

Salvation history (v10-12)

Complete the table on the previous page, adding what **v10-12** says about the past/present/future of our salvation.

Why are Christians more privileged than prophets of the past, and angels?

Discuss: From **1 Peter 1:3-12**, how might you answer or encourage...

- A Christian going through hard times
- Someone who says: "If only I could see Jesus in the flesh, then I could believe in him!"

Pray

From the whole passage, write a list of things we can praise God for – and do so! Ask God to work in us as we go through trials, to help us hold fast to the hope of our eternal inheritance.

Memory verse

"In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (**1 Peter 1:3**)

Talk outline

Wishful hope

Living hope (1:3-5)

Present trials (1:6-7)

Inexpressible joy (1:8-9)

The hope in salvation (1:10-12)

The Christian hope



A living hope

1 Peter 1:1-12

Introduction to 1 Peter

Welcome to FOCUS! This semester we will be studying the book of **1 Peter**. This is a letter, written by the apostle Peter in the mid-60s AD. Peter was one of Jesus' closest friends and an eyewitness of his life, death and resurrection. He writes to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor.

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2.

Peter addresses his readers in two ways.

- In their *relationship to God*, they are “elect” (chosen by God for salvation).
- In their *relationship to the world*, they are “strangers” or “exiles” (temporary residents).

Peter writes to encourage them (and us) to stand firm in God's grace during our temporary stay in this world (5:12). So *1 Peter* is a bit like a traveller's guide for Christians on the way to their true home, heaven. Enjoy!

Icebreaker

Discuss: How does it feel to be a foreigner?

As a Christian living in this world, do you feel like you are at home, or a “foreigner”?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-12.

Are there any difficult words here?

The certainty of salvation (v3-5)

What things can Christians praise God for?

What's so special about this future inheritance (v4)?

Rank the following items in order of their “perishability” (how long they will last):



- bottle of milk
- banana
- gold ring

- tree
- car
- Christians' inheritance



How can we be certain of this future hope?

- v3
- v4
- v5

Suffering and salvation (v6-9)

Read through v3-9 and note what this passage tells us about the past, present and future of our salvation.

Past	Present	Future

Why can Christians rejoice in grief and trials?

Can Christians expect to be protected from experiencing difficulty or suffering in life?

Have you seen or experienced a time when suffering strengthened the faith of Christians (you, or someone you know)?

How does this passage encourage you as you face hardship and grief?

