

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 12, 2009

Passage: 1Peter 1:1-12

Memory Passage: 1Peter 1:3

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 1:1-2.** Is this letter written to Jews or to Gentiles or both? Why (1Peter 1:17-18, 2:11)? What was “The Diaspora” (Deuteronomy 28:25; 2 Kings 17:5-6; 24:14)? [note: NASB and NIV translate “dispersion” as “scattered”] Why would Peter refer to his readers as “exiles of the dispersion” (ESV/NKJV)?

(b) Where is Peter writing this letter to? What four ways are these people chosen/elected? How do these four things paint a better picture of our election?

(c) *Think about it:* How do these verses describe what God has done for us in salvation? How do these verses describe what He is doing? Why does Paul greet them with a blessing of grace and peace? Are these things always present in your life? How does the description of who we are bring grace and peace?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 1:1-2. Who is this letter written to? Who was a part of the Diaspora? How are we exiles now? What four ways does Peter say we are chosen/elected? Why is each of these important? What does Peter greet them with? How are grace and peace connected with the previous statements? Pray that grace and peace would be present in your family today.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 1:3-5.** What is it that causes Peter to praise God at the beginning of verse 3? What is the reason that we have been caused to be born again? What two things have we been born again to? When are these two things realized?

(b) What does it mean that our inheritance is imperishable? Undeclared? And Unfading? How are we guarded? What are we guarded for? What might this mean concerning our ability to lose faith? What kind of security does this bring us?

(c) *Think about it:* Why does he talk about our salvation in verse 5 as something that is going to be revealed? What does this infer about the state of our salvation right now? Do you ever feel a longing for that final day for that very reason? Why would this be important to remember?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 1:3-5. What motivates God to cause us to be born again? What two things are we born again to? What kind of inheritance do we receive? What does this passage say about God’s faithfulness to us? Do you believe that God is guarding your faith? Thank God that His sovereign hand is guarding your faith and pray that He would strengthen your faith daily.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 1:6-7.** In what or whom do we rejoice? Why does Peter say various trials might be necessary? Does this refer to discipline because of sin? If so why? If not what does it mean?

(b) What is the meaning of the illustration that he gives in verse 7? Do you see trials like Peter is describing them to be? What does a successful enduring look like according to verse 7?

(c) *Think about it:* What are some obvious trials that anyone might endure? What might be some more subtle ways in which we endure trials? How do things that make us angry, frustrated, stressed, tired, lonely, depressed act as trials in our lives? Are we to weather these the same way? How are you doing with this?

(d) *Family:* Read 1Peter 1:6-7. How does Peter talk about trials? What purpose do they serve? What are some trials in your life? What is the purpose of these trials? Are you able to rejoice in them, knowing that God is wishing to draw you to Him through them? Pray that your heart and mind would see trials as blessings from God and an eager challenge to trust in Him fully.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 1:8-9.** What three ways is faith being described in these verses? Do you often think of belief in these terms? Why or why not? Are any of these lacking from your life? What is the outcome of such faith?

(b) *Think about it:* Do you love Christ? Why or why not? Do you believe in Him, not just things about Him but believe in Him as your savior and Lord? Why or why not? Do you rejoice with joy? Why or why not?

(c) *Project:* Reflect on these verses. Take some time to write out how you *feel* about Christ and why you believe in Him as your sufficiency.

(d) *Family*: Read 1 Peter 1:8-9. Talk about the three ways that faith is being described in these verses. Do you fail to see faith in any of these three ways? Which one do you struggle with the most and why? Pray that your faith would be filled with love, belief in Christ, and joy.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1Peter 1:10-12.** What prophets is Peter referring to (Hebrews 1:1)? What were they eager to find out? Who was guiding them in their search? How does the Spirit play a similar if not the same role in us today (Romans 8:9; Galatians 4:6; 2Peter 1:20-21)?

(b) What two things were indicated about Christ? How does this relate to how we are to handle sufferings (1Peter 1:6-7)?

(c) How is the ministry of the Prophets described in verse 12? How has this ministry changed for us (Colossians 1:24-26)? How is it similar (1Thess. 1:5-6)?

(d) *Think about it*: The end of verse 12 states that even the angels longed to look into what Christ was to accomplish. Do you see your faith in Christ as something this special? Has it grown dry or merely just something that you are? Pray through Psalm 63 today, asking God to make David's heart yours.

(e) *Family*: Read 1Peter 1:10-12. Talk about who the prophets being talked about were and why they are important. What is unique about their ministry? How does the Spirit play a similar role in us today (Rom. 8:9; Gal. 4:6; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)? Do you feel a longing like the angels do to know and understand what Christ is doing and has done? Pray that your heart would be filled with a desire to seek after the mysteries and truths of Christ and the word.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(e) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* How has Peter talked about our salvation? Who is in control of keeping us? How do you see your present sufferings or trials in light of what Christ has done? Where is your hope for the future grounded, in your own abilities or in Christ?

DATE: July 12, 2009

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The Joy of God's Grace

"Blessed be God...who has caused us to be born again..."