

Small Group Guide: Resilient Faith part 3: Living a Set-Apart Life

1 Peter 1:13-25

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to help group members apply what they learn to their daily lives.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you felt like an outsider or foreigner in a new environment. How did that experience change the way you acted or thought?

Key Takeaways

1. Our Hope is Secure in Christ

- Peter calls us to set our hope **fully** on the grace revealed in Jesus Christ
- This isn't wishful thinking—it's blessed assurance
- Our hope should be undivided and unshakable, rooted in what Christ has done, is doing, and will do

2. We Are Called to Be Holy

- Holiness means being "set apart" for God's purposes
- Biblical holiness = aligning our lives with both God's **will** and God's **ways**
- This affects ALL our conduct—how we talk, work, parent, manage money, and relate to others

3. We've Been Ransomed by Christ's Blood

- We were held captive by sin and darkness
- Jesus paid the ultimate ransom price with His precious blood
- This should never become a casual truth—it should transform everything

4. Build a Legacy That Endures

- All flesh is like grass that withers
 - The Word of the Lord remains forever
 - Living in holiness creates a resilient legacy beyond our lifetime
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Read 1 Peter 1:13-25 together. What stands out to you most from this passage? Why?

2. Jeremy mentioned that Peter uses the phrase "therefore" in verse 13. Looking back at verses 3-12, what is the "therefore" there for? How does the context shape what Peter is asking of us?
3. What does Peter mean by "preparing your minds for action" and being "sober-minded"? Why do you think he emphasizes the mind in this passage?

Personal Reflection

4. Jeremy listed several things we tend to misplace our hope in: emotions, finances, human leaders/institutions, and religion. Which of these do you struggle with most? Why?
5. Jeremy defined holiness as "aligning our life with God's will and God's ways." Where do you find it easiest to align with God's will but want to do it your own way?

Going Deeper

6. Verse 15 says be holy "in all your conduct." What are some specific areas of conduct where Christians should look noticeably different from the world around us?
7. Jeremy made a distinction between being "set apart" and being a "weirdo." How do we live distinctly Christian lives without being unnecessarily strange or off-putting? What's the difference?
8. Verse 17 tells us to "conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile." What does it mean to live as exiles? How should that shape the way we live day-to-day?
9. Have you been "washed in the blood of the Lamb"? If someone in your group isn't sure, how would you explain what that means and how it happens?

Application

11. What is one specific area of your conduct that God is calling you to change or surrender to Him? What would holiness look like in that area?
12. The sermon ended with the challenge to build a legacy that endures. What needs to change for your legacy to be rooted in God's Word rather than temporary things?
13. Who do you need to tell about Jesus or what you learned in this sermon?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose **one** of the following to practice this week:

1. **Mind Preparation:** Each morning this week, spend 5 minutes "preparing your mind for action" by reading Scripture and praying before you check your phone or start your day.
2. **Conduct Audit:** Identify one area of your conduct (speech, entertainment choices, work habits, social media use, etc.) and honestly evaluate whether it reflects holiness. Make one specific change.
3. **Hope Inventory:** Journal about where you've been placing your hope. Write down specific ways you can redirect that hope to Christ alone.

4. **Share Your Story:** If you've been washed in the blood of Christ, share that story with someone this week. If you haven't, talk to a trusted Christian friend or leader about what that means.
5. **Legacy Check:** Write down what you want to be remembered for. Then compare that list to how you're actually spending your time, money, and energy. Make adjustments as needed.

Memory Verse

1 Peter 1:15-16 "But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

Closing Prayer Points

- Pray for each person to experience the security of hope in Christ
 - Ask God to reveal areas where holiness is needed
 - Thank Jesus for the ransom He paid with His blood
 - Pray for strength to live as set-apart people in all conduct
 - Ask for wisdom to build legacies that endure beyond this life
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Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may not yet have placed their faith in Christ. Create space for honest questions without pressure.
- If someone expresses doubt about their salvation, offer to meet with them separately or connect them with a pastor.
- The discussion about holiness can sometimes lead to legalism. Keep pointing back to grace and the finished work of Christ as our foundation.
- Encourage vulnerability about struggles without allowing the conversation to become a complaint session.
- Celebrate examples of holiness and changed lives within your group.
- Talking about legacy and investing in eternal things allows our group members to identify the people they should invite to their group and talk about the gospel with in their circles of influence.