

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 6, 2013

This Week's Focus: Introduction to the book of 1 Peter. A letter (Epistle) written to Christian's scattered through out Asia Minor for the purpose of encouraging them in the midst of suffering and persecution.

This Week's Text: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

"In the midst of all their discouragement, the sovereign God will keep them and enable them by faith to have joy. Jesus Christ by his patient suffering and glorious future destiny had given them a pattern to follow and also a living hope. Dr. Edwin Blum

Related Texts: Ephesians 1:3-4, 2:1-3, 19-20; Luke 22:31-32; Acts 4:13-20; Hebrews 5:7-9

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- Discuss the life of Peter. In what ways did his life experiences contribute to the letter?
- Who was the original audience for Peter's letter? How are we similar?
- What does it mean to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God?
- In verse 1 Peter calls the people of God, "elect exiles" or "strangers". What does it mean to be an exile or a stranger?
- How do our worldview and our identity shape our interpretation of our circumstances?
 - Where have you become too at home in this world?
- What does it mean to be the elect?
- The prepositional phrases in verse 2 modify the word "elect". What are they?
- How do the persons of the Trinity participate in the work of our salvation?

- How should we understand “the foreknowledge of God the Father?” Reference Isaiah 46:8-10, John 3:16, John 15:9, Romans 5:8, Titus 3:4-5, and Revelation 1:5-6.
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit? Reference John 16:7-15.
- What is the significance of sprinkling with blood? Reference Exodus 24:1–8.
- What would the prepositional phrases in verse 2 suggest? We are “the elect”. Elect that we may do what? Reference 1 Peter 1:6-7, John 15:16-17, Romans 8:29, and Ephesians 1:4.
- How does election express the love and compassion of God?

Missional Celebration

- If the gospel is the driving force in our lives, why then will it drive us at times to isolate from certain aspects of the world we live in but at other times drive us to engage the world we live in?
- It is important to know that the primary identity that determines how we live in hostile culture is brought about by divine choice, which results in our alien status in this world.
- How does grasping your identity in Christ affect you as you relate to God, to yourself, to others, and to the world in which you live?

Gospel Celebration:

- Praise the Triune God in His work of Salvation.

Our Response:

- Reorient our lives around our true identity and our true home.
- Repent of any worldliness that has captured our heart.

Prayer Focus:

- That we would be a community that has a biblical worldview and suffers in such a way that God gets the glory as we grow in faith.

Next Week’s Text: 1 Peter 1:3-12