1 Peter
Living Hope

Simon Peter - the fisherman turned disciple (see Matthew 4:18-20). He experienced highs and lows during the ministry of Jesus. He then would struggle with the expansion of the gospel to the Gentiles. He would later have a vision from God to help him understand what he thought was unclean to what God called clean (see Acts 10:9-16). This heavenly dream changed everything for Peter and how we received both 1 & 2 Peter.

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter calls Christians to live as "foreigners" in the world.

Question: How should our standards and values differ from the world?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-4

Question: Your inheritance in heaven is beyond the reach of change and decay. It can never be taken away. How does that encourage us when we are going through suffering?

Read 1 Peter 1:5

Question: How does the assurance of God's faithfulness give you encouragement to endure?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9

Peter contrasted faith with gold, which endured the heat of refinement to burn away impurities. Unlike gold, the faith of a believer would end and result in praise to God. We may not fully understand God's purposes in our lifetime, but they will be revealed when Christ appears in His second coming.

Question: How is Christian joy different from the sentimental feelings of happiness? How is joy more satisfying?

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12

If we love him, trust him, and rejoice in him, then we can receive from him. All we need to do is turn trials into triumphs.

Question: How can we exercise love, faith, and rejoicing when we go through suffering?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-25

Jesus offers a living hope to all who put their trust in Him - the promise of a secure salvation given to believers when facing difficulties.

Share with your group how you came to trust in Jesus. How has this given you living hope each day?

Assignment: List today the difficulties you face. Then list beside each one how you can rejoice in the trial or difficulty and how God is helping you through it.

Next week: Read 1 Peter 2:1-12