

Sermon Discussion Questions: "A Living Hope"
A People of Hope: 1 Peter 1:1-7

- **Ice Breakers:**
 - Where were you when you found out about the events of 9/11?
 - What other historical events have shaped our culture's sense of hope or hopelessness?
- **Vision: A People of Hope**
 - We recently cast a vision to be a People of Hope. How did that vision strike you when you first heard it?
 - What role do you believe God is asking you to play in that vision?
- **Read 1 Peter 1:1-7**
 - Briefly summarize what Peter is saying in this passage.
 - What is the context of this letter (*specifically cite v 6- trials and suffering*).
 - In verses 3-5 note the use and importance of the prepositions (*i.e. through, to, by*). How do these prepositions help us understand the nature of hope Peter is describing?
- **Defining Hope**
 - Culturally how do people typically use the word hope?
 - Is there a greater sense of *uncertainty* or *confidence* in the word hope?
 - How does what we believe about the future shape whether we are "hopeful" or "hopeless"?
 - Do you believe more people are hopeful or hopeless? How is that shaping our culture as a whole?
- **Assign different people to read the following texts from Hebrews:**
 - Hebrews 11:1
 - Hebrews 3:6
 - Hebrews 6:11
 - Hebrews 10:23
 - How do these passages describe biblical hope
- **Re-read 1 Peter 1:3-4**
 - How does Peter describe the inheritance for those born again to a living hope?
 - Is there a greater sense of *uncertainty* or *confidence* in living hope?
 - What role does the resurrection play in offering hope to the hopeless?
 - If **living hope** is defined as a **life-shaping certainty**, how does that impact our every day lives?
- **Application & Reflection**
 - Which of the gospel identities (citizen, family, missionary) does this message most intersect with most?
 - How must you trade a cultural understanding of hope for living hope?
 - What does it practically look like to live as a person of hope:
 - In your neighborhood?
 - In your school or office?
 - In the places you play or interact with others?