

# SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

## SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2

## KEY TRUTH

Followers of Jesus are living between two worlds. Though we may feel like strangers in this world, we are chosen by God and belong to His kingdom.

## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

*(What does the passage say?)*

- How does Peter describe the believers he is writing to?
- What words or phrases stand out to you in verses 1-2?
- How do we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at work in these verses?
- What does Peter mean when he calls believers "pilgrims" or "exiles"?

## INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

*(What does the passage mean?)*

- Why do you think Peter begins his letter by focusing on identity before behavior?
- What does it mean to live as an exile or temporary resident in this world?
- The message said, "You don't belong here, but you do belong there." What does that mean to you?
- Why is it significant that Peter describes believers as both chosen and exiles?
- How does God's foreknowledge and choosing of us provide encouragement and security?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*(What does this mean for us?)*

### 1. Rest in Being Chosen

- Have you ever felt like you didn't belong? What was that experience like?
- How does it encourage you to know that God knew you and chose you before the foundation of the world?
- Do you tend to define yourself more by what God says about you or by what others think about you?

## **2. Hold This World Loosely**

- What temporary things are you most tempted to place your hope in?
- How do you respond when comfort, success, finances, or approval are threatened?
- What would it look like to hold more tightly to Christ and more loosely to the things of this world?

## **3. Live Like an Ambassador**

- In what ways do you feel the tension of following Jesus in today's culture?
- Have you ever felt out of place because of your faith?
- Would people around you recognize that your ultimate allegiance is to Jesus?
- What is one practical way you can represent Christ well this week?

## **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

Take a moment and ask:

- Do I truly believe that God knows me, chose me, and loves me?
- Have I become too comfortable in this world?
- Have I withdrawn from the world instead of faithfully engaging it?
- Am I living more like a citizen of this world or an ambassador of God's kingdom?
- What area of my life needs to be more aligned with my heavenly citizenship?

## **PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK**

Each day this week, spend a few moments reminding yourself of your true identity.

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2.

Thank God that He knows you, chose you, and loves you.

When you feel anxious, discouraged, or out of place, remind yourself:

"The world may call me a stranger, but God calls me chosen."

Pay attention to moments when:

your hope drifts toward temporary things  
your faith creates tension with the culture around you  
you have an opportunity to represent Jesus well  
God reminds you that your true home is with Him

## **PRAYER**

Father,

Thank You for knowing us, choosing us, and loving us before we ever knew You. Thank You that even when we feel like strangers in this world, we are fully known and fully accepted in Your kingdom. Help us hold this world loosely and cling tightly to our identity in Christ. Teach us to live faithfully as ambassadors of Your kingdom and remind us that our true home is with You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE LIST (from message)**

**1 Peter 1:1-2**

**Ephesians 1:4**

**Romans 5:8**

**John 18:36**