

01 A LIVING HOPE

KEY TEXT: 1 PETER 1:3-12

CENTRAL truth

How would you define “hope”? Many of us use the word hope when we’re uncertain about the future and what it may hold. However, the apostle Peter taught the recipients of this letter about a different kind of hope: the living hope secured for them through the resurrection of Jesus. This hope, as Peter taught, is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading—in other words, it is a hope that is certain and that we can have confidence in. **As Jesus’s followers, we have the hope of eternal life.**

key question

What does Peter mean when he uses the word “salvation” in verse 5?

When we hear the word salvation, we tend to think of it as being saved from the penalty of sin. While this is absolutely true, Peter uses the word to also describe the future hope for followers of Jesus. We will also be saved from the presence of sin in our world, receive resurrected bodies, and enjoy eternity with the Lord and His people.

keep in mind

- Peter’s challenge to rejoice during suffering can be challenging for students. This doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t make space for our feelings; rather, we should allow the future hope secured by Jesus to give us joy today. Allow the **Give an Answer** note to help you navigate this tension.
- Peter reminds believers that the prophets of the Old Testament prophesied—or pointed ahead—to the good news about salvation through Jesus. In fact, Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies! Allow this truth to help you remind students that God’s Word is reliable and trustworthy.

application

What are some ways we can share the hope we have in Christ with others this week?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should know that our hope in Jesus’s return allows us to have joy today, not matter what we are going through.

FOR THE LEADER: Help students to live in the tension of embracing the difficulties they are experiencing while trusting in the future hope of Jesus’s return.

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