

PERSEVERE WITH PETER

LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting THEME: Happy to be exiles?!

Prepare yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Listen to Peter's whole first letter, with an audio-bible app, or/and read the whole letter. Try to find an answer on these questions:

- In what circumstances do the Christians to whom Peter writes, find themselves?
- What is, in short, is his message to them?
- Why would it have been needed to write this (what is Peter's aim in writing)? [What could have happened if Peter wouldn't have written this letter?]

20.00 – 20.10 Start Sometimes we simply don't feel ourselves at home. When do you have such feelings? And how are you inclined to deal with such feelings?

20.10 – 20.15 Pray.

20.15 - 20.40 Bible passage: Read I Peter 1 : 1-12 twice.

Look again at 1:1-2

'Exiles of the Dispersion'. This was the normal way to refer to those Jews who, due to being sent in exile long ago, no longer lived in their own country. However, Peter, in his letter uses this term to refer to those who have become believers in Jesus Christ (Jewish and non-Jewish). Due to their new birth, they no longer feel at home in the current time and they long for the time that Jesus Christ comes in glory. But living as exiles is sometimes hard. You might want to give up, adapt. Or you might get frustrated, especially when your faith and obedience to Christ only seem to result in sad things and suffering. In that situation Peter writes an encouraging and appealing letter.

- What strikes you in these verses?

Look again at 1:3-5

Rather than addressing himself immediately to his readers, Peter first praises God for what He has done. He wants his readers to hear that he praises God. And he wants them to hear for what he praises God. How important is it that we hear and join such praise!

- Looking at their situation, Peter's readers might feel sad and discouraged. What effect would Peter have aimed for, when they heard his praise?

Look again at 1:6-9

- Does Peter deny the hardships his readers face? How does Peter deal with these hardships?

Look again at 1:10-12

These verses underline the privileged position of those who have come to know about the salvation Jesus Christ has brought. Prophets were looking forward for the time and person of Christ. Angels wondered how God would be righteous and merciful at the same time. To be saved and born again implies that our lives will be like Jesus' life on earth. Before we receive our promised inheritance, we will have to serve and to suffer. But don't forget the privilege!

20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Sometimes we don't feel ourselves at home. What did you learn from Peter's letter today? Phrase this in prayer!

20.50 – 21.00 End the Life Group meeting with praying together.