

Life Group Discussion Guide

Exiles in Our Land: Standing as God's People with God's People
Week 3: Purified and Born Again • 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

Read **1 Peter 1:22–2:3** together. Focus on recurring themes, words, and phrases. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Blaine's message, what are your initial impressions or takeaways? What stood out to you most?

Growing in Love for God's Word

Peter encourages believers to long for the pure spiritual milk of the Word, just as newborns long for milk. This deep desire for the truth of God's Word is foundational for spiritual growth, which comes through engaging with Scripture.

- How does the metaphor of spiritual milk remind us that we are dependent on God for growth?
- How has God's Word impacted your life this week?
- What challenges do you face when trying to spend time in the Word? How can these be overcome? How can we help one another stay committed to learning and growing through the Bible?

Growing in Love for Your Church Family

Peter emphasizes the importance of sincere, fervent love among believers, which is rooted in a shared spiritual rebirth through God's Word. This love is meant to be genuine, growing deeper as we grow spiritually.

- How does the love we show to our church family reveal our understanding of the love God has shown us?
- What makes it difficult for us to truly love others in the church, and how can we rely on God to help us love more deeply?
- What role does forgiveness play in maintaining genuine love for one another?

Getting Rid of Spiritual Junk Food

Peter warns against things like malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander, which hinder spiritual growth. Pastor Blaine compared these sinful attitudes to unhealthy "junk food" that prevents believers from maturing in their faith.

- What are some "junk foods" in your spiritual life that you have a hard time letting go of? How can we recognize and get rid of these negative attitudes in our lives?

- How can accountability within the church help in removing spiritual junk food?

Your Spiritual Growth is Not Accidental or Haphazard

Pastor Blaine reminded us that spiritual growth is intentional. Just as a plant needs water, sunlight, and care to grow, Christians must be purposeful in cultivating their faith through the Word, prayer, and fellowship.

- What role does the Holy Spirit play in our spiritual growth?
- How do we avoid turning Bible reading into a task, and instead see it as a time of feeding on what God wants to give us?
- How has God's goodness led you to change how you think about your spiritual growth and dependence on Him?

