

LISTENING GUIDE

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

- What changes when we remember that Peter is writing about hope to people whose circumstances have not gotten better?
- Listen for the difference between having an explanation for suffering and having a perspective that allows us to endure it.
- Notice what Peter keeps bringing his readers back to.
- Listen for the three things we need to see clearly when life is shaking.

TALK ABOUT IT

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

- What makes Christian hope different from simply being optimistic that things will get better?
 - How does the resurrection give us hope even when our circumstances do not change?
- What does suffering grief at the same time having hope tell us about the kind of joy scripture is describing?
 - Is it possible to deeply grieve and deeply trust God at the same time?
- What should be one of our greatest goals? What's our problem? What's our biggest problem?
 - How can we subtly begin treating Christianity as a promise that God will make life work the way we want? What happens to our faith when He doesn't?
- Where do you see a tendency towards entitlement in your own relationship with God?
 - What helps the wonder of salvation become more than "spiritual white noise"?

| **Open Discussion:** Have you ever walked through something that you still cannot fully explain, but you can now see differently because of what God taught you through it? What changed: the circumstances, your perspective, or both? Share.

LIVING A STEADFAST LIFE

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

| Peter doesn't write for us to pretend storms aren't real. He writes in this letter to remind us that they're not everything. Our security is in Jesus, in Him who we have experienced His completed work. Even with our unanswered questions and the things we can't see fully on this side of Glory, He knows where we're going.

- Where are you most tempted right now to judge God by the crisis rather than by the cross?
 - What would it look like this week to intentionally bring the truth of your salvation into that situation?
 - How does one work to see things from the perspective of what Christ has already done and in the light of what He has promised?
- Sometimes steadfast faith simply means trusting God without having all the answers. Is there an unanswered “why?” in your life that you need to entrust to Him again?

PRAY

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

- Pray for perspective in the storm. Pray for steadfast faith when God seems silent.
- Pray together that God would “open our eyes” to see our lives from His perspective. Thank Him specifically for the living hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus, and ask Him to make your group a people who can grieve honestly, trust deeply, and stand firm when life shakes.