

Living Hope

Read 1 Peter 1:1-12, then briefly consider the questions below.

This week in Sunday School the children will learn that God's people are chosen and brought into a "living hope" through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Our passage, 1 Peter 1:1-12, gives a summary of Peter's entire letter. He is writing to exiles, believers who have been scattered throughout Asia, who have no sense of nationality or home, and are facing severe persecution. Peter is writing this letter to encourage them that despite their trials, they have been given a "living hope" and are guaranteed an inheritance that is far greater than anything in this world. Although we are not suffering at the hands of Nero as these believers were, all believers will be "grieved by various trials" (vs. 6) as our faith is refined and we are conformed to the image of Jesus.

Verse 1 tells us that God's people are chosen, they are "elect...according to the foreknowledge of God" (vv 1-2).

- How would this be encouraging to a people group who is scattered and without a home? How is this verse an encouragement to you?

- How does knowing that you are chosen "according to the foreknowledge of God" change how you view where God has placed you?

Peter is writing to a group of people who are facing significant persecution. Peter reminds them that they have been given an inheritance that will never perish (vs. 4).

- What is this inheritance? What words does Peter use to describe it?

Verse 6 reminds us that we all will face trials, big and small, in this life.

- What trials are you facing today? How do you see God refining your faith through these trials?

Let's pray:

Father, thank you for the grace you have lavished on us and for calling us your own people. Your Word tells us that you have given us a "living hope" and an inheritance that will never

perish. Please help us to remember this as we face the trials of this life. Please grant us strength to withstand these trials, and make us more like you in the process. Please help us to encourage one another and point each other back to you.

It's in your name we pray,

Amen.