

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

1 Peter 1:3 — A Living Hope Through the Resurrection

1. Opening: Reflect on Last Week's Deep Practice

Begin by inviting the group to share how their deep practice went this past week.

Prompt Questions:

- What specific practice did you commit to last week?
- When did you follow through? When was it difficult?
- What did you notice about your heart, your habits, or your awareness of God?
- Did anything surprise you?
- Where did you experience encouragement or resistance?

Encourage honesty and mutual support. This is not about success or failure—but about formation.

2. Sermon Overview (Leader Guide)

HOOK:

- Peter writes about the resurrection as one who *experienced it firsthand*—he ran to the empty tomb.
 - This is not abstract theology—it is lived, witnessed reality.
-

HEAD: Understanding the Text

1. The Mercy of God

- Mercy is not just something God does—it is **who God is**.
 - It includes: kindness, compassion, grace, steadfast love.
 - Not merely judicial (legal), but deeply **relational and generous**.
 - There is a difference between *showing mercy* and *being merciful by nature*.
-

2. “Through” the Resurrection

- God’s mercy is **set loose through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
 - The resurrection is:
 - Victory over death
 - The **release of divine mercy into the world**
 - Like:
 - A spring bursting from the ground
 - Ezekiel 47 — water creating a new ecosystem
 - Once released, it **cannot be undone.**
-

3. New Birth

Because of this mercy:

- **New Start** → Sin is dealt with at the cross and left in the grave
 - **New Identity** → We become children of God
 - **New Life** → Our source and purpose of life are changed
-

4. Living Hope

- Not wishful thinking or uncertainty
 - **A certain, active expectation**
 - It is:
 - Alive
 - Flowing within us
 - Sustaining us like blood in our veins
-

5. Blessed (Praise)

- “Blessed” = to give praise

- We praise God because:
 - His mercy has broken into the world
 - It has changed our lives
 - It has given us a living hope
-

HEART:

- We praise not just for a past event
 - But for a **present reality** shaping our lives now
-

HAND (Implied Application):

- Live as people shaped by mercy
 - Live as people sustained by living hope
 - Let gratitude turn into praise and action
-

3. Discussion Questions (Bloom's Taxonomy)

Remember / Understand

- What does Peter say is the source of our new birth?
 - How does the sermon define “mercy”?
 - What is the difference between worldly hope and “living hope”?
-

Apply

- Where in your life do you most need to experience God's mercy right now?
 - What would it look like for you to live this week with *living hope* instead of uncertainty?
-

Analyze

- Why is the resurrection essential to understanding God’s mercy?
 - How does the image of a “spring bursting forth” help you understand what God has done?
-

Evaluate

- In what ways do we tend to reduce hope to wishful thinking instead of living expectation?
 - How can you tell if someone (or yourself) is truly living out of this kind of hope?
-

Create

- What is one way you could intentionally express praise this week because of God’s mercy?
 - How might your daily life change if you fully embraced your *new identity* in Christ?
-

4. Storying Exercise

Story: Ezekiel 47:1–12 (The River from the Temple)

Step 1: Read the story aloud together.

Step 2: Close Bibles and retell the story as a group.

Step 3: Re-read and notice what was missed.

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you about how the water grows and spreads?
- What changes wherever the water flows?
- How does this connect to the resurrection “setting loose” God’s mercy?
- Where do you see this kind of life-giving flow in your own life—or where do you long to?

Connection Insight:

Just as the river creates life wherever it flows, the resurrection releases mercy that creates **new life, new identity, and living hope.**

5. Deep Practice Commitment (This Week)

Take a few minutes individually to reflect and write down your commitment.

You may:

- Continue last week's practice
- **or**
- Choose a new practice based on today's teaching

Possible Practices:

- **Mercy Practice:** Intentionally show kindness or compassion to someone each day
- **Identity Practice:** Begin each day reminding yourself, "I am a child of God"
- **Hope Practice:** When anxiety arises, consciously replace it with a statement of living hope
- **Praise Practice:** Spend 2–3 minutes daily giving thanks specifically for God's mercy

Write It Down:

- What will I do this week?
- When will I do it?
- How will I follow through?

6. Closing Prayer

Close by inviting the group to pray together:

- Thank God for His mercy revealed through the resurrection
- Ask for deeper awareness of new life and living hope
- Pray for strength to live out what has been learned this week