - "Be holy in all your conduct" –
4. What makes each of the exhortations examined in the previous question possible in our own lives? Please see verses 17-21 for the reasons that Peter states we can live, embracing each of these seemingly impossible demands, making them not mere words but reality in our lives.

5. Peter calls us to “love one another earnestly from a pure heart” in verse 22. Do you find it difficult to love the unlovable, the cantankerous, the arrogant, and the ones who rub you the wrong way? If it is possible to love as Peter says, how must our perspective change and what promises from this passage can we cling to and claim so that we can experience victory in this area?
6. Ron stated that “your past is never an obstacle to God”. Why, based on Scripture, can he make such an emphatic statement? How have you found this to be true in your life?
7. Proverbs 13:20 says, “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm”. Paul says in I Corinthians 11:1 – “Be imitators of me as I am of Christ”. Who do you know that best resembles Jesus in your life? Who do you know that follows Him with their whole heart? Are you choosing to follow them? If not, why not?
8. This passage ends with some very important realities in verses 24-25. What did Peter have to say and why is it so crucial to understand these words?

Applying the Truth

9. Four words formed the outline for this message – FOCUS, FOLLOW, FEAR, and LOVE. Which one did you center on during communion this weekend? What was the Holy Spirit saying to you about that word as it related to your own living? Share what you are trusting God to do in your life as it relates to that word.
10. We know what Peter is calling us to do in verse 22 concerning LOVE and we know why it is possible to live a life of love. So, without giving names, who do you need to reach out to in love and how do you intend to do it this week?
11. Share with others in your group how they can specifically pray for you in the week ahead as you sincerely seek to apply the truths that you have learned from God’s Word in this study.

Memorize

“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.” I Peter 1:13-15 (ESV)

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, 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 are things you think about most often? Are they worth following?*
- *Who or what are you following each day? Are they worth following?*
- *Do you fear God when you are doing what is wrong? Why/why not?*
- *How can we love people as much as Jesus loves us?*

Jr. & Sr. High:

- *What is Grace?*
- *How do we live once we’ve experienced God’s grace?*