



A STUDY THROUGH 1 PETER

ARRIVAL / CONNECTING and SNACK: (15 minutes) Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: (2 minutes)

SCRIPTURE and DISCUSSION: (50 minutes) Before the Scripture reading, a few you describe, in your own words and in one minute, what you think it means to be “born again.”

Open your Bibles to **1 Peter 1:1-12**. Have one person read slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, listening specifically for anything and everything it says about any promises, privileges, and/or responsibilities that come with being “born again.”

- What are your observations?
- How does the concept of “being in exile” apply to us as followers of Jesus?
 - When and where do you most feel like a foreigner who doesn’t belong in this land?
 - How do you respond when you feel that way? What sort of thoughts do you think and what sort of things do you do?

Review the story of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah in **Daniel** chapters 1-4.

- How did these young men deal with living in exile?
- What compromises did they make? What did they refuse to compromise?
- What do you think determined what they were willing or unwilling to compromise?
- What were the results of their choices and their behavior?
- In the “big picture,” do you think their exile was a good thing or a bad thing? Explain.

Now consider 1 Peter 1:1-12 in light of the story in Daniel.

- As “citizens of heaven and exiles on earth” how shall we decide what, where, and when we are willing to “make compromises.”
- What should we never compromise and why?
- What sort of results should we expect from “living faithfully in a land of exile?”

SURRENDER: (15 minutes) Choose one “arena” of your life where you know you are a “stranger in a foreign land” (your work, your school, some social settings, etc.).

- What do you think it might require for you to be “an agent of hope” in that arena?
 - Are there compromises you need to make so that you can be part of that culture?
 - Are there things you may be currently compromising that you should not compromise?
- Decide on one thing you intend to change so that you can be a more effective witness to the gospel in this arena and share it with your small group.

PRAYER: (10 min) Pray for one another to be more effective “agents of hope” in our culture.