

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of April 4, 2021

“Living Hope”

1 Peter 1:3-9

### WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ANCC

1. **PRAY FOR A BUILDING:** We are still looking for a meeting place for our planned reopening on June 6. Please join in praying BOLD prayers for God to provide a building that is the right size, cost, and location.
2. **PARENTING. CLASS:** Attention parents of teens and college-agers (elementary parents welcome, too)! Sign up for “Creating Connections” class and learn how to connect and communicate with your kids and how to deal with emotions for yourself and for teens, all with mental health in mind. This class is co-taught by Pastor Esther and Minhee Cho, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist. This 4-week class begins April 18. Sign-up online today!

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** The resurrection of Jesus is the source of living hope for rejoicing even when we suffer in our present life.

### GETTING STARTED

1. **SOAP TIME:** Share your most meaningful SOAP entry from this past week (one or two people share).
2. How was your Easter? Share your highlights or most memorable moments.
3. What is the difference between “wishful thinking” and biblical “hope?” What is each rooted in?

### DIGGING DEEPER

Even though believers have great blessing in Christ, they also experience great difficulty in this life. In 1:6-9, Peter encourages us that we can “rejoice” in our trials (1:6) and “rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory” in our struggle (1:8). This kind of joy is available even to those of us who have never seen Jesus face to face and who live life today without Him physically by our side.

4. In 1 Peter 1:3-9, Peter gives some indication how this kind of joy is possible for believers in Jesus Christ. Based on what you see in these verses, how is this joy possible?
5. Read this quote from the message, then answer the questions below.

*Peter encourages his readers, who are enduring extreme pain and suffering, to look to the future glory that God has prepared for them in heaven through the resurrection of Jesus. He wants them and us today, to have a new perspective—that, our grief now in our present life is only for a little while compared to the glorious eternity awaiting us in heaven. It is similar to what the Apostle Paul says in Romans 8:18: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” When we look to our eternal future, we will find the joy to carry on in this life. We can rejoice for this, too, shall pass.*

- a. What is the connection between knowing the blessings of 1:3-5 and having joy in trials in 1:6-9? Have you experienced such joy in the midst of trials before? Please share.
- b. What trials are you going through in life now or have gone through in your past? Does this passage encourage you to experience joy in your struggle? Why or why not?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

6. What do you sense the Spirit is saying to you and what specific action can you take this week in light of that realization? How can the Life Group encourage you and hold you accountable?
7. **PRAYER TIME:** Pray for joy in the midst of suffering as you place your hope in God.