

Week of March 7 (Week #8)

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan's message on Sunday – "Facts About Fiery Trials" can be helpful for your group's study discussion.

- Read together 1 Peter 4:12-19
 - Anyone want to share a personal example of when you suffered because of your own foolhardiness/disobedience? How about an instance of suffering for your faith in Christ?

 - How do the above circumstances and outcome differ?

 - According to the scripture passage, what are some of attitudes we as believers should have toward suffering?

 - What enables Christians to "rejoice" in the midst of trials?

 - Why do you think Peter emphasized the need for commitment (v. 19) to wrap up this teaching?

Week of February 28 (Week #7)

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan’s message on Sunday – “What are You Doing with the Rest of Your Time” can be helpful for your group’s study discussion.
- Read together 1 Peter 4:1-11
 - Discuss together why we always seem to be so short of time?
 - What are the biggest “fillers” of our time?
 - How can we make our time count for eternity?
 - Review this entire chapter together, it is filled with short, simple commands to help us keep our lives balanced as we wait for the Lord’s return. List them together. (Here are the ones I came up with”
 - Be clear minded and self controlled (v. 7)
 - Pray (v. 7)
 - Love deeply (v. 8)
 - Offer hospitality (v. 9)
 - Serve others (v. 10)
 - Expect hardship and suffering (v. 12)
 - Rejoice (v. 13)
 - Do not be ashamed as a Christian believer (v. 16)
 - Praise the Lord (v. 16)
 - Stay committed to God (v. 19)
 - Continue to do good (v. 19)

Week of February 21 (Week #6)

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan's message on Sunday – "Preparing for the Best" can be helpful for your group's study discussion.
- Read together 1 Peter 3:8-22
 - How can we experience God's BEST blessings even in the bad times? (vs. 8-11)
 - Read Jesus teaching from Matthew 5:38-42. What is the element from the love of Christ that enables us to respond in such a manner? (mercy) Discuss the difference being merciful can have and how it helps us in preparing for the best.
 - Discuss what it involves and means to "set apart Christ as Lord."
 - How can knowing Christ as Lord help us in not being "frightened"?
 - What are some of the "answers...(we have).. for the hope we have"? Allow for some short personal testimonies or consider some time to "practice" what we would say when someone "asks" us why we can be so hopeful in a world that has no hope. (*This point alone could take up much of your time and could be revisited again in your future meetings!)

Week of February 14 (Week #5)

This part of the series is directed primarily toward married couples and spouses. Therefore you may need to use discretion with regard to the individuals in your small group. Be careful not to exclude someone from the discussion. If you need to, revisit some of the notes and discussion questions from previous weeks. The main theme still remains that of "submission".

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan's message on Sunday – "Living Hopefully Ever After" can be helpful for your group's study discussion.
- Read together 1 Peter 3:1-7
 - Discuss the impact the attitude and act of submission can have upon HOPE in one's personal faith in Christ.
 - Emphasize and review what Peter meant by the words, "in the same way" ("likewise" in the KJV) when he gave instructions to both wives and husbands in verses 1 and 7. Remind each other of the example of Jesus from 2:21-25.
 - How is modern society's philosophies and attitudes toward marriage in complete opposition toward God's design for marriage?
 - Within marriages this is a constant learning process and in fact is also a constant battle. Perhaps within your group some can share their own personal triumphs or struggles (previously or currently) involving this theme.
 - Allow time for your group to have special prayer – praying specifically for unsaved spouses and other family members. Pray specifically the words in these verses, that "they may be won over without words by the behavior of their" loved ones.

Week of February 7 (Week #4)

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan’s message on Sunday – “Living in Hope ‘Under-Cover’” can be helpful for your group’s study discussion.
- Read together 1 Peter 2:11-25
 - Offer two or three key points from this passage and discuss them together.

 - What do you think when you hear the word *submission*? Why?

 - From this portion of scripture, what are some incentives for submitting to authorities while living Christian lives? (a witness to the lost; brings glory to the Lord; commendable; restores and builds unity; brings hope)

 - Paul’s exhortation in Ephesians 5:21, extends the attitude of submission further into what context? (the Body of Christ) How does this relate to our relationship with Christ?

 - Verse 21-25 highlight the “example” of Christ. What “steps” of submission can we learn from Christ?

Week of January 24 (Week #3)

Special note: On January 31st we will have a special speaker so there will not be a message from 1 Peter. However, there is enough discussion material from this lesson that you can spread over the next couple of weeks/ meetings.

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan’s message on Sunday – “Together We are Always Better” can be helpful for your group’s study discussion.

- Read together 1 Peter 1:22-2:10
 - Why is the church often at odds with each other? Why are members of the church often in disagreement with each other?

 - There are always going to be differences in each of us as individual believers, but what do each of us as believers have in common with one another?

 - Let’s get specific...what are we to “get rid” of in our lives?

 - Peter tells us to “crave pure spiritual milk”. What is he referring to?
 - Interestingly, in a practical sense how does milk nourish our physical bodies? (Without getting to the real facts and figures, milk strengthens our bones)

 - In comparing milk to the Word of God, discuss this topic in reference to our individual appetites (consider where milk lies in your list of preferred beverages)

 - (for thought more so than discussion) Where is God’s Word in our list of daily priorities and preferences?

 - What steps can you take to strengthen unity with other believers?
 - Importance of church attendance
 - Opportunities with a small group
 - (brain storm other ways)
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Week of January 17 (Week #2)

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan’s message on Sunday – “See the Distinction” can be helpful for your group’s study discussion.

- Read together 1 Peter 1:10-21
 - When you hear the word “holy”, what comes to mind?

 - This passage offers a biblical description of holy living. What are some of the things a holy person is or does?
 - How does this make one different from the world?

 - In this passage Peter refers to the Lord’s command to “Be Holy”
 - Note that this is a *repeated* command by looking up the other references:
 - Leviticus 11:44-45
 - Leviticus 19:2
 - Leviticus 20:7
 - Discuss how being HOPEFUL and being HOLY go hand-in-hand.
 - Consider how living according to God’s character and word ensure the blessing of God’s promises
 - How could hope be considered an incentive for living a holy life?

 - What is the most important key about one’s pursuit of a holy life? (allow for some discussion and responses, but make sure this ends with the emphasis of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice and His blood upon our lives, verses 19-21!!!!)

Week of January 10 (Week #1)

- The Sermon Notes from Pastor Dan’s message on Sunday – “Where There’s Christ, There’s Hope” can be helpful for your group’s study discussion.
- Read together the opening and closing two key verses of 1 Peter – 1:3 and 5:10
 - 1 Peter 1:3 says “He has given us new birth into a Living Hope” – Discuss in your own words what “living hope” is. How can Hope live?
 - 1 Peter 5:10 links “suffering” with being “strong, firm and steadfast” – Discuss how such a connection can be.
- Peter refers to “suffering” at least fifteen times in this letter. Quickly skim the letter together and discuss why the recipients were suffering.
- Review Peter’s life together: What about Peter’s life and testimony enables him to share such truths about Hope in Christ and Grace from the Lord God? (consider these passages for some insight: Mark 14:27-31; 16:6-7; Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-17)
- Look up or come up with a definition of “Hope” to lay the foundation for the rest of this study series. (the dictionary uses such words as to be confident, to trust, to expect or look forward to)
 - In her book, “Lord Renew My Hope”, our own Sandy Fox defines Hope as “knowing the truth and acting on it.”