



Sermon Discussion Guide  
*Here in the In-Between: Essential Identity*  
Sunday, June 21, 2020  
Based on Pastor Jason's Sermon

## **Introduction**

We're starting a series of messages called *Here in the In-Between*. So much of life takes place in the tension between where we've come from and where we're going. To help us explore this, we'll be looking at the book of 1 Peter. Here, Peter wrote to Christians and encouraged them to think of themselves as "temporary residents," living in one place on earth, but really belonging to God in Heaven. In this first lesson, we learn that we can find our essential identity in a relationship with Jesus.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to [www.journeyoffaith.com/sermons](http://www.journeyoffaith.com/sermons)

## **Share Your Story**

1. What are you in-between right now? (i.e. jobs, relationships, goals, etc.)
2. Answering as honestly as you can, how do you define your identity?

## **Hear God's Story**

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1-4. Here, Peter says that because we're born into a new relationship with God, we can now live with great hope and expectation beyond our current circumstances. In relation to these verses, what's one way you pay more attention to your circumstances than what God is doing now and for the future?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. From the spiritual "rebirth" we read about in 1:1-4, Peter now encourages us to live as people who represent God. How can what Peter says in 1:13-16 inform how we make good choices in our everyday lives?
3. Use 1:13-16 to write down a brief summary of each verse. Then, based on your summary and notes, what about this passage challenges you the most?

## **Create a New Story**

1. This week, when you get discouraged about what you are seeing around you, ask God to help you see things from Jesus' perspective. What's one example from your life that you can do this in?
2. Is there one or more parts of your identity that are competing for the top spot on your list? What can you do this week to keep your spiritual identity as the most essential part of who you are?

## **Further Studies**

Read 1 Peter 1 straight through quietly in your own Bible translation. After you've finished reading this chapter, take a moment to reflect on what stood out to you and what big takeaways you have now that you may not have had before. Then, move onto the discussion questions below.

### **DISCUSS**

1. What can we learn about God from 1 Peter 1?
2. What can we learn about ourselves from 1 Peter 1?
3. What's the most challenging teaching or truth here for you?
4. How can you use what stood out to you to become more loving towards others around you?
5. Based on this section in Scripture, what are you most thankful for?

## **For Parents: Repackaging for Youth**

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at [matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com](mailto:matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com)