

Life Group Discussion Guide

Exiles in Our Land: Standing as God's People with God's People
Week 1: New Birth, New Love • 1 Peter 1:1-9

Read **1 Peter 1:1-9** together. Focus on recurring themes, words, and phrases. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Jon's message, what are your initial impressions or takeaways? What stood out to you most?

We become exiles

1 Peter 1:1-2 As followers of Christ, we are identified as exiles—set apart from the world. Peter addresses his audience as "elect exiles," reminding them that their identity is rooted in God's foreknowledge, the sanctification of the Spirit, and obedience to Jesus Christ. This new identity marks them as citizens of heaven rather than the world, which naturally leads to a life of distinction from those around them.

- How does knowing our identity as "elect exiles" shape your understanding of God's grace?
- What challenges do you face when living as an exile in your current context?
- What areas of your life require more of the Spirit's work for obedience?

We have salvation

1 Peter 1:3-4 Our salvation is a living hope given through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This hope is not just a distant promise but a present reality that sustains us. Our inheritance, which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, is kept in heaven for us. This promise encourages believers to focus on the eternal rather than the temporary struggles of this world.

- What does Peter mean by "a living hope" and how does it shape your perspective on the future?
- How does God's promise of a living hope challenge you to rely more on His word than on your own understanding?

We live by faith

1 Peter 1:4b-9 Faith is essential in the life of an exile. Despite not seeing Jesus, believers love Him and rejoice with a joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. This faith is tested by trials, which serve to refine and prove its genuineness, leading to praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- How have trials in your life served to strengthen and refine your faith?
- How does the concept of faith being tested by trials change your perspective on suffering?

- How can we view our trials as opportunities for God to reveal His power in our weakness?

By the faith of the new birth, our love for Jesus fills us with joy

The new birth brings about a transformative faith that changes our affections and priorities. Our love for Jesus, even though we have not seen Him, is a result of the Spirit's work in us. This love fills us with a profound and inexpressible joy, which is a foretaste of the ultimate joy we will experience when our salvation is fully realized.

- How has your love for Jesus grown since you first believed?
- What are some ways you experience joy in your relationship with Jesus?
- How does the joy of salvation influence your witness to others?

