

“Reason for Hope”

A People of Hope: 1 Peter 3:13-17

Discussion Questions

- **Ice Breakers:**
 - When you think about People of Hope, who comes to mind first? Who models a sense of hope for you?
 - What characteristics does that person have that you want to imitate?
- **A People of Hope**
 - People of hope tend to be met with either cynicism (*that can't be real*) or curiosity (*why are they so hopeful?*). Which do you tend to encounter more— spiritual cynics or spiritually curious?
 - Before coming to faith in Jesus which were you? Cynical or Curious? Both?
- **Read 1 Peter 3:13-17**
 - Briefly summarize what Peter is saying in this passage.
 - What is the context of this letter?
 - How does Peter call his readers to respond to those who wish them harm and those who ask about their hope?
- **A Reason for Hope**
 - The word “reason” in verse 15 means “a narrative account.” Why is Peter challenging his readers to be prepared to give defense and tell their story?
- **Addressing the Spiritual Cynic: BLESS**
 - In the sermon we were challenged to “earn the right to be heard” by BLESSing our Top 5. We’ve used the acronym BLESS to talk about
 - Begin in Prayer
 - Listen
 - Eat
 - Serve
 - Story
 - How do the first four help you earn the right to be heard? (*spend time with each letter before getting to Story*)
- **Addressing the Spiritually Curious: Sharing your story**
 - When someone moves from spiritually cynical to spiritually curious, it often starts with a question: Why? Why do you have hope?
 - Discuss the reasons you have for hope.
 - Peter doesn’t demand his readers have all the answers, he calls them to share their story. How comfortable are you sharing your story of faith?
 - The sermon challenged us to share our story in the form of BC/MC/AC (Before Christ, Meeting Christ, and After Christ).
 - Did you write your story this week?
 - Who will you share that story with?
- **Application & Reflection**
 - One of our gospel identities is “missionary”- how can we grow in our missional intensity by being ready to share our story and give reason for the hope we have?
 - Conclude by praying for your Top 5