

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 19, 2020

Don't Miss Him - 1 Peter 1:3-9

Pastor Hall, 10:30am

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on *Something To Talk About*, Luke 24:13-35?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Question: What favorite hero or "shero" did you have growing up and what did you most like about them? How did they develop their power over time?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, 1 Peter 1:3-9. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- This letter was written by the disciple Peter, who walked with Jesus in ministry, and denied he knew Him just prior to the crucifixion. Yet after witnessing the empty tomb and resurrected Christ, Peter emerged as a leader of the newly forming Christian church. What do you think Peter meant by "new birth into a living hope" in verse 3?
- Verses 4 and 5 identify the new birth as also leading into a heavenly inheritance. How would you describe the nature or timing of this inheritance?
- Pastor Michelle identified a scene in a football game when the outcome of victory was obvious but the clock had not yet run out. How is this a metaphor for Christian living in our time?
- Peter lived in a time when the church was under persecution. How do you think those he was writing to at the time would be comforted from verses 6-7?
- What possible good can come from such suffering?
- How is "faith" to function in the Christian life according to verses 5 and 9?
- What do you think Peter understood their souls to be needing saving from?

- Why is joy a common sign in the community life of believers (vs 6 and 8)?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud John 21:1-17.
- While waiting for Christ to appear to him, Peter returned to his former career in fishing. After a miraculous catch of fish with the advice of a stranger from shore, Peter jumped into the water believing it was Jesus (vs 7). Why do you think Peter jumped in?
- After eating some of the 153 fish that were caught, Jesus asked Peter for the first time if he loved him more than these. To what do you think “these” Jesus was referring to (vs 15)?
- Twice more Jesus asked Peter if he loved him. Remember how many times Peter denied he knew Jesus (John 18:15-18, 25-27)? Why do you think Jesus took time to ask Peter if he loved him three times?
- How does this exchange between Peter and Jesus teach us about the human capacity for sin and the divine capacity for forgiveness and restoration? How does the knowledge of this picture of grace challenge the false ideas we may carry about our own sin?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How have you felt the refining fires of faith in trials that we endure “for a little while?”
- How have you experienced being “shielded by God’s power” through faith (vs 5)?
- What leaps of faith toward Christ have we taken in recent days or anticipate we might take this week?
- What Peter lacked in courage at the crucifixion was found in the forgiveness of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit to be a strong and courageous leader for Christ. How does knowing of an inheritance for us in heaven that can never perish, spoil or fade encourage us to face the week ahead with courageous faith?
- Romans 6:4 says “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” What areas of sin might Christ be calling us to open up to his healing powers of restoration this week to more fully live a new life in Christ?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- 1 John 2:6 says “Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.” What areas of service might Christ be calling us to go out and do this week?
- A volunteer may lead the group in prayer about the concerns shared earlier in the meeting