

*“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it a thousand times.” —Martin Luther*

WELCOME

The apostle Peter wrote to groups of Christians who lived in societies where the gospel was seen as crazy talk, or worse, a dangerous offense. And this climate tested these newborn Christians confidence in the gospel. Peter in this letter encourages these Christians to continue to be confident in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we will also be encouraged to confidence in our study of this letter.

As you gather this week, discuss these questions:

- Have you ever been in a difficult or scary situation, yet remained confident?
- Where do you think that confidence came from?

WORD

Read **1 Peter 1:1-12**

1. What stood out to you in the scripture? In the sermon this Sunday?
2. What, according to verse 2, is God the Father’s role in initiating a Christians’ salvation? What part does the Holy Spirit play?
3. In 1:3-5, Peter provides a beautiful condensed description of the good news of Jesus Christ for us and the world. What do you notice about how this gospel is good news for those who trust in it?
4. According to Peter, why can this gospel be trusted? (1:3-12) You may want to divide the verses between you and then pool your insights.
5. We know that the people Peter wrote to suffered for their faith. What is surprising about the way they responded to suffering ‘grief in all kinds of trials’? (1:6)
6. How have the circumstances in your own life and the beliefs of others around you impacted your own confidence in the gospel?
7. Where is an area of your life that God is calling you to greater confidence in the gospel?
8. What is one way that you could enact that confidence, even if you are not yet fully confident, this week?

WORSHIP

1. Thank God for the goodness, truth, and power of the gospel.
2. Ask God to strengthen your confidence.
3. Pray for a few non-Christians that you know and those in need.

WITNESS

Think about one person that you meet in your life who is not a Christian. As far as you know, what do they think about the Christian faith and about Jesus? How could the gospel intersect with their lives and belief?

GROUP COVENANT (To review at the beginning of group)

1. I will seek to be uncommonly interested in others and genuinely curious about their thoughts and stories. *“Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity” —Simone Weil.*
2. I will seek to stay in the room with difference and in genuine, loving relationship with each other even when there are disagreements or conversations get risky.
3. Instead of closing off the conversation because another’s idea is so much worse than mine, I will seek to be humble in my listening, to see from the perspective of others, to be slow to react, and to not compare my best with others worst.
4. I will seek to pray for others, forgive and seek forgiveness, and to model the grace of God in Jesus Christ in my interactions.

## SERMON NOTES: