



## Life Group Work Sheet 1 Peter 1:1-2

June 8, 2014

### Getting to Know Each Other

1. Hope is an important part of our Christian lives. How would you define hope? Share a time when hope helped you get through a hard time.
2. Share a time when your hopes were realized. How did this feel? Conversely, share a time when you or someone you know lost hope. How did this feel?

### Into the Text

3. **Read 1 Peter 1:1-2.** In these verses, Peter refers to Christians as “elect exiles.” What does it mean to be an elect exile?
  - a. Have you ever experienced a time when you felt like an “elect exile?”
  - b. Consider the Christians in Iraq who are suffering at the hands of the terrorist group IS (formerly ISIS). How would Peter’s statement here be good news for them?
  - c. In these verses, Peter states that we Christians have been chosen by God. How does this truth give us hope?

4. Consider how 1 Peter 1:1-2 gives hope to people in the following situations:
  - a. The man struggling with depression.
  - b. The only believer in a family of unbelievers.
  - c. The couple who are struggling to have children.
  - d. The woman who doesn’t enjoy her job.
  - e. The couple who lost their child in a traffic accident.

## AMERICAN EXILES



*Throughout his letter, Peter makes mention of being “exiles” in this world. This is an important word for our understanding of how we relate to the world as Christians. With that in mind, read through 1 Peter and notice all the ways that he refers to our primary allegiance belonging to God in heaven, not to the country that we live in. Answer the following questions.*

1. **Read Philippians 3:20-21.** What does it mean that “our citizenship is in heaven”? Think of your own context. What does that mean for you?
2. **Read John 18:33-37.** What does Jesus mean when he says that his kingdom is “not of this world”? Should this statement reflect the political involvement of Christians? In what way?
3. While we are certainly blessed to live in a country with many religious freedoms, the United States of America is not our home. List three or more ways that God has blessed you by allowing you to live in the United States. List three or more ways that this nation is certainly “not our home.”
4. Think of your vocation. How does your status as an “elect exile” affect the way that you work?