

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

Sermon: A Living Hope | 18.04.09 | Kasper Haughton Jr.

I Introduction

We have a living hope because of Jesus' resurrection from the death that substituted for all our sins. That hope is of new life and an inheritance greater than any other hope-based promise we have in this world. The sermon this week delved into the meaning behind these statements. The 'Big Idea' small group study this week will move us to a better understanding of how that hope motivates us to new life. This is a continuation of Peter's letter to believers living in a culture similar to ours, and facing the same daily struggles we endure as God's children, "strangers in the world" (1 Peter 1:1).

Do this study while reading through 1 Peter 1:13-23 as a group.

D Discussion

- What does it mean to fear God?

E Explanation

- Recap what the "therefore" in this text is referring to.
- Why should we fear God?
- What is the "empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers"?
- Why did Jesus humble himself and come into human history?
- How have you been spared from eternal judgment?
- What was the cost of your salvation?
- Why does Peter tie obedience with purification of our souls?
- What is the expected outworking of that obedience?
- How does abiding in the Word of God help us to love one another?

A Application

- What are you setting your hope on that is not Jesus?
- Why does Peter balance the idea of "preparing your mind for action" and being sober minded or "self-controlled"?
- What are the "evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance"?
- How does our sin reflect the true objects of our hope?
- How does your life reflect or not reflect a healthy fear of God?
- What does it look like to live a holy life? What are the obstacles that you face?
- Describe the "perishable things ...that you were redeemed from" or the futile ways of salvation that God has ransomed you from?
- How does that affect your compassion for those in your neighborhood that don't believe?
- What would your life look like if it were a testimony to your gratitude for salvation?

- **Challenge:** Continue studying through the books of 1st and 2nd Peter on your own. These letters from Peter outline the answers to some of our biggest questions as Christians. He addresses first how to love God with all of our hearts, and our neighbor as ourselves. Then he focuses on what the by-product of that love looks like in our daily lives.

For Small Group Leaders

This study guide is meant not to be read and answered apart from a comprehensive group study of the passage in 1 Peter 1:13-23. It is not just a collection of rhetorical questions. It facilitates the explanation and application of the text in practical form. As the group reads, pause to emphasize their understanding of the key concepts through the discussion starter questions.

Careful study of the text on your part will lead you to an understanding of each question's importance and intended consequence. I trust that prayerful and thorough preparation will lead you to teach the text as Peter intended through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- Kasper