

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion

### 1 Peter 1:3-12

#### Hope for Hard Times

##### Getting Started

Do you consider yourself a hopeful person? Why or why not?

##### Background

In the first two verses, Peter has already tried to shape the way his readers think of themselves. They are chosen by God himself, through the work of the Spirit in their lives, for obedience to Jesus Christ. Now in vss. 3-12 Peter expounds on the wonderful future God has planned for us. It's a glorious future that gives us hope for the present – a living hope.

##### Digging In

1. **Read vss. 3-5.** Why do you think Peter calls this a *living hope*?
2. On what basis were we given this living hope?
3. What does he mean by our *inheritance*? Why is it secure?
4. **Read vss. 6-9.** Why does Peter say that we can rejoice – even in the midst of trials?
5. What is the purpose of these trials? 
6. In what sense are we already receiving the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls? (v. 9)
7. **Read vss. 10-12.** How did the Old Testament prophets feel about the prophecies they gave concerning the coming of Christ?
8. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in these verses?

##### Getting Personal

- What part of Peter's exhortation do you find to be most encouraging? Why?
- Do you sometimes feel discouraged by the difficulties Christians face in America today? How can Peter's words help us remain faithful under fire?
- It's one thing to know that our hope is secure. It's another thing to actually live as hopeful Christians. What steps can we take to internalize and apply Peter's teaching?

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