



# A THEN + NOW PEOPLE

THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

**GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
WEEK 1

# CONNECT

- How did you make the most of the snow days the past week?
- Describe the best road trip you've taken. Describe the worst road trip you've taken.
- Was there ever an environment—a new job, new city, new school—where it took a long time for you to feel like you belonged? How did you cope?

## INTRODUCTION

Today we're beginning a journey through the book of 1 Peter. Here's the idea behind the series name, *A Then-And-Now People*: Christians figure out how to live in the present (the "now") by looking at two vital reference points—what Jesus did in the past

(back "then") and what God has promised in the future ("then").

The Christians Peter's writing to are facing a very complicated and challenging "now." So he starts his letter by reminding them of their destination.

# READ & DISCUSS

## READ

1 Peter 1:1-13

## DISCUSSION 1

Verse 13 sums up the paradigm of Peter's letter as a whole. Christians set their hope on something very specific –the return of Jesus. When our hope is set in the right place, our minds are prepared for wherever Jesus leads us. Read verses 3-7 again. How does Peter's description of the Christian hope impact you?

# READ & DISCUSS

## DISCUSSION 2

The literal translation of “preparing your minds for action” in verse 13 is “girding up the loins of your mind.” When someone was preparing to run or do strenuous work, they would tie up their cloak and tuck it into a leather belt. We might say, “Rolling up the sleeves of your mind.” That’s the image Peter wants to impress on his readers. What do you think a “girded-up” mind thinks like as opposed to an “ungirded-up” mind?

# READ & DISCUSS

## DISCUSSION 3

Read verses 8–9 again. In Peter’s mind, the fuel for faithfully following Jesus, wherever he leads, is loving him.

When you love Jesus, the path is worth it, no matter the difficulty, because you know that Jesus’s path was filled with suffering that ended in glory. And you know that he went through it out of love for you. How does loving Jesus fuel you personally for a life of following him?

# PRAYER

Jesus told us to pray, "Your kingdom come." Spend time praying that Jesus would come quickly and bring his justice and righteousness to this world. Pray for strength and grace to faithfully follow Jesus where he leads.

## DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible and prayed consistently the past week?
- Who is one lost person you're praying would come to faith?



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