

LISTENING GUIDE

| THIS SECTION IS FOR YOU TO READ AHEAD OF TIME AND CONTEMPLATE WHILE LISTENING.

- Listen for the “therefore.” Why is this word important?
- Notice the movement from what we believe to how we live.
- Listen for Peter’s pictures of our new identity. What are those qualities?

TALK ABOUT IT

| THIS SECTION LETS YOU DIVE INTO GOD’S WORD AND SERMON CONTENT.

- Verse 13 begins with “therefore.” What is it *there for*? (Look back at verses 3–12).
 - What truths about God, salvation, suffering, and hope does Peter want us to have in mind before he tells us how to live?
 - Why do you think Peter begins with what God has done before moving to what we should do?
- Peter describes believers as “obedient children” in verses 14–16 and “foreigners” in verse 17. What does each picture teach us about our relationship to God and our relationship to the world around us?
 - What might it look like to be genuinely present and loving toward the world around us without allowing it to determine who we are?

| Open Discussion: We’re encouraged to hear, read, study, and follow the Bible. Which of those comes most naturally to you? Which one tends to get neglected?

- There is a distinction between simply *being called a Christian* and *actually living a new life in Christ*. Where do you think that distinction becomes most visible in everyday life?
 - Where are we most tempted to add Jesus to the life we already want rather than allowing Him to reshape it?
- Has Scripture ever changed your thinking before it changed your behavior?

LIVING A STEADFAST LIFE

| THIS SECTION IS FOR US TO CONSIDER HOW TO APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES.

| Peter’s vision of the Christian life isn’t simply “try harder to be different.” We’ve been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, brought into a new family, given a new hope, and now called to live from that new identity.

- What excuses do we often hear or make?
 - What can we do about that? How should we think about these things?

- How can our lives be ordered around the Work of Christ and His transforming power?
- Think about this past week. Where is one place your old instincts are still trying to call the plays?
 - What would it look like to bring that part of your life under the truth of Scripture and the leadership of the Spirit?
- Consider something simple that would allow you to get God's Word further into your life this week. *It doesn't have to be something impressive, just something sustainable. Something that will help us hear it, read it, study it, and then ask, "Jesus, how do I follow You in this today?"*

PRAY

| THINGS TO CONSIDER PRAYING FOR, A GUIDE/REFERENCE.

- Thank God that our hope doesn't rest in our ability to remake ourselves or fix our problems. Thank God for Jesus' sacrifice and how it's not wasted.
- Pray for one another, that the Spirit would continue to make our faith visible, stoking the flame of devotion to the Lord.
- Ask God to continue (or start) our pursuit of Jesus with our words, thoughts, and intent of our heart.