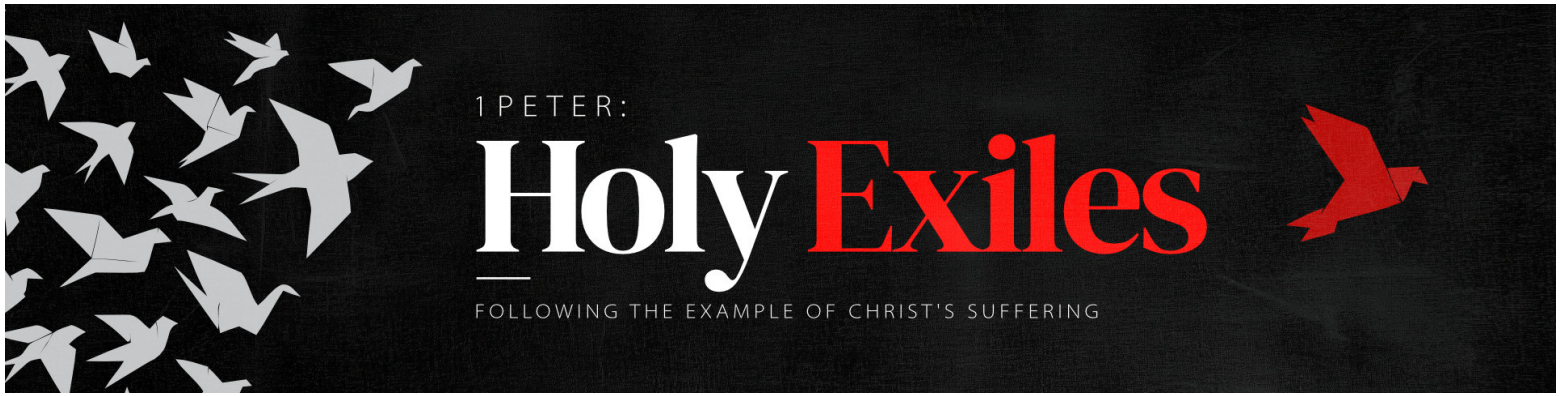




1 PETER 1:1-2

GETTING STARTED...

Have you ever felt out of place? We all feel out of place at one point or another, but as Christians we will feel out of place throughout our lives. This is because what Jesus does in our lives is not a surface level change, but a deep transformation of our identity in this world. We are citizens of heaven, and that means we live as foreigners on the earth. Peter calls the church to live out our identity in Christ by living holy lives and showing the glory of God through our actions. And this will involve learning to suffer as Jesus did. Jesus suffered on this earth, and as his disciples we should expect the same treatment. The Christian life does not promise to remove suffering, but shows us how to glorify God through it. Peter calls the church to live out the transformation that Jesus has made as holy exiles.

READ THE TEXT: 1 PETER 1:1-2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Peter begins by addressing the church as exiles. How has that word/theme been used throughout the Old Testament? (Consider things like Abraham, Exodus, the Babylonian Exile)

2. Peter begins this letter by addressing the work of each member of the Trinity, what are the roles that he describes and how do they help us understand God's work in our salvation.

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

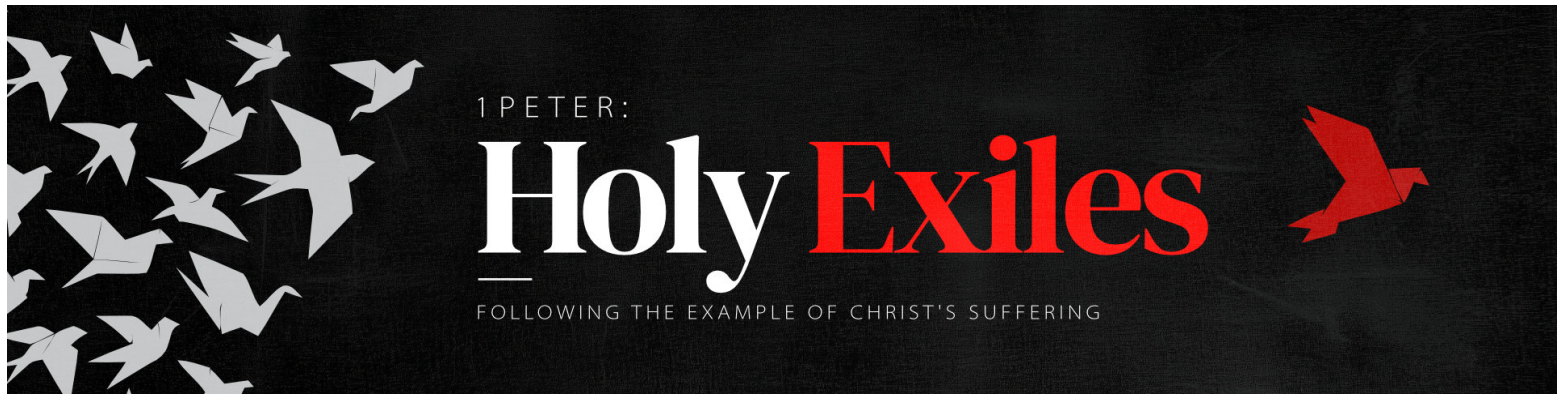
3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How does the foreknowledge of God, in our faith and lives, give us hope as we face challenges and suffering?
6. How do we pursue holiness in our lives? How does our serious effort work with the Holy Spirit's empowering to help us grow in holiness? What practical steps can we take?
7. Being that our suffering for our faith is rarely physical, how can we imitate Jesus' suffering in our lives? How does his example give us hope through it?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*