



Unmistakable

Parramatta
baptist church



1 Peter - Small Group Bible Study Guide

Week 1 - Unmistakable Hope

1 Peter 1:1-12

What does it mean to be a Christian and live like a Christian in a world that isn't? When feeling the tension of not belonging in this world, what are some of the ways people can be tempted to respond?

Read 1 Peter 1:1-12

- What has the Lord drawn to your attention from this passage either just then, through the daily devotional readings or from the message last week?
(Encourage people to use the daily devotional readings if they aren't already)
- In verses 1-2, Peter describes the readers and hearers of his letter by their identity. What words does he use to describe their identity? What strikes you about their (and therefore our) identity?
- What is the source and the implications of our identity?
- In verses 3-5, Peter, with great enthusiasm, describes the hope we have. What is this hope and why is it such a cause for celebration?
- What promise is attached to this?
- What do verses 6-9 reveal about the situation faced by the Christians hearing this letter?
- Rather than seeing their situations negatively, what opportunities (there are least 2) does Peter say arises out of hardship and suffering?
- Read verses 10-12. What does Peter say here in relation to the gospel as part of God's big story for humankind?
- How does knowing who you are (child of God), whose you are (belong to God) and where you belong (citizen of heaven) change the way you experience and live life as someone in but not of the world?
- Would you describe yourself as someone who lives with great hope and joy? Why/why not? How does 1 Peter 1 help re-frame hope and joy in light of our eternal relationship with God?
- How has experiencing grief or trials that come because of your allegiance to Jesus had a refining effect on your faith? In those experiences, did you come to a greater appreciation of the value of belonging to God? If so, how?

An opportunity to share or pray:

Where do you currently experience the greatest tension of being a believer among a people and culture who aren't?

Week 2 - Unmistakable Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-2:12

- What are you grateful for in this past week?
- What has been challenging?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:12

- What has the Lord drawn to your attention from this passage either just then, through the daily devotional readings or from the message last week?
(Encourage people to use the daily devotional readings if they aren't)

In the message, Kathy spoke about living today in light of what is to come when Jesus returns. On a scale of 1-10 (10 being a lot), how much do you give thought to Jesus' return over the course of a week?

- Why do you think that might be?

In this passage, Peter encourages us to live today in light of Jesus' return.

- What are the 3 things Peter encourages us to do (v.13)?

"Prepare your mind for action" literally means "gird up the loins of your mind". Can you think of an example of when you have done that and were encouraged by how God used you? (share any stories)

- What things are helpful/unhelpful in having minds prepared for action?
- What can you do practically this week to do better?

Being self-controlled is set in the context of living in our new identity.

- What are the ways that Peter describes our identity in this passage?
- Taking them one at a time, what impact does each description of our identity have on being self-controlled?
- In 1:17 Peter refers to the Father judging each person's work impartially. How do you feel about this? What encouragement can we draw from it?
- How does this knowledge spur you on to live today in light of Jesus coming? Going back to the 1-10 scale earlier, how can you become more mindful of the truth of Jesus' return on a day to day basis?

Thirdly, set your hope fully on the grace to be given to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Take time now to share together what you imagine it will be like...

Personally, what are you looking forward to?

Is there anything that you are hesitant about?

The series that we are doing is called Unmistakable. How might your life and witness be more distinct if you were living today in light of what is to come when Jesus returns?

An idea for prayer.

As a lead into your time of prayer, play the song "I Can Only Imagine".

Thank Jesus for the truth of his return one day and pray in response to what we looked at in this study.