



More Than This | 1 Peter 1:3-5 | March 23, 2008

1. Why do you believe that there is “more than this”?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-22 and summarize why the resurrection of Jesus is so important.
Leader Hints:
You may want to ask this question: “What does it mean if Jesus did not rise from the dead?”
3. Because Jesus is risen, we can have a hope that life does not end in death. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5 and discuss how Peter describes this hope that we have because of Jesus’ resurrection.
4. In your own words, explain what the hope of eternity means for you.
Leader Hints:
How we describe eternity is wrapped in both emotional concepts and intellectual/factual concepts.
INTELLECTUAL/FACTUAL CONCEPTS
 - Please note that we tend to blend our ideas of eternity. The final hope of the follower of Jesus is the New Heavens and the New Earth as described in Revelation 21- 22. Our idea of heaven is “absent from the body and present with the Lord.” The idea of future resurrection (1 Corinthians 15, 1 and 2 Thessalonians) and the resurrection body is referring to the final hope, NOT the idea of heaven as we know it. This in no way minimizes heaven, but the hope that is talked about in Scripture points to the return of Jesus and the final establishment of his kingdom in the New Heavens and New Earth.**EMOTIONAL CONCEPTS**
 - The story of Scripture is about restored relationship with God through Jesus. Whatever our ideas of heaven and the New Heavens and New Earth are, central to these ideas must be this complete and perfect relationship with God. Our hope is first and foremost about God in relationship with us.
5. Note that Peter describes our hope as a great expectation (“living hope”), a priceless possession (“inheritance that never perishes, spoils, or fades”), and something that is secure (“kept for you”). What do these phrases mean to you?
6. For Jesus’ resurrection to matter in our lives, we must have faith in him. Do you trust him?
Leader Hints:
Take a look at the expression of faith in 1 Peter 1:8: “You love him . . . you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.” If you have time, make a mention to your small group that this hope we have in Jesus impacts how we live. The book of 1 Peter is about suffering. Peter talks about how the hope that they have in the resurrection allows them to survive and thrive in the midst of being persecuted for their faith. This hope truly is living.