

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 1:23–25

KEY TRUTH

What God has declared lasts forever, so your hope in Jesus is secure.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

- What does Peter say has happened to those who have placed their faith in Jesus?
- How does Peter describe the new life believers have received?
- What contrast does Peter (referencing Isaiah 40:8) make between human life and God's Word?
- What happens to the grass and flowers in this illustration?
- What does Peter identify as the enduring Word that was preached to them?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

- What does it mean to be “born again”? Why can this new life never perish?
- Why do you think Peter emphasizes the temporary nature of people, beauty, power, and everything else in this world?
- Isaiah originally spoke these words to people living in exile. Why would Peter use the same passage when writing to Christians who felt like strangers in the world?
- How does the enduring nature of God's declaration give believers assurance about their salvation?
- Why should our confidence rest in God's faithfulness rather than our performance, circumstances, or feelings?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

- How have broken promises or past disappointments affected your ability to trust God or other people?

- Which is hardest for you to believe: that God has completely forgiven you, that He will never leave you, or that your eternal future with Him is secure? Why?
- Some days we feel close to God, while other days we may not feel anything at all. How can we keep our feelings from becoming the measure of our salvation?
- Trusting God is not believing He will do whatever I want. It is believing He will do everything He has promised. How does that distinction affect the way you face uncertain circumstances?
- Where are you tempted to believe that God's grace and promises are available to other people but not to you?
- What situation in your life is currently making it difficult to believe that God is faithful?
- What would it look like to respond to that situation with trust, even before your circumstances change?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

- Am I placing my confidence in Jesus, or in my ability to perform, remain strong, and hold everything together?
- What has God declared that I need to believe today, regardless of what I feel or see?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Identify one fear, doubt, or uncertain situation you are carrying. Find a promise from Scripture that speaks truth into it and write it somewhere you will see it each day. When anxiety or doubt returns, bring the situation honestly to God and remind yourself: "What God has declared lasts forever, so my hope in Jesus is secure."

PRAYER

Thank God that His faithfulness does not depend on your feelings, circumstances, or performance. Ask Him to help you trust what He has declared, rest in the salvation Jesus accomplished, and walk through uncertainty with a settled confidence in Him.