

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION GUIDE

WHAT IT MEANS TO RECEIVE SALVATION



1 Peter 1:1-12

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,

11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

What it Means to Receive Salvation

1. There are Eternal Realities of Salvation (vv. 1–5)

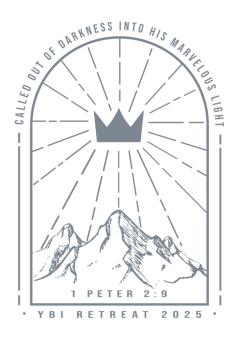
- Salvation is God's work: Chosen by the Father, regenerated by the Spirit, and redeemed through Christ.
- God is sovereign: He declares the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46).
- Your future is secure: A reservation in heaven has been made and kept by God.
- The result? Rejoicing (v. 6a), because God's mercy gives us a living hope.

2. There are Everyday Realities of Salvation (vv. 6–12)

- Trials are purposeful: They cleanse, refine, and prove the genuineness of your faith.
- Sin corrupts affection: We often love, trust, and treasure the wrong things.
- God reshapes us: Like clay in the potter's hands, He removes what is false and replaces it with what is true and eternal.
- Faith is active: Hearing God's Word should lead to responding with trust and obedience.

- What are you wrongly loving, trusting in, or treasuring more than Christ?
- How does understanding God's sovereignty change the way we view trials?
- If you are a believer, are you letting your light shine where there is darkness, or are you trying to protect yourself instead?

WHAT EFFECT DOES SALVATION HAVE ON OUR LIVES?



1 Peter 1:13-25

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,

15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;

16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth:

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

24 For,

"All flesh is like grass,

And all its glory like the flower of grass.

The grass withers,

And the flower falls off,

25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." And this is the word which was preached to you.

What are the Effects of Salvation?

1. A New Future (v. 13)

- Fix your hope completely on the grace revealed at Christ's return.
- Be mentally prepared: Gird your mind for action; don't let it drift into passivity.
- Be spiritually sober: Avoid the intoxication of worldly thinking and lies.

2. A New Family (vv. 14–22)

- As obedient children, no longer conform to old, sinful desires.
- You are becoming like your holy Father—be holy inwardly and outwardly.
- God disciplines out of love, not anger (v. 17). His love is costly—paid with the blood of Christ (vv. 18–19).
- This family calls for fervent love (v. 22), modeled after 1 Corinthians 13 and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5).
- We help each other grow in salvation—not as spectators, but as partners.

3. An Enduring Work (vv. 23-25)

- You've been born again by imperishable seed
 —God's Word.
- Growth is not about speed, but direction—are you closer to and more dependent on Jesus today than yesterday?
- God's Word is enduring and will accomplish His purpose in you.

- 1. What does it mean to fix your hope? How do you practically do that?
- 2. How does understanding God as your holy and loving Father affect how you respond to sin and discipline?
- 3. What are some ways we can love and help others in growing in their salvation (v. 22)?
- 4. Are you living like someone who has been born again, or just like a well-dressed corpse?

WHAT IT TAKES TO GROW INTO SALVATION, PART 1



1 Peter 2:1-10

- 1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,
- 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,
- 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.
- 4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,
- 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 6 For this is contained in Scripture:
- "Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone,
- And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed."
- 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,
- "The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone," 8 and,
- "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.
- 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

3 Things You Need to Grow Into Salvation

1. You need to learn how to rightly handle the Scriptures.

A) Come to the Scriptures dealing with your sin (v. 1).

- Deal with your sin. Put off malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander – all relational sins – before you come to the Word of God.
- If you wonder why your time in the Word is not great, is it because of sin in your heart and life?
- Our sin will keep us from enjoying our Savior. But our Savior is there to help us in our sin.

B) Come to Scripture craving the right thing (v. 2)

- The Bible is not a self-help book. It's primary usefulness to us is that it is living bread to our soul.
- "The nourishment that Scripture brings us is that it brings us into fellowship with Jesus Himself."
- "Too many people come to Scripture in the wrong way because they are craving the wrong thing."
- Scripture gives you taste after taste of His goodness. He is precious. He is a treasure.

C) Come to the Scriptures understanding the change that He will perform in you (v. 2-5)

- The change that Jesus performs is spiritual. A non-believer cannot become a spiritual house and experience acceptable sacrifices to God.
- Only those who know Jesus Christ can have God dwelling in them as they grow.
- One of the reasons Christians don't evangelize is because they are not experiencing the fullness of the glory of treasuring Jesus.

- Am I treasuring Christ as I read the Word and seek to grow spiritually?
- Do I read and obey the Bible just to look good externally?
- How do you prepare your heart before opening the Word of God?

1 Peter 2:1-11

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- "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.
- 9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- 11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.
- 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God in the day of visitation.

3 Things You Need to Grow Into Salvation

2. You Need to Learn How to Rightly Handle Your Soul (v. 11).

- Fleshly lusts are at war with your soul—don't underestimate their impact.
- You care for your hair, your body, your clothes... do you care for your soul?
- Your soul needs the Great Physician—Jesus is the only One who can heal you.
- There is a real war against your soul. The devil cannot take your soul, but he can corrupt, defile, or disable it.
- Your own fleshly desires are saying "it is better to sin than to follow the Savior – it is more enjoyable to chase your festering lust."
- Your fleshly lust is like a terrorist... pretending to be your friend, but planting a bomb in your soul.

3. You Need to Learn How to Rightly Honor God in This World (v. 12)

- Keep your conduct excellent in a watching world.
- Don't give unbelievers a reason to reject Christ because of your life.
- If your soul is thriving and you are in the Word, your behavior will follow.

- What are some ways you've let your soul be neglected lately?
- Which of the 3 major growth areas do you struggle with most—Scripture, soul, or honoring God?

1 Peter 2:13-25

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.

16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.
25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

Where Are You Going to Grow?

A) In the Nation You Live In (vv. 13–17)

- Even under evil leadership (like Nero), Peter calls believers to submit and shine.
- You are a bondslave of Jesus first. You serve and obey Him.
- The darker the culture, the brighter your light should shine.

B) In the Way You Serve (vv. 18-20)

- Grow by enduring hardship and injustice with faith and reverence for God.
- Suffering for doing what is right "finds favor with God." Make sure you are living righteously.

C) In the Way You Follow Jesus' Example (vv. 21–25)

- Jesus is not just your Savior, He is your example.
- He suffered and entrusted Himself to the Father (v. 23). You must do the same.
- Jesus 'cleared the minefield'—follow in His footsteps.

- How does your life reflect and shine Christ's light in the darkness of the nation you live in?
- What are some practical ways you can serve and do what is right and so find favor with God?
- What does it practically look like for you to "follow in Jesus' steps" this week?

WHAT IT TAKES TO GROW INTO SALVATION, PART 2



1 Peter 3:1-7

1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.

- 3 Your adornment must not be merely external —braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses;
- 4 but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.
- 5For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;
- 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.
- 7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

Where Will Your Growth Be Strengthened?

A) In Marriage (vv. 1-7)

Women:

- It takes a girl to be a woman, and it takes a woman to be a wife. Prepare now to be a wife.
- Cultivate a submissive heart now—by honoring your father in the home and the elders in the church.
- Wives are to win their husband to the truth not with words or wardrobe, but with holy conduct, a gentle spirit, and deep hope in God (vv. 1–6). That is precious to Him.
- Value yourself the way God values you. Don't settle for weak, ungodly men. Wait for a man who honors God.

Men:

- It takes a boy to be a man, and it takes a man to be a husband. Prepare now to be a husband.
- Husbands lead with understanding, oneness, and honor (v. 7).
- The wife is a precise, purposeful, and precious gift for the husband.
- If a husband doesn't honor his wife, his prayers will be hindered.
- Lead yourself before leading your family.
- Take care of your own soul so that you can care for hers.

- Women: Am I cultivating a spirit of submission and hope in God?
- Men: How am I leading my own soul right now?
- Men and Women: What are two ways that I need to grow to start preparing for marriage now?

1 Peter 3:8-12

8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

10 For,

"The one who desires life, to love and see good days,

Must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.

11 He must turn away from evil and do good;

He must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous,

And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Where Will Your Growth Be Strengthened?

B) In the Multitude (vv. 8–12)

- The Christian life is not a private experience.
- Note that it says "all of you" this means that, if you are a believer, you cannot opt out of this. It is part of being in this new family.
- You have the opportunity to be a blessing to everyone (vv. 8–9).
- Live with kindness, humility, harmony, and a forgiving spirit.
- We grow into salvation in the everyday moments of life. That's where true genuine salvation grows.
- It will be evident in your interactions with others if you have been nourishing and caring for your soul with the Scriptures.

- How is my life a blessing to others? How is it not a blessing?
- Do I live my life according to verses 8-9 towards the people closest to me?
- Do I love others even when they sin against me?

1 Peter 3:13-22

13 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good?

14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

19 in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20 who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

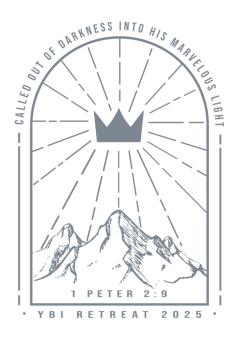
Where Will Your Growth Be Strengthened?

C) In Suffering and Testimony (vv. 13–22)

- How do we care for our soul? Set apart Christ as Lord in your heart. Give it all to Jesus let Him take it and have control.
- Jesus suffered for doing right so that in His death He might bring us, the unjust, to God.
- Once you've surrendered to Jesus, you'll be ready to respond with boldness, gentleness, and reverence when asked about your hope.
- Peter brings up Noah because Noah suffered for years as a preacher of righteousness the world rejected Him and was judged because they didn't listen to the testimony of Noah.
- Like Noah, your life and testimony may be rejected, but it is still a witness.
- Baptism is not about the water—it is the heart: an appeal to God for a good conscience (v. 21) and a testimony of what God has done in your heart.
- Jesus was raised, reigns now at God's right hand (v. 22), and secures your future. You are secure even in suffering or rejection.

- Have I set apart Christ as Lord in my heart, or am I still trying to control things?
- Am I willing to suffer if it means being used by Jesus as a testimony to His glory?
- Am I scared to be too radical for Jesus?

WHAT IS AT STAKE IN GROWING IN SALVATION



1 Peter 4:1-19

- 1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,
- 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.
- 3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.
- 4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you;
- 5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
- 6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.
- 7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.
- 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.
- 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
- 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
- 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some
- 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

strange thing were happening to you;

- 14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.
- 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;
- 16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.
- 17 For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?
- 18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?

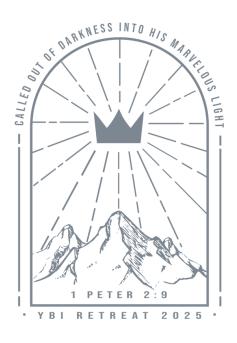
 19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Living for the Will of God in the Light of Eternity

- Salvation is not just a past decision, but a present transformation and future hope.
- If your conversion does not produce sanctification, it may not be true conversion.
- What is your purpose now? To live for the will of God—no matter the cost (vv. 1-2).
- Sin is not compatible with the will of God; it distracts and delays spiritual growth.
- Every sin at its center is idol worship. We exchange the Living God for dead substitutes.
- A believer cannot continue to enjoy darkness. If you feel at home in sin, you may still be in it.
- This life ends with accountability before Jesus (v. 7).
- Every person will be sealed—either in salvation or in sin (Revelation 22:10-17).
- Verse 8–11 shows the fruit of true salvation: fervent love, hospitality, and service.
- You are gifted by God to serve for the good of others and the glory of Christ.
- Your youthfulness is for usefulness—no one is too young to serve King Jesus. Don't wait until you're older—serve now. You may not get older.
- If you've been saved, you've been changed. And if you've been changed, you serve.
- Satan doesn't mind idle Christians, but he resists those who live for God.
- Share in Christ's sufferings and you will also share in His glory. Let your life, suffering, service, and growth reflect someone who knows Christ.

- Are you living for the will of God in all things, no matter the cost?
- What sins might still be idols in your life, keeping you from growth?
- In what ways can you start serving your Savior now, regardless of age or position?
- Am I living like someone who is preparing to meet Jesus and give an account?

WHAT IS OUR HELP IN GROWING IN SALVATION



1 Peter 5:1-14

1Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

- 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
- 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
- 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
- 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
- 8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- 9 But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
- 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.
- 11 To Him *be* dominion forever and ever. Amen. 12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard *him*), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!
- 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and *so does* my son, Mark.14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

What is our Help in Salvation

- The help God gives in salvation is grace—sustaining, strengthening grace.
- Grace is everything—not just the start or the finish line, but what holds us together in the middle (verses 5, 10, 12).
- Pride blocks grace. Pride is self on steroids—self-reliant, self-glorifying, self-sufficient.
- Pride is the essence of Satan. We are most "Satan-like" when we are proud.
- Humility receives grace. It is self in submission to God. It accurately assesses self in light of the divine One.
- The heart of 1 Peter 5 is humility—and the place where it is most needed is the church.
- Elders must humbly shepherd by knowing the sheep, leading the sheep, feeding the sheep, and guarding the sheep.
- Younger men especially (v. 5): Be subject to your elders. Don't resist the help God gives through them.
- You don't have to live in the "what ifs." (verse 7). You can live in the care of your Savior, because (1 Peter 3:22 & 5:11) we worship a Savior who cares enough to die for us and who knows what is best for us.
- Anxiety is always an opportunity to run to Jesus and find His strength in your weakness.
- The devil loves to get Christians alone (verse 8). The devil is strong—but your Savior is stronger.
- You have everything you need in Christ to stand firm against the devil and against temptation.
- You are not alone. Believers all over the world suffer too. One faith. One baptism. One Savior.
- Verse 10: God Himself will perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you because He has dominion forever.

- What areas of anxiety do you need to cast on Jesus?
- How does remembering the global church help you stand firm in your own suffering?
- In what ways am I resisting God's grace with pride by trying to do things my way?
- What does it look like for you to be an instrument of grace in your church?