

MSYG Pre-Gathering Devotion

Student Guide

1 Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you

Part 1- Living Hope

- Read: 1 Peter 1:3-5
- What does it mean to have hope?
- What is our hope?
- What does it mean to have a living hope?

Part 2- Take Courage

- Read: 1 Peter 1:6-9
- What are the trials that we face because of our faith?
- How can these trials strengthen our faith?
- Read: 1 Peter 1:10-12
- What comfort can we take that all the Bible has been written for the benefit of our salvation?

Part 3- Loved and Sent

- Read: 1 Peter 13-16
- What motivates us to live a Godly life?
- How can we live a life pleasing to God?
- What are ways we can show the love of Christ to those around us?

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Leader Guide

1 Peter 1:3-4

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Part 1- Living Hope

- Read: 1 Peter 1:3-5
- Ask: What does it mean to have hope?
 - Most answers will likely focus on a future outcome that is uncertain. However, when the Bible speaks of hope it speaks of the sure and certain promises of God that we know will come to pass. (Hebrews 11:1)
- Ask: What is our hope?
 - v.4 shows us that the hope we have is an imperishable, undefiled, and unfading inheritance. That inheritance is the very eternal life that Christ now has. The inheritance is the new birth in the Spirit, that has made us a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Ask: What does it mean to have a living hope?
 - Our hope is Christ. He is alive. Just as surely as Christ has been raised from the dead and will never die again (Romans 6:9) we can be certain that the promises Christ has made to us are certain.

Part 2- Take Courage

- Read: 1 Peter 1:6-9
- Ask: What are the trials that we face because of our faith?
 - Answers will vary based on the struggles of the students. Answers may include struggles against sin, differences between what the Bible says and what culture says, family problems, etc.
- Ask: How can these trials strengthen our faith?
 - Trusting in God through our struggles shows that he is the one who provides for us in all things, even in trials. (Catechism: 4th petition of the Lord's Prayer)
 - Enduring struggles is also a way that God strengthens our faith; through patient endurance our faith grows stronger. (Romans 5:3-5)
- Read: 1 Peter 1:10-12

- Ask: What comfort can we take that all the Bible has been written for the benefit of our salvation?
 - All the law and the prophets testify of Christ, we have seen the salvation they longed to look upon. We can be confident that just as the faithful of the Old Testament were saved by the death of Christ, that we too are partakers of that salvation.

Part 3- Loved and Sent

- Read: 1 Peter 13-16
- Ask: What motivates us to live a Godly life?
 - Nothing other than the fact that God has saved us, redeemed us, and brought us into his family. For all this it is our duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him (Small Catechism Article 1 of the Apostles Creed)
- Ask: How can we live a life pleasing to God?
 - We are sent into the world to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-16)
 - God has called us to a life of holiness according to the commandments and service of our neighbor.
 - The best way to love our neighbor is to witness to them in our words and deeds so that the Holy Spirit might work faith in them. Thus, they too might become part of the inheritance we already share.
- Ask: What are ways we can show the love of Christ to those around us?
 - Answers will vary

Closing Prayer

God our heavenly Father, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to die for us. We praise you because we have a living hope in His resurrection. Keep us steadfast in this faith and hope, that in our trials we may be tested and our faith be found genuine. Lead us to shine the light of Christ in the world. That though our living others may be brought to faith. Encourage us when we fail, strengthen us when we falter, and keep the joy set before us always before our eyes. Keep us in our Living Hope that we may live eternally with You and all the Saints, O God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.