

1 Peter

Questions for discussion & reflection

Intro to 1 Peter / 1 Peter 1:3-12

- How “new” is our identity as Christians? What makes it new? What is “old” or “out of style” about it? What is that new birth to which Jesus is calling us?
- Where do we trust in a dead hope, a perishable inheritance, or an unreliable salvation?
- How do we wait well? How do we maintain a sense of urgency 2000 years later? How do we manage the waiting with the living?

1 Peter 1:17-23

- What does it look like to live in “reverent fear” of God? How does that idea relate to viewing God more intimately as a parent?
- Why is it so difficult to love other members of the Christian community? Which of those modifiers (sincerely, from the heart, deeply) is most difficult to put into practice? Which is least likely to characterize the way you love others?
- Should the command to love be limited to members of the Christian community in our context? Why or why not?

1 Peter 2:2-10

- How might God be calling you, individually, to grow into salvation? How might God be calling your community to grow into salvation?
- What about the identity and vocation in verses 5 & 9 resonates with you, surprises you, or confuses you?
- How does this passage help you think about how Christians should engage non-Christians? What does this say about engaging with people who are outside of our immediate religious community?

1 Pet 5:6-11

- The author offers several exhortations related to the theme of “persevere.” Which of these resonates with you most? Why?
- When have you cast your anxiety on God and experienced God’s care?
- What do you make of the depiction of the devil in this passage?
- Do you think God’s actions on behalf of Christians – restore, support, strength, establish – are reserved for the “end times?” Or does God act in those ways in the present?