

I Peter – On Our Current Situation

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I Peter 1:1-25

January 3rd, 2021

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Peter had a strong story at work in his life and Jesus gave him a new story

A real story of God he was now living in.

*Like in Peter's life, what false stories has Jesus allowed you to stop believing? What ones is he still working on?

Read and discuss I Peter 1:3-9(ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*What do these verses say about God? About us?

*What does this passage say about living in a land that isn't ours?

*What is Peter telling us about our story?

Our story is the story of the plan of Jesus and his grace

God ransomed us with his life to include us in that story.

Read and discuss I Peter 1:13-21(ESV)

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

*How is Peter challenging us in this passage?

*Where is your life reflecting this new story? Where isn't it?

The central narrative of our story is the Gospel of God's grace for us

Peter wants us to reorient around the Gospel.

- *When are you tempted to be distracted by the story your circumstances have told?
- *What is the true story God actually wants you to see right now?
- *How can you awaken, for the first time or again, to the true story in these first weeks of 2021?
- *How are you being invited to carry this story forward to others who are suffering and being controlled by false stories?

Join us as we read through the book of I Peter this winter as a church

[I Peter Reading Plan](#)

January 3rd - 9th:

I Peter 1:1-25

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)* [Painting](#) – Unknown

Song for reflection [Storyteller](#) by Morgan Harper Nichols

*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.