



### Groups Questions // Jeff Brodie - Online Service (March 15, 2020)

**Message Recap:** Fear is contagious, but so is hope. Hope is more powerful than fear. Let's be people who share hope. In a culture of fear, let's choose to be FOR people.

### Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-8

#### Getting Started:

Thinking back on Jeff's message, what was one point or story that stood out to you? Share why it stood out to you.

In your experience this past week, how have you seen or heard people reacting with fear? Have you been tempted to catch contagious fear? How have you seen or heard people exercising hope? Jeff shared about different ways that we try to build hope: Preparedness, Knowledge, Wealth, Health. On which of these do you naturally lean?

### Read 1 Peter 1:3-8

How do you imagine the first-century church processed this encouragement from Peter? Put yourself in the shoes of the original community receiving this letter. What were some of the things Jeff shared about their experience that aligns with what we are experiencing today?

Is there anything in the passage that surprises you, frustrates you, or causes you to think? Why?

What are the modern-day equivalents of the following three details noted in the passage?

- Peter praising God for his mercy in a season of persecution (Verse 3)
- 'Endure many trials for a little while.' (Verses 6)
- Value of our faith. (Verse 7)

Do you lean heavily on hope you build like Preparedness, Knowledge, Wealth, or Health for your security? Think about days and seasons where you have leaned into the hope we have in Jesus, rather than the hope you have tried to build on your own. What did you do or not do that helped you lean into and trust Jesus?

Why does this passage continue to resonate with people today? What in this passage resonates with you specifically?

'Praise is the antidote to panic.' Worship is the antidote for worry.' Discuss how this can be true. If you find it difficult to apply, share why. If this resonates with you, share how you have been processing this season.

This passage shows Peter's hope in the face of adversity. What are other stories from scripture that illustrate Peter expressing hope in Jesus? What are stories when Peter failed to express his hope in Jesus? (Bonus: Read the passage you are reminded of and look for similarities with I Peter 1:3-8. How do you resonate with Peter as a follower of Jesus?

How could this passage challenge the way you think about your posture towards God? How is Peter's posture inspiring for us? If you haven't yet decided to follow Jesus, what is your objection to putting your hope in Him, rather than the things you build? If you follow Jesus but don't feel like you have a contagious hope, confess that to your group members and ask for prayer in that regard.

### **Moving Forward:**

Jeff said, 'Hope is what you have. Faith is what you build.' How can you share your hope with others this week? How can you work on building your faith this week?

If the only hope you have is the hope you build yourself, we are subject to that changing! But if we build hope in Jesus, a hope that lives, and is eternal, how can you share that hope in practical ways this week? How can your group be FOR the city? Make a plan to hold each other accountable to being FOR people between now and the next time you meet.