

1st Sunday of Advent: 1 Peter 1:1-5

CG Discussion Guide // Week of 3 December 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: What is your favorite Christmas movie?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: Lakeside Church, Worthington, MN (Pastor: Wesley Kouba)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stands out to you about how Peter identifies the people he addresses in vv. 1-2?
- Why do you think Peter calls the hope we get from Jesus' resurrection "a living hope"? How does this look in our daily lives, to have a living hope?
- Look at how Peter describes our heavenly inheritance. What does it say to you that our inheritance from God is as Peter describes?
- How does the promise that God guards us for a future salvation help you walk through life's difficulties? If willing and able, could you share a time in your life where God's promises were all you had to cling to? How did God fulfill His promise to you?
- If you remember how Peter was like for the majority of the Gospel of John, compare that to how Peter speaks and writes in this week's passage. What changed? How could a man change like this? What does that tell us about our own walks with Jesus?
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Abide Time: Psalm 103

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?
- Read the passage and let God speak to you in you reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?
 - What does it say about the world around you?
- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?
- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?
- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?
- How is God inviting you to live differently?
- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- December 11-January 7: CG Christmas Break
- December 17, 24, 31: One Gathering, 10 AM
- December 24: One morning gathering at 10 AM and Christmas Eve Candelight Gathering (5 PM)
- December 25: Christmas!!!

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.