



ON THIS ROCK

LIFE GROUP **LEADER** PACKET

APRIL 11 - JUNE 6, 2021

On This Rock!

11 - April Peter Reinstated - A Life Changed by Christ	John 21
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When I think of Simon I don't really think of his occupation. He was a Galilean fisherman. 'Was', being the key word. The trade of Peter that first comes to my mind is the one that of a 'Fisher of Men'. Peter was a pillar and shepherd of the early church. Peter built his life on the foundation of Jesus and Jesus gave him the 'stone' nickname. Yes, the same Jesus, that Peter abandoned and denied knowing three times. Jesus was chiseling this Simon into a 'rock' (Peter) for His Church and Kingdom. It wasn't until after Jesus' resurrection, his repentance and the Holy Spirit's indwelling that Simon Peter became the leader and man of Jesus' shaping. His transformation brought fulfillment to the nickname and filled him with hope, grace, power, wisdom and leadership. In this series we will follow and listen to Peter who will challenge us to change and to live on the only Rock. Peter will prepare us for suffering and inform us concerning the Day of the Lord. Get ready for lessons on exposing false teachers, living by grace and not losing hope. He will teach us his trade of being 'fishers of men' so that when Jesus does return we all will be ready for Eternity.

**At Living Hope, we believe that we must be
connected relationally to grow spiritually.**

Purpose of Lifegroups

We exist to reach the world for Jesus, one person at a time. We feel that is best done in small, relational environments where biblical disciples can be made. Life Groups are the primary vehicle by which we carry out the vision and mission of Living Hope Community Church. We will be a church that makes disciples, who make disciples of Jesus.

Vision: The vision of our Life Groups is to provide a spiritual community where groups of people are transformed into the image of Christ, growing in their understanding of God's story, and living it out in the context of loving accountability and expected reproduction.

We believe that a definition of a disciple is found in Matthew 4:19: *And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."* Here is how we define disciple: (1) A disciple knows and follows Christ; (2)

I Thessalonians 2

So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments".

John 15:4-5

Remain in Me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing."

We believe that we cannot grow spiritually if we are not connected relationally

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age".

Acts 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

SAFE GROUP: We will strive to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest with their struggles and victories.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Let's value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond, or what you are going to say next.

PAUSE: Allow a pause in conversation after someone shares. Give the person sharing the chance to finish and the group the opportunity to consider what was just shared before responding.

SILENCE: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for someone to share and for members in the group to process the topic or questions being considered.

NO "CROSS TALK": Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.

NO FIXING: We are not here to fix each other. Jesus does that part. Give encouragement; speak truth; and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

NO RESCUING: When people are sharing something deeply personal, there can be a tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or the situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause them to stop sharing. Resist the temptation to rescue people.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share.

BE SELF-AWARE: Be self-aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

USE "I" STATEMENTS: It's easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "us", "we", etc.

CONFLICT: We will commit to resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we want to make sure that we are honoring God and each other in the way we deal with these issues. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard (there are many others):

If someone sins against you – Matthew 18:15-20
Restoring someone in sin – Galatians 6:1-5
Forgive a sinner – Colossians 3:12-13
Reconciling differences – Matthew 5:23-26, Matthew 7:1-5

Step 1: Welcome:

- Members, visitors, and new believers feel valued and welcomed...
- Starts the moment someone arrives and ends when everyone is gone.

Step 2: Opening Prayer:

- Invites God's Holy Spirit into our presence to prepare our hearts for what God has for us.

Step 3: Purpose/Vision Casting:

- Encourages relationships with God and relationships with others.
- Expresses the purpose of meeting together as a life group and challenges one another to grow and multiply (Branching).

Step 4: Group Guidelines: (see page 5)

Step 5: Follow Up:

- How did last week's discussion impact your week? or
- What did you take away from the sermon? or
- What are you thankful for?

Step 6: Setting the scene:

- Discuss the background to today's passage and the target for today's discussion.

Step 7: Tell the story:

- Read or Tell the passage. Rebuild the story: have the group recreate the passage together.
- Ask if anything was left out?

Step 8: Debrief the story:

- Ask Head (what the Word says), Heart (wrestle with what we believe), and then Hands Questions (bring truth and belief into our everyday realities).
- Remember the 'discussion idea' to help you focus the direction of the discussion.

Step 9: Close in prayer:

- Share personal prayer requests and give everyone an opportunity to pray.



BIBLICAL FOUNDATION FOR RELATIONSHIP

The Bible alone gives a clear and complete picture of what God wants done—His mission—and how He wants it done—His methods. The purpose of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus who can make disciples of Jesus. We do this with the understanding that relationship is the key vehicle.



INTENTIONAL LEADER

An intentional leader understands that part of their role is to reach the lost, make disciples of Jesus, and create Christ-centered environments where disciple-making can happen. They understand where a person is spiritually and what is needed to help them grow.



RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

This is a group facilitated by a leader who is intentionally modeling spiritual fruit. They are doing life together with a kingdom mindset. The relationships go beyond just the group time. These relationships press into areas of privacy, transparency, and vulnerability.



REPRODUCIBLE DISCIPLE-MAKING PROCESS

This is the process for developing people toward Christ-likeness.

This includes three parts:

“My Part” the discipler; “Their Part” the disciple, and “God’s Part”.

Leaders understand the Stages of Spiritual Growth and can identify where a person is spiritually and help them mature and grow at each stage.

Tips for Asking Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS: The following questions are examples that will help you have a base to begin with and will give you ideas for developing your own questions. Be intentional to ask all three types of questions (head, heart, hands) as you lead your discussion.

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What do you see God doing, saying, or showing about Himself?
- Who are the people and what is going on with them?
- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think the main point is?
- What does this show us about _____?

You can fill in the blank with - God/man/_____?

(Or the topic of discussion such as worship)

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What do you see about yourself?
- Have you known anyone who is an example of this?
- What has it looked like when you have or have not known/believed/lived this in your life?
- What questions does this raise for you?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- What is one way you can apply this to your life this week?
- What are you challenged to think/believe/do differently because of this passage and our discussion?
- How can you use this to disciple others?
- How does this impact you? Your relationship with _____?
(Fill in with: family, fellow believers, work-place or community.)

APPLICATION

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS:

Asking a question after hearing someone's response helps people process and gives everyone better understanding. Follow up questions come from a heart of being interested, curious, and seeking to understand and draw out. They are not intended to grill or corner people.

- What has brought you to that understanding?
- What would be an example?
- Explain a little more.
- What might be another way to look at it?
- How does _____ affect _____?
- What does it mean?

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the Fruit of The Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also, use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *Share a time when you went fishing. What happened? Did you like it? What do you remember most?*
- *Share how Jesus has changed your life. What difference does He make? Why do you love Him?*
- *Share something you would change about yourself if you could.*

SERIES THEME: On This Rock!

WEEK 1: Peter Reinstated - A Life Changed by Christ

TEXT: John 21: 4-19

4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." **6** He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. **7** That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. **8** The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. **9** When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. **10** Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." **11** So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. **12** Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. **13** Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. **14** This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. **15** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." **16** He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." **17** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. **18** Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." **19** (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

TELL THE STORY: Read John 21:4-19

DEBRIEF THE STORY: Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity? about Peter?
- Share some of the very specific details that John includes in these verses about the breakfast, net, fish, conversation, future, words and responses. Why such a detailed description?
- What are some of the 'other' fishing stories that include the disciples?
- What is the significance to Jesus asking Peter three times if he loves Him?
- What do notice about Peter's response and his attitude?
- What does Jesus say to him after each response? Is that significant?
- What is the meaning of verse 18? (II Peter 1:13-15)
- Has the Holy Spirit been given yet? Are the disciples in a familiar place? At the location where God asked them to be? Why do you think Jesus wanted to meet them here? What difference does the Holy Spirit make?

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Describe a time of reconciliation in your life?
- Do you feel purpose and have a sense of mission as you live? Explain.
- Why do you think the disciples went back to fishing? Have you ever, like Jonah, rebelled and run away from God or like the disciples, had an apprehension in fully engaging in the Great Commission? What is stopping you from full obedience or full engagement?
- What do you think some of the breakfast conversation included? What would you have asked Jesus at this point if you were one of His disciples?
- How can someone live on mission for God as a fisherman or in any occupation?
- Do you feel unusable? Have any regrets that make you unworthy and unfit for God's approval or service? As a group share the heart of God for those who are believing that about themselves. Take some time for confession, repentance, and prayer.

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Who may God be calling you to 'feed my lambs?' Do you know how? Can you lead a discussion using Scripture and this material? Start with who you are, where you are and with the very people that you know!
- Jesus is alive and wants to spend time with you! Are you spending daily time with Him?
- Take time to talk about calling. How might God use your Spiritual gifts, Abilities, Passions, and Experience to build His Kingdom?
- Everyone is a Minister of God (not just pastors!). How can you be His mouth, hands and feet this week?
- Focus on one takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/believe/ do differently in your life?

APPLICATION

Close in Prayer

Bring to God the ideas and topics that you raised in the above questions. Listen to the Spirit as you pray.

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BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

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VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *What are you thankful for today? How did last time's discussion impact your week? Where did you step out in obedience this past week? What did you take away from the sermon?*
- *Share one of your most valuable possessions. Why is it worth so much to you? How do you keep it safe and protect it?*
- *Would you rather laugh all day or be in awe for a whole day? Explain.*

SERIES THEME: On This Rock!

WEEK 2: Living Hope

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:1-12

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! 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, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, **11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. **12** It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

TELL THE STORY: Read 1 Peter 1

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What do we learn about God the Father and Jesus Christ from these verses?
- What do these verses teach us about humanity and our great salvation?
- What is the basis of our Living Hope?
- What are the characteristics of our inheritance?
- What are purposes of our trials?
- What does God's power protect?
- What does genuine faith produce?
- What did the prophets understand about our future salvation? What do the angels understand? What did Peter understand?
- What do we see the Holy Spirit accomplishing in this passage? (vs. 5, 8, 11 & 12)
- What should be the source of a believer's joy?
- What title for Jesus is used 7x in the first 12 verses? Why is that important to Peter? What does Peter want us to understand about Jesus concerning this?

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Describe your spiritual inheritance with three different words than those used in verse 5.
- What Scriptures come to your mind when you think about predicted sufferings concerning the coming Messiah?
- How can our salvation fill us with joy and glory? Share a time, in spite of difficult circumstances, that you were filled with this joy and glory.
- How is genuine faith much more precious and lasting than gold? Which would you rather have? Why don't we view our faith as that valuable?
- How do we have a 'Living' hope? What does that mean? (think growing, future, and vs. 4)
- What about your personal inheritance, which is kept by God for you, gives you joy and helps you persevere in trials?
- In vs 8-9 we understand that our joy is rooted in our present trust and love of who?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- How can you be more rooted in love and trust of Jesus? Consider memorizing a verse or two from this passage. Say it everyday when you wake up and throughout the day. Ask God to make these truths real in your life and the source of your joy.
- How would you use these verses to disciple someone?
- Consider giving a material 'inheritance' away this week. Do it as a reminder that you have a far superior spiritual inheritance kept for you in Heaven.
- Consider 10 sufferings of Jesus and 10 aspects of His future glory. Praise God for these 20!
- This list of 20 can be used by you to preach the good news to a needy soul this week. Who specifically can you share these truths with this week?

APPLICATION

Close in Prayer

Bring to God the ideas and topics that you raised in the above questions. Listen to the Spirit as you pray.

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BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the Fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *What are you thankful for today? How did last time's discussion impact your week? Where did you step out in obedience this past week? What did you take away from the sermon?*
- *Take some time to talk about rocks. Anyone collect rocks? Have a favorite color, size, type or surface? Can you skip stones? Have you ever found one too big to move? What do they make you think about?*
- *Describe a time that you were in a place that was completely foreign to you. What did it feel like to be an outsider? To not speak the language or know how to get around? What helped you get comfortable and begin to warm up to the people and place?*

SERIES THEME: On This Rock!

WEEK 3: Living Cornerstone

TEXT: 1 Peter 2:1-17

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. **2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. **4** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” **7** So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” **8** and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. **9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. **11** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **12** Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. **13** Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, **14** or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. **15** For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. **16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. **17** Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

Tell The Story: Read 1 Peter 2:1-17

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God? What about humanity?
- What should we put away and long for in these verses? What is the pure spiritual milk?
- What from this passage explains the 'living stones' reference?
- What Old Testament references and pictures do you see in this passage? What is the significance? (Isa. 28:16 in v. 6; Ps. 118:22 in v. 7; Isa. 8:14 in v. 8)
- How are believers today, living stones, like priests in the Old Testament?
- What are some of the responsibilities of believers in these verses? (especially 9-17)
- What should be the believers' relationship to the world? to the government? to believers? to the passions of the flesh?
- What is the will of God for a believer's conduct out in the world as described in these verses?
- Share how you have 'tasted' that Jesus is good.

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- For spiritual growth to be effective and lasting one must rid themselves from evil including the actions of verse one. How are you doing with this?
- How is Jesus, the Living Stone, far superior to the old temple and its sacrifices?
- How does our new identity, as told in verse 9, change our reality and build our confidence and faith? How has mercy received changed your life?
- What would your neighbors and community think about your conduct? Would they see your good deeds? Would they see you subject to every human institution? Explain areas of strength and weakness.
- How could viewing ourselves as 'sojourners' and 'exiles' impact our lives? Where are you too attached? How can you be more heavenly minded and focused?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- What are some ways that you and your life group can use your freedom as servants of God? What are some of the needs in your community? Take a walk in your community together. Write down and discuss all that you see and hear that could be opportunities to serve. (ex. helping someone replace a fence, mulch/weed, fix a problem, get to know one another, etc.)
- Peter was a rock. Jesus was the cornerstone. How can you embrace the title of 'living stones'? Can living stones make a difference in the world? Painting rocks has become popular in towns. Consider painting some rocks for Christ. What would you paint? Where would you put them?
- There are some great identity verses in this passage that detail our new standing and destiny. Consider writing them out, memorizing or using a creative way to apply these images in your life.
- Focus on one takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/believe/do differently in your life?
- Remember, Jesus was rejected and persecuted so that you will not be put to shame! Keep a rock in your pocket this week to remind you.

APPLICATION

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features 20 evenly spaced horizontal blue lines across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The lines are consistent in color and thickness throughout.

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

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OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. "

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *What are you thankful for today? How did last time's discussion impact your week? Where did you step out in obedience this past week? What did you take away from the sermon?*
- *What is your favorite flower? Why is that? Do you enjoy gardening? Explain.*
- *Have you been baptized? Describe that step of faith and experience. If you haven't been baptized what is stopping you?*

SERIES THEME: On This Rock!

WEEK 4: Living in The Spirit

TEXT: 1 Peter 3:8-22

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. **9** Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. **10** For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; **11** let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. **12** For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." **13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? **14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, **15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. **17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. **18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, **19** in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, **20** because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. **21** Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, **22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

TELL THE STORY: Read 1 Peter 3:8-22

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God and Jesus? What does it teach us about humanity?
- What responsibilities stand out to you in verses 8-11 in how we should treat one another?
- What reasons does Peter give us in verses 9, 10 and 12 for this kind of behavior?
- What should be your response for suffering for righteousness' sake? Why is it good to suffer for doing good and not evil?
- How should you give a defense? Why is that important?
- Jesus paid the penalty for our sins! How was Jesus put to death in the flesh and made alive in the Spirit? For what reason?
- What does this passage teach us about the days of Noah? (see notes below for more info)
- What does Peter say about Baptism in this passage? How is it different than Romans 6?
- What authority and power does Jesus actually have right now? Explain what that means.
- What is made possible by the resurrection of Jesus from the grave?

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Does God have eyes, ears, and a face? How is He against those that do evil?
- Share a time when you were slandered or mistreated for your faith. What did you do and how did you feel? What came about in the end?
- How important is a good conscience and how do you develop one?
- What current negative circumstance is giving you the opportunity to do good?
- In Christ we escape judgment like Noah in the ark. In what sense are we unharmed by the judgment of God? What will unbelievers face?
- How can we increase our zealotry for what is good? What is our role and what is the Holy Spirit's role in this process?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- How would you and your life group give a defense for the hope that you have in the following questions: Why do you give a portion of your money to the church every payday? Why are you faithful in marriage when the spouse isn't so loving? Why do you have so many rules and discipline in your home? How can you honor a loving God when there is so much evil and death in the world? How can you believe a book so full of stories and hate speech? How can you prove Jesus' resurrection? So every other religion is false, wrong, and ends in destruction?
- Remember the whole theme of this book emphasizes the temporal nature of suffering compared with enjoying an eternal inheritance. How can you help each other anchor there?
- If verse 22 is true, then we truly have an Almighty Advocate interceding on our behalf. Raise a Hallelujah of prayer/praise to God thanking Jesus for our future ascension and ruling with Him and asking Jesus for boldness and fearlessness in living for Him today.

APPLICATION

Close in Prayer

Bring to God the ideas and topics that you raised in the above questions. Listen to the Spirit as you pray.

[illegible]

The issues that commentaries disagree on are...

1. Who are the spirits in prison?
 - unbelievers who have died?
 - Old Testament believers who have died?
 - fallen angels?
2. What did Christ preach?
 - second chance for repentance?
 - completion of redemptive work?
 - final condemnation?
3. When did he preach?
 - in the days of Noah?
 - between His death and resurrection?
 - after His resurrection?

...Our conclusions on this passage may now be expressed in an extended paraphrase: 'In the spiritual realm of existence Christ went and preached through Noah to those who are now spirits in the prison of hell. This happened when they formerly disobeyed, when the patience of God was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In its context, this passage thus functions (1) to encourage the readers to bear witness boldly in the midst of hostile unbelievers, just as Noah did; (2) to assure them that though they are few, God will surely save them; (3) to remind them of the certainty of final judgment and Christ's ultimate triumph over all the forces of evil which oppose them. This passage, similarly understood, can provide similar encouragement to Peter's readers today.

...This interpretation is very appropriate to the larger context of 3:13–22. The parallel between the situation of Noah and the situation of Peter's readers is clear at several points:

1. Noah and his family were a minority surrounded by hostile unbelievers; so are Peter's readers (vv. 13–14; 4:4, 12–13).
2. Noah was righteous in the midst of a wicked world. Peter exhorts his readers to be righteous in the midst of wicked unbelievers (vv. 13–14, 16–17; 4:3–4).
3. Noah witnessed boldly to those around him. Peter encourages his readers to be good witnesses to unbelievers around them (vv. 14, 16–17), being willing to suffer, if need be, to bring others to God (just as Christ was willing to suffer and die 'that he might bring us to God', v. 18).

4. Noah realized that judgment was soon to come upon the world. Peter reminds his readers that God's judgment is certainly coming, perhaps soon (4:5, 7; 2 Pet. 3:10).
5. In the unseen 'spiritual' realm Christ preached, through Noah, to unbelievers around him. By saying this, Peter can remind his readers of the reality of Christ's work in the unseen spiritual realm and the fact that Christ is also in them, empowering their witness and making it spiritually effective (1:8,11,12,25; 2:4). Therefore, they should not fear (v. 14) but in their hearts should 'reverence Christ as Lord' and should 'always be prepared' to tell of the hope that is in them (v. 15).
6. At the time of Noah, God was patiently awaiting repentance from unbelievers, before He brought judgment. So, it is in the situation of Peter's readers: God is patiently awaiting repentance from unbelievers (2 Pet, 3:9) before bringing judgment on the world (2 Pet. 3:10).
7. Noah was finally saved, with 'a few' others. Peter thus encourages his readers that, though perhaps few, they too will finally be saved, for Christ has triumphed and has all things subject to him (3:22; 4:13, 19; 5:10; 2 Pet. 2:9). This passage, once cleared of misunderstanding, should also function today as an encouragement to us to be bold in our witness (as Noah was). To be confident that, though we may be few, God will certainly save us (as he did Noah), and to remind us that just as certainly as the flood eventually came, so final judgment will certainly come to our world as well, and Christ will ultimately triumph over all the evil in the universe.

Grudem, W. A. (1988). [*1 Peter: an introduction and commentary*](#) (Vol. 17, pp. 168–169, 211–212, 248). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP

- *What are you thankful for today? How did last time's discussion impact your week? Where did you step out in obedience this past week? What did you take away from the sermon?*
- *What two radio stations do you listen to in the car the most?*
- *If you could hire someone to help you, what would it be with? cleaning? cooking? yard work?*

SERIES THEME: On This Rock!

WEEK 5: Living Grace

TEXT: 1 Peter 4: 1-19

4:1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. **3** For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. **4** With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; **5** but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **6** For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. **7** The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. **8** Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. **9** Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **12** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. **14** If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. **15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. **16** Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. **17** For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? **18** And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" **19** Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

TELL THE STORY: Read 1 Peter 4: 1-19

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What does this passage specifically teach us about God? What does it specifically teach us about humanity? Circle all the names for God in this passage.
- What is the 'therefore' about in verse 1? What is the 'way of thinking' of Jesus from chapter 3 regarding suffering? How should it impact the way we live?
- What are the old ways of living that we should avoid as believers free from sin? What will be the world's response?
- What does verse 6 teach us about believers who have died?
- List 5-7 things we should do in response to the consummation of all things being imminent.
- What do we learn about spiritual gifts from verses 7-11?
- What should be the Christian's response to suffering from verses 12-19? Should suffering be expected? Give 3 reasons of explanation for when fiery trials come.

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- When we die we will be free from sin. Praise the Lord! Is that appealing to you? Does that change the way you think about death?
- Suffering can bring about sanctification. How have you experienced this in your life?
- Do you think we are near the 'consummation of all things?' Explain. What impact does that understanding have for you?
- What joy and purpose have you seen when using your gifts to build up the Body of Christ?
- What are some of the unfortunate ways that believers have lived and brought shame to the name of Jesus and judgment to themselves?
- Compare and contrast the judgment of believers on earth for righteousness with the judgment reserved for those that reject Jesus?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Share with each other your spiritual gifts. If you don't know what your gifts are please take the test on our website. https://livinghopepa53.servewireapp.com/survey/?id=2&srv=12_10_11 or click 'Spiritual Gifts' under the 'Resources' tab on our home page.
- Repent of your sins. Leave those futile and temporary evils for true glory, pleasure, and peace. Ask God to change your heart and bring about His righteousness and a disgust for selfishness. Live by the Spirit and not the flesh. Allow suffering to mature you and free you.
- Focus on one takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/believe/do differently in your life?
- 'Let it begin with the household of God'...Discuss how God may be purging and strengthening the church. What role will you and your Life Group play in this?

APPLICATION

Close in Prayer

Bring to God the ideas and topics that you raised in the above questions. Listen to the Spirit as you pray.

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *What are you thankful for today? How did last time's discussion impact your week? Where did you step out in obedience this past week? What did you take away from the sermon?*
- *What food is the most tempting for you? What makes resisting it so difficult? How bad is your self-control? How often do you have it?*
- *Can you name a famous adversary or feud? Why does that stand out to you? (ex. Potter vs Voldemort, Hamilton and Burr, Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots, Steve Jobs and Bill Gates)*

SERIES THEME: On This Rock!

WEEK 6: Living Leadership

TEXT: 1 Peter 5

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: **2** shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **3** not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. **4** And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. **5** Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” **6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, **7** casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. **8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. **10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. **11** To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **12** By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. **13** She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. **14** Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

TELL THE STORY: Read 1 Peter 5

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author’s terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

OBSERVATION

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about humanity?
- What does this passage teach us about being an elder? Why is it similar to 'shepherding'? Who is the chief shepherd? What does Peter say about his eldership?
- Who is the devil compared to in this passage? What does that teach us about him?
- What is your role in facing suffering? What is God's role in facing suffering? What is the role of other believers?
- Who is Silvanus, and Mark? Where is 'Babylon'? What is this 'kiss of love'?
- Why is humility so important in our spiritual journey?
- How does God oppose the proud? How does He give grace to the humble?
- How has Peter been a shepherd to his audience of this letter? What has he said to equip them, protect them, and love them?

HEART

INTERPRETATION

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What are some of the devils 'schemes' and strategies for attacking believers? How has he tempted believers throughout the Bible and throughout time? (see the temptation of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, the temptation of Jesus in Matt. 4 and also I John 2:16-17) How can you resist him in the faith, faithfully and victoriously?
- How did Peter do with temptation? Where in this passage do you see details of the interaction with Jesus in the garden before His arrest? What lessons do you think he learned?
- How do you go about 'casting all your anxieties on Him'? Are there any tell tale signs that you have done this? Is it difficult to do this? Explain.
- Why is it important for people to desire eldership? Why should it not be done in a domineering way? How have you interacted and corresponded with Living Hope's elders?
- How encouraging is it to know that your sufferings have been experienced by the brotherhood throughout the world? Do you ever feel alone in your suffering?
- Have you ever experienced leadership that desired power and/or gain? How destructive and frustrating can that be for everyone?

HANDS

APPLICATION

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Can you name the eight current elders at Living Hope? Who have you met? Can you include them in your prayers this week? Have you ever desired a position of leadership at church? Where are you currently serving and using your gifts? Pray for wisdom as they lead the church.
- Read Philippians 2 and think through humility. What attitude and actions should this include? How can you exhibit humility this week? Who can you consider better than yourself?
- How can you use this passage to disciple someone?
- What was your favorite metaphor, command, or word picture? How can you use those this week to share the gospel? Would your neighbors understand the devil as a roaring lion?
- What verse from this passage can you memorize this week? Transform your mind!

Close in Prayer

Bring to God the ideas and topics that you raised in the above questions. Listen to the Spirit as you pray.

[illegible]

[illegible]

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *What are you thankful for today? How did last time's discussion impact your week? Where did you step out in obedience this past week? What did you take away from the sermon?*
- *What does a flower or your lawn need to grow strong and healthy? What is in your control and what is out of your control? What are some threats to the flower's vibrancy?*
- *Can you share a piece of life advice or example from someone you loved? Who has since passed? that has inspired and impacted your life? What compelled you to remember it and allow it to influence you?*

SERIES THEME: On This Rock**WEEK 7: Living Power****TEXT: 2 Peter 1:3-21**

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, **4** by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. **5** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, **6** and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, **7** and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. **8** For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. **10** Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. **11** For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **12** Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. **13** I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, **14** since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. **15** And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. **16** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," **18** we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. **19** And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, **20** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

TELL THE STORY: Read II Peter 1:3-21

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about humanity?
- Where is Peter at this time and at what time in his life is he writing this letter?
- What has God's divine power and nature made possible for us? And what is this power?
- God's provision is great, but what are our responsibilities in our spiritual growth?
- If we continue to add to our faith and grow in Christlikeness what will be true about our calling, life, and future glory?
- Peter will clear up some objections and threats to the faith, but in vs. 12-15 why does he say that he is writing this letter?
- What event does Peter describe as being an eyewitness of His majesty? (Matt. 17, Mk. 9, Lk. 9)
- What do these verses teach us about Scripture and prophesy?

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Share some of the promises of God that have propelled you to grow in your faith and be effective in the world. Share some of the Old Testament scriptures and prophecies that point to Jesus and that He fulfilled in His life, death, and resurrection.
- How important is an eye witness testimony? What should someone consider when listening to someone's story and proof? Is Peter a credible witness? Explain.
- Which one of the seven virtues do you need to add to your faith? (goodness, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, Godliness, brotherly kindness, or love)
- What role does forgiveness play in your continued spiritual growth? (forgiveness from God!) What are ways that you can live this Gospel everyday?
- What are some current myths and deceptions about the Gospel that are in the world today?
- Do you struggle with your election and calling? If so, explain why?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Take time to write out some of the promises of God. Read I and II Peter and note all the promises to claim, truths to believe, sins to confess, actions to avoid, and examples to follow.
- Discuss how you can grow in your knowledge of prophesy together.
- Prayer is such a wonderful unifying experience for believers that can allow the Holy Spirit to convict, guide, challenge, and lead one another in godliness. Make sure you leave room for prayer time during this meeting. Pray through these promises and truths in each other's lives. ("Prayer is not an exercise, it is the life" O. Chambers)
- Take an evaluation of your life. If you were granted 15 more years of life what would you begin doing, stop doing, or make sure you passed on to others?
- Stop a negative habit and start a new spiritual discipline today! Loving God and others is the end goal! Share what you are considering.

APPLICATION

Close in Prayer

Bring to God the ideas and topics that you raised in the above questions. Listen to the Spirit as you pray.

[illegible]

BEFORE GROUP STARTS — YOUR ROLE:

Read through the curriculum and discussion passages. Be aware of what God is showing you personally. Pray for your group members. What do you see God doing in each of them? What is God's part and what is your part as you walk with them? Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law."

WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

You don't need to read this every week but initially, when someone new comes, and when the series or topic changes is a good time to reorient yourselves to the guidelines. This helps set the tone for the group and helps everyone have clear expectations for each other.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- What are you thankful for today? How did last time's discussion impact your week? Where did you step out in obedience this past week? What did you take away from the sermon?
- If you had a 'mulligan' or one 'do over' for a moment in your life what would it be?
- What do you picture when you think of angels? Do you think you have ever encountered one?

SERIES THEME: On This Rock

WEEK 8: Living A Lie

TEXT: 2 Peter 2:1-22

1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. **2** And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. **3** And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. **4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; **5** if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; **6** if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; **7** and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked **8** (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); **9** then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, **10** and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, **11** whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them before the Lord. **12** But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, **13** suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. **14** They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! **15** Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, **16** but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness. **17** These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved. **18** For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. **19** They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. **20** For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. **21** For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. **22** What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

TELL THE STORY: Read 2 Peter 2:1-22

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about humanity?
- What is a false teacher? What are heresies? Peter doesn't go into great detail about what these were at the time of his writing, but what were some early church heresies?
- What do these false teachers twist and misinterpret?
- What characteristics about the false teachers' lives point to and reveal their evil motives and actions?
- What three illustrations in verses 4-10 does Peter give of previous judgments of God?
- What are some other actions of these false prophets? (vs. 11-16)
- How bad is their deception and future destruction? Is there greater accountability and responsibility for those that lead and teach? Explain.

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- *If God is love then how can Peter so strongly and clearly declare the future judgment of these false teachers?*
- *What are some current cults that have influenced people you know? (ex. Mormonism, Jehovah Witness, etc...)*
- *What should be the Christian response to exposing false teachers and teachings today? How should it be done?*
- *We are free in Christ! How do we NOT use this freedom as a license to sin and indulge the flesh? What should our liberty look like?*
- *What pursuits in your life have been distractions and entanglements from the will and ways of God?*
- *Do you have a fear of the Lord? What is the root of that fear and why is it important?*

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- How would you use this passage to disciple someone? How would you talk about the judgment of God?
- When have you seen the judgment of God in your life and in the world?
- Is God more patient and kind with our evil world or more vengeful of a rebellious people who don't believe? Discuss how Jesus answered this question and what you and your group can do to also bear witness.
- Is there an evil or false teaching that we should currently be mindful of and protect from harming the flock?
- Confess areas of your life that have been a lie. Repent from them and allow truth from Scripture to transform you with the power of the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION

Close in Prayer

Bring to God the ideas and topics that you raised in the above questions. Listen to the Spirit as you pray.

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WELCOME: (Share a meal, snack, ice-breaker, game or story)

OPEN IN PRAYER

VISION CAST:

Help everyone grow in their relationship with God and others. Remind everyone that spiritual maturity is growing into the image of Jesus and bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Encourage everyone to grow in community, to reach out to one another and others through service and the daily rhythms of life. Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINES:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

See the weekly email, bulletin, or website and choose the top 2-3 connections that would benefit your group. Also use this time to give any connections that are specific to your Life Group.

FOLLOW UP & WARM UP:

- *What are you thankful for today? How did last time's discussion impact your week? Where did you step out in obedience this past week? What did you take away from the sermon?*
- *What is the longest thing you have ever waited for? How long did you wait? What was that like? Was it worth it?*
- *Do you know any firefighters? What is their job like? How do they prepare and respond to a fire call? Why do they do what they do?*

SERIES THEME: On This Rock!

WEEK 9: Lasting Living - Living for the Day

TEXT: 2 Peter 3:1-18

3 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, **2** that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, **3** knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. **4** They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." **5** For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, **6** and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. **7** But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. **8** But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. **11** Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, **12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! **13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. **14** Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. **15** And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, **16** as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. **17** You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. **18** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

TELL THE STORY: Read 2 Peter 3:1-18

DEBRIEF THE STORY:

Spend time explaining the passage again in your own words. (The meaning of the author's terms, structure, literary form, and atmosphere.)

HEAD

These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

- What does this passage teach us about God? What does it teach us about humanity?
- What will happen in the last days?
- What hope will the scoffers question? What two answers does Peter give to this question? (vs. 5-10)
- What will happen at the Day of the Lord? (extra reading Isaiah 2, 13, 34, Joel 1 & 2, Amos 5, Obadiah 15, Zephaniah 3, Zechariah 14, and Malachi 4, I Thessalonians 5, II Thess 2 - He will punish evil and fulfill His promises)
- Why is the Lord being patient?
- Why is the day's coming described like a 'thief?'
- What will be exposed at the Day of the Lord?
- What will be new after the Day of the Lord? How should we live until that Day?

OBSERVATION

HEART

These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- Do you believe in the imminent return of Jesus? Explain.
- Is it possible to miss the Day of the Lord and not recognize it? Explain.
- Do you think there will be a new created Heaven and earth or a restoration of the current one or both?
- Why do you think we are so impatient with unbelievers at times?
- Does the order in creation and laws of nature disprove a future judgment? Is God absent from the world and has there been no previous catastrophic events revealing His intervention on the earth?
- What is our Hope that on the future Day of judgment we will be saved and protected?
- What should someone do if the future brings them great anxiety?

INTERPRETATION

HANDS

These questions help us bring truth and beliefs into everyday realities.

- Discuss how God's perspective of time is different than ours. What can you do to be patient, holy, and prepared at the coming of the Lord? Set your phone alarm this week to a random time throughout your day. Let it be a reminder that you could meet your Creator and King at any moment and to be prepared each day. You have 86,400 seconds each day!
- Focus on one takeaway from this passage. What is God impressing upon you to say/believe/do differently in your life?
- What from the Book of I & II Peter do you not want to forget? On this Rock you Live!
- Reliable church tradition has Peter being martyred shortly after writing this letter by upside down crucifixion. How would you evaluate the life of Peter and what lessons and examples would you want to follow?

APPLICATION

Close in Prayer:

Bring to God the ideas and topics that you raised in the above questions. Listen to the Spirit as you pray.

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LIFE GROUP



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