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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Bible Study: Life in Exile - Born Again to a Living Hope (1 Peter 1:3-12)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Peter begins with a blessing of the God and Father of Messiah Yeshua. The teaching identifies this opening with a Jewish berakhah, an expression of thanks to God. Peter places Yeshua and his saving work at the center of the blessing and of the believer's hope.

Being born again describes a new identity in God's family. Through Messiah's resurrection, believers become God's children and receive a living hope. His resurrection assures them of the future resurrection of God's people and belongs to God's plan for a new heavens and new earth.

The promised inheritance is God's kingdom and eternal life. It cannot perish, become corrupted, or lose its worth. God preserves this inheritance and guards believers through faith for the salvation that will be fully revealed at the end of the age.

Believers can rejoice in this future even while grieving present trials. Peter compares tested faith to gold refined by fire. The teaching explains that God uses trials to purify character and strengthen faith, which is more precious than gold that eventually perishes.

Peter's readers love and trust Yeshua even though they have not seen him. The salvation announced to them fulfills what the prophets anticipated concerning Messiah's sufferings and subsequent glory. Even angels long to look into these realities of God's redemptive plan.

The teaching applies this hope to discouragement over the world, personal loss, and difficult relationships. Believers can look beyond immediate circumstances toward God's coming kingdom and justice. While they wait, they can ask what God is teaching them and remain firm in the Gospel as their faith is refined.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Peter opens with a Jewish form of blessing called a berakhah.
- Yeshua and his saving work remain central to Peter's message.
- New birth gives believers an identity as God's children.
- Messiah's resurrection grounds hope for believers' future resurrection.
- The inheritance is God's kingdom and eternal life.
- God guards believers through faith for salvation's final revelation.
- Joy in future hope can coexist with grief over present trials.
- Trials refine faith as fire refines gold.
- The prophets anticipated Messiah's sufferings and the glory to follow.
- Hope in God's kingdom encourages faithfulness through present suffering.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Believers are born again to a living _____.
2. This new birth comes through Yeshua's _____ from the dead.
3. Peter describes the inheritance as kept in _____.
4. God guards believers through _____.
5. Peter compares the testing of faith to the refining of _____.
6. Peter says even _____ long to look into the realities of salvation.

Challenging

1. The Jewish term _____ means blessing and describes Peter's opening expression of thanks.
2. The new birth changes believers' status so that they become God's _____.
3. An inheritance that cannot be corrupted or spoiled is described as _____.
4. An inheritance that does not lose its worth is described as _____.
5. The teaching says God uses trials for our _____, refining our faith.
6. The prophets anticipated Messiah's sufferings and the subsequent _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does the teaching emphasize keeping Messiah central when discussing God and salvation?
2. How does new birth into God's family shape the believer's hope?
3. What encouragement comes from the descriptions of the promised inheritance?
4. How can grief and joy coexist in Peter's account of trials?
5. What privilege does Peter describe by referring to the prophets and angels?
6. How does the teaching suggest responding to discouragement or loss in light of the coming kingdom?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. hope
2. resurrection
3. heaven
4. faith
5. gold
6. angels

Challenging

1. berakhah
2. children
3. undefiled
4. unfading
5. sanctification
6. glories