



WEST HIGHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH

Facilitators' Guide for Community Groups **Strangers & Exiles "A Sure and Living Hope"**

1 Peter 1:3-9
September 29

1. Welcome (an ice-breaker discussion to get everyone comfortable with sharing):

What is your favourite season? What do you love most about that season?

2. Worship (to draw our hearts to the Lord and invite Him into our discussion):

We have a living hope because Jesus is alive! Sing together "Because He Lives"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs>

Many other worship songs are available at www.westhighland.org/smallgroupsongs.

3. Word (to consider how the sermon applies to our lives, and to live out the "one anothers"):

Read together: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Sermon Summary

The sermon focused on the power of blessing God in all circumstances, especially in times of trial, by grounding our praise in the "living hope" we have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We explored how being born again gives us access to an imperishable inheritance and how this hope is sustained by God's power, even in the face of suffering. Joy in the midst of trials is possible because God uses these challenges to refine our faith, making it more precious than gold. Through this, we are called to live with an eternal perspective, finding hope and joy in the promises of God.

Sermon Questions

- What are some practical ways you can bless or praise God during difficult seasons in your life? How does praising God impact your perspective in those moments?
- How does the truth of having a "living hope" through Jesus' resurrection shape the way you handle uncertainty or fear in life?
- Think of a recent trial or challenge you've faced. How did it test or strengthen your faith?
- In what ways did you experience joy even in the middle of hardship?
- How can we grow in our relationship with Jesus, even though we cannot see him?

4. Witness (joining Jesus in his mission):

We recently re-introduced the "Who's your one?" campaign and gave each person in the auditorium a bookmark. On the one side, we want you to ask God for one name that you can B.L.E.S.S. over the next 12 months. Break into groups of 2 or 3 and share who your one is this September. If you don't have a person in mind, that's OK. Spend some time praying that God would give you a name.

Spend some time in prayer for the people you are trying to B.L.E.S.S. over the next year.