

ENGAGE

Where to set your Hope - 1 Peter 1:13-21
Small Group Session Twelve
Week Beginning 12th January

A background image showing two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding a glowing, golden-yellow orb. The orb is the source of a bright light that fills the background, creating a warm, orange-gold gradient. The hands are dark, and the overall scene is ethereal and hopeful.

**where to
set your
HOPE**

1 Peter 1:13-21

LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY

In our last session we began our journey in our new series in 1 Peter. We are using this letter to explore what it looks like to live as Christians who are engaged in the world around them.

Peter was writing to Christians who were facing opposition for following Jesus. He wanted them to be reminded of the reasons they have to be praising God and rejoicing, even in the midst of trials in this life.

Wonderfully, we were reminded that we have a glorious and certain inheritance that is being kept safe in heaven for us (1:3-4). We were reminded that we are also being kept safe so we will be able to receive our inheritance when Jesus returns (1:5-9). Finally, Peter reminded us of the unique privileged position we have in all of history. It is indeed a wonderful salvation.

But (having been left praising God and rejoicing), this week Peter's train of thought continues. Notice this week's passage starts with the word therefore (1:13). What Peter is about to say is a direct implication of everything he has said so far.

It is about to get practical! What does life on the margins actually look like. How are we to live as we wait for Jesus's return? What is going to keep us going?

We are going to see this week the implication of living in the light of eternity. So why not begin by praying that God's Spirit will help us understand His word and that through His word He would be at work to change our lives...

"As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

BECAUSE I AM

There are lots of different things that can make Christians look distinctive in our world, some good things, others less so. What do you think people in our neighbourhoods would say stands out about Christians?

Now read 1 Peter 1:13-21

PART ONE

Peter is coming to the heart of what living 'life on the margins' looks like. Peter's logic is to give us the instruction to live distinctive lives in verses 14-17 and both before and after this he gives us the motivations for living this way. (Verse 13 points to the future and verse 18-21 to the past.)

- **How should Christians live distinctive lives according to verses 14-17? Look at both the negative and positive aspects of these commands.**
- **Peter is going to give us lots of examples of what living this way looks like over the next few weeks. Just for a moment, why not share some different ways you imagine these commands might impact us if we took them a little more to heart. In what ways could you be more distinctive as a Christian in our society?**

PART TWO

Living in holy reverence before God enters Christians into a lifestyle that at times will stand out and look odd in our culture. That makes living this way hard. Peter now shows how Christians can make living this way a reality.

Motivation 1 - The Future (13)

- **Verse 13 starts with the word 'therefore'. How is verse 13 connected to verses 3-12?**
- **How might having alert minds and setting our hope on future grace help us to live lives of holiness?**
- **What other things can we set our hope on apart from the future grace? How does this distract us from living lives of holiness?**

Motivation 2 - The Past (18-21)

- **Verse 18 starts with the word 'for'. What reasons do verses 18-21 give us for following the commands of verses 14-17?**
- **In practice, how could we allow the reality of all that Jesus has done to encourage us to live lives of holiness and reverence?**

It is time to draw our thoughts together and to consider what to take away. Try to name one way in which this passage is going to encourage you to get going and live a more distinctive life.

Now turn to pray for one another in light of all we have reflected on in this session.





SPRING TERM

Small Group Session 3.1

Week beginning 5th January

Small Group Session 3.2

Week beginning 12th January

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 22nd (Kea) 23rd (Christ Church) January

Small Group Session 3.3

Week beginning 26th January

Small Group Session 3.4

Week beginning 02 February

Small Group Session 3.5

Week beginning 9th February

Half Term Break

Week beginning 16th February

Trinity Update and Fellowship evening

7:00pm 26th February

Small Group Session 3.6

Week beginning 2nd March

Small Group Session 3.7

Week beginning 9th March

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 19th (Kea) 20th (Christ Church) March

Small Group Session 3.8

Week beginning 23rd March

Small Group Session 3.9

Week beginning 30th March

Small Group Session - Partnership Perspective

Week beginning 6th April



SUMMER TERM

APCM

7:30pm 30th April

Small Group Session - Word 1:1 4.1

Week beginning 4th May

Small Group Session - Word 1:1 4.2

Week beginning 11th May

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 21st (Kea) 22nd (Christ Church) May

Half Term Break

Week beginning 25th May

Small Group Session - 5.1

Week beginning 1st June

Small Group Session 5.2

Week beginning 8th June

Small Group Session 5.3

Week beginning 15th June

Trinity Update and Fellowship evening

7:00pm 25th June

Small Group Session 6.1

Week beginning 29th June

Small Group Session 6.2

Week beginning 6th July

Small Group - ENGAGE Final Meeting

Week beginning 13th July

Prayer Meeting Week

7:30pm 23rd (Kea) 24th (Christ Church) July

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



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