

# Victorious Living, Anyway!

St. Luke Lutheran Church  
Spring, 2008  
Home Group Discussion #1

## Lessons from the Apostle Peter: To God's Elect, Strangers in the World

*Peter before the Sanhedrin,  
"Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.  
For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."  
Acts 4:19-20*

During our spring home group sessions we are going to study Peter's first letter to the early Church scattered throughout what is now Turkey. Peter wrote during a time of increasing animosity toward the church, and outright persecution was looming. Peter encouraged his readers to remain steadfast... no matter what. The format of this study will be different from previous studies. Through a series of leading questions participants will be led through a verse by verse discussion of I Peter.

A second feature of our spring home group sessions will be a reinforcement of our purposes as a congregation:

**Worship:** live to please God  
**Fellowship:** be connected into God's family  
**Discipleship:** become like Jesus  
**Ministry:** serve others  
**Evangelism:** share Jesus

Each session will call on participants to evaluate our progress individually and corporately in fulfilling these purposes.

### **OPENING:**

Make sure everyone knows one another. Are there others that you could invite for next time?

Have someone lead the group in a prayer. Make sure to ask God to grant his blessing on the entire home group ministry. Also ask him to bless the worship life of the congregation.

### **WORSHIP: Live to please God**

Worship is more than "going to church" on Sunday morning (or Monday evening!). **Worship is all that we do to honor and glorify God.** Lots of worship ought to take place outside of a service setting. And just because we are in a service setting doesn't mean worship really happens (for instance, paying more attention to what someone is wearing than to the message, grumbling about the music, and so on does not honor or glorify God)!

Discuss how your worship life is going:

- Does our congregation's service setting enable to you honor and glorify God? What could be added or changed? What needs to be changed in your life to be better able to honor and glorify God in a service?
- How is your worship life going outside of a formal service, day by day? Do you find yourself honoring and glorify God throughout the day? How do you keep the purpose of Living to Please God foremost in your day?

## **STUDY OF I PETER 1:1-25**

This letter was written by the Apostle Peter in about A.D. 64. Peter, one of the closest associates of Jesus and a leader in the early Christian Church, addresses the reality of suffering and persecution for the church and the need to remain steadfast. Hope in Christ is hope enough!

### ***READ 1:1-2***

Your group may want to get out a map to locate the ancient and modern locations identified in verse 1. Your group may also want to assign someone the responsibility to research Nero's persecution—this was the suffering that the church was beginning to feel.

Discuss the works of the Trinity as highlighted in verse 2

### ***READ 1:3-9***

Discuss what gifts God has given you according to verses 3-5.

Peter addresses various trials that the readers had suffered. That issue will be a constant companion throughout our study. Discuss various trials that you face. Do you face any of the sorts that they faced? Are the "troubles common to all men" part of this kind of suffering?

Do we have the kind of joy Peter talked about? Why? Why not?

### ***READ 1:10-12***

Both the prophets and the angels of God were thrilled to consider the wonders and mystery of God's grace in Jesus, the Christ. Do we have the same kind of thrill? Why? Why not? If not, what would it take to cultivate it?

### ***READ 1:13-25***

Therefore? What does that "therefore" mean?

How do we prepare our minds for action? How do we become self-controlled? How do we set our hope fully on God's grace?

What does it mean to "live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear?" How do we become too familiar with the world's "here?" Have we become too successful in quenching the wrong kind of fear?

How do we live out the call to sincere, deep and heartfelt love for one another? How is the call to such love related to being born again?

### ***AND SO...***

What will you take home from tonight's conversation? What do you need to pray and think about? What do you need to put into practice?

### **CLOSING:**

Have the group spend some time in prayer. Please consider others that you might invite to your group. Make sure you take turns with the treats!