

I Peter 1:1-5

Expectant Living!

Life Group Study Guide

Sugar Grove Church of Christ
11600 West Airport Blvd. Meadows Place, TX 77477
For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups
2007

How to Use The Sugar Grove Life Group Curriculum:

- **Use only in small groups-** This material is designed to be used in a discussion involving a small group of 5-12 people. If there are more than 12 people present it would work best to break up into smaller groups of 5-12 people.
- **Don't teach this material-** There is a difference between a class and a discussion group. The primary purpose of a class is for someone to impart knowledge or information to a group of people suggesting possible applications. The best way to teach is for one person to talk taking occasional comments and questions from the class. The primary purpose of a discussion group is to help a group of people make application into their life and heart. The best way to lead a discussion group is to put a question out on the table and then allow the group to process.
- **Just read the next question-** This material is designed to spark discussion and honest sharing. The person leading this discussion (the discussion facilitator) should read the question and then be quiet to allow others to talk. The discussion facilitator should talk less than 25% of the time.
- **Share-** The discussion is best when everyone present has an opportunity to be a part of the discussion. If someone does not talk it is appropriate to encourage that person to participate. If someone is not allowing others the chance to talk then it is appropriate to encourage that person to give others an opportunity to talk.
- **Keep a Balance:** A healthy small group is characterized by keeping a balance of activities. Spend focused amounts of time breaking the ice through the Connect section, getting into the word and applying it into your heart and life through the Grow section, considering how to put these scriptures into action through the Serve and Share section, entering into the throne room of God through the Prayer section, and then spending time in fellowship with the group before or after your discussion time. Don't do one of these items to the exclusion of others! Keep a balance.

Connect:

- In the last year what was something that you really looked forward to? Why did you anxiously look forward to this? How did it turn out?
- Have you ever inherited something? What did you inherit?
- Have you put on Jesus Christ through baptism? If so what's the story? When? Where? Circumstances?...

Scripture:

"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, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

I Peter 1: 3-5

Grow:

- As a group read together I Peter 1:3-5.
- Verse 3 says that "In God's great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead".
 - What is a living hope?
 - Why didn't Peter tell us that we received a living hope through our baptism or through following God's commands instead of through the resurrection of Jesus?
 - What is so significant about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?
- I Peter 1:5 tells us that we are shielded by God's power. I Samuel 2:9 tells us that "He will guard the feet of his saints..."
 - Should it change your day to day life and attitude knowing that God shields and guards us? Why? How?
 - Are there times in your life that you don't sense God's protection? When? What might be the cause of this?
- Verse 4 talks about an inheritance that can never perish spoil or fade. We live in a world where everything perishes, spoils, and fades.
 - What have been some things recently in your life that have perished, spoiled, or faded? How did this impact your life? How did this impact your relationship with God? Why?
- ❖ When someone is expectantly looking forward to something they tend to be filled with joy and excitement for what is to come.
 - Do you live your life with an expectant living hope? Why or Why not?
 - What needs to change in your life so that your life is characterized by an expectant living hope?

Serve and Share:

- An age old question is which comes first- the chicken or the egg. A similar question is raised when God presents an opportunity for us to talk to someone about spiritual issues.
 - Which comes first in our conversation with someone? Should we talk about their behavior and practices or about Jesus Christ and the grace offered through his blood first? What are the consequences of each?

Prayer:

- Spend a few moments gathering prayer requests from your group.
- Confidently go into the throne room of God with prayer. Be sure to pray by name for each member of your group asking God to bless your Life Group this year.

Preperation for Next Time:

- Make sure everyone knows where and when the next group meeting will occur.
- Fill out your group roster and return to the office- this will be compared against the ACS database.

