



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

DATE February 7

BIBLE PASSAGE

1st Peter 1:3-7

1. KNOW THE CONTEXT

The Book of 1st Peter is a book meant to encourage Christians who were going through suffering.

Peter who was an original disciple of Jesus is writing to Jewish Christians most likely in from Rome. He wrote during a time where Christians were being attacked because they were followers of Jesus. Emperor Nero was brutal. He would torture and kill, men, women and even children who were Christian. Nero would have Christians put inside the coliseums as gladiators fought or against lions and other animals with no way to defend themselves. As you could imagine this was most likely a terrifying and difficult time to be a Christian. Because of this persecution, many Christians were spread all around the known world.

In the passage for today Peter wants to encourage those Christians who are going through difficult times. He wants to point the Christians to the hope of Eternal Life we have, which is received when we put our faith in Jesus. So that even though they are going through hard things, we can look forward to eternal life with Jesus.

2. READ THE BIBLE PASSAGE TOGETHER

3. SPEND TIME IN OBSERVATION

Which verses, ideas, or characters stuck out to you?
What questions could come from this passage?

Observation notes:

Questions:

4. SPEND TIME IN INTERPRETATION

What did this passage mean to the original audience?

What would it have felt like to be a character in this passage, and who in the passage is the hero/role model (if any)?

What's the main point of this passage?

Questions	Answers
What kind of questions do you think the early Christians were asking?	Is this Jesus thing really worth my life? Do I really believe this message? Does God really love me if I am going through these hard things?
If you were in their shoes, how do you think you would respond?	Anger? Confusion? Apathy? Giving up cause it is to hard? Persistence? More motivated cause someone told you no?
Why would the joy or Hope of eternal life be so appealing to these people?	Cause life was really hard. Life wasnt fair, but in the end they knew that everything was going to be perfect with Jesus. Maybe not in this physical life, but in eternity.
It says that great joy awaits those who trust Jesus. How could this be motivating?	The expectation of something greater is very encouraging. Think about a time you were waiting for something, Christmas, or a vacation. The joy you knew was coming made the waiting more bearable. Maybe not easy, but made the wait worth it.

5. SPEND TIME IN APPLICATION

What is the "universal truth" God wants to teach us from this passage?

How can we apply the message of this passage to our daily lives?

In America, Christians are not necessarily being killed for following Jesus, but what other trials do Christians face?

How does the hope of eternal life help as we face those trials?

What are areas in your life that you could use some hope?

How does the truth that through Jesus we can have eternal life help you get through hard times? Or does it?

***(Take some time in your small group to pray for each other, that you all can have hope and joy even in the difficult times.)



6. PRAY

Follow-up notes: