



June 02 Because He Lives
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Pastor's Introduction

Living the Christian life can be difficult. We still struggle against the temptations of the flesh, against the forces of evil, and the effects of a sinful, fallen world. It is similar to the environment that the early church faced when Peter wrote his first epistle to them. 1 Peter is a letter to encourage the early church not to give up and to persevere in the faith. The early church faced intense persecution as they were dispersed abroad. This summer, the Wallace family will be studying 1 Peter in a sermon series entitled, "Don't Lose Heart." My prayer for our church is that we will continue on in our walk with God and not lose heart as we heed the words of this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Green".

Ed. TG



Participant Guide for June 2, 2024

Because He Lives

1 Peter 1:3-12

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

Don't Lose Heart...Because He Lives

1. A lot of people, when asked if they believe they are going to heaven, will respond, "I hope so." Discuss what you think they mean by their response?
2. 1 Peter is a letter of hope. But the hope discussed in Peter's letter is a different type of hope discussed in the Old Testament. Who or what transforms OT hope into NT hope and what are a few of the differences?
3. Someone read 1 Peter 1:3-12. How would our hope have been different if Jesus died for our sins but never rose to life?
4. Because He lives, we can face tomorrow, because he lives our fear is gone. How does the hope through the resurrection of Christ make this life worth living?
5. While our hope does come through the resurrection, our true hope is in the person of the resurrection. Discuss why this is important.
6. If you have time read out loud Romans 8:24-25 and let some share the peace that eagerly waiting with patience brings.

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated?**

- ◆ Share your personal testimony with your family about the time and circumstances of when you placed your hope of eternity in Jesus Christ. Now tell them what a difference this hope has made in your life.



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Participant Guide June 9, 2024

VBS Week – Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17-27

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. The rich young ruler asks about inheriting eternal life through one good deed. What did he expect Jesus to say? What assumptions do you think he had about earning salvation and his own righteousness?
2. Jesus challenges the man's use of the term "good" in reference to himself. Why do you think Jesus does this? What might Jesus be trying to teach the man about true goodness?
3. Instead of directly answering about the good deed, Jesus asks the man about the commandments. What does this reveal about Jesus' teaching style? How can asking questions be a more effective way to guide someone's understanding?
4. Why do you think Jesus omits the first three of the ten commandments?
5. The passage highlights the tension between wealth and following Jesus. How do we face similar challenges today? In what ways can our possessions become a distraction from our spiritual lives?
6. Jesus calls the rich man to give up his possessions and follow him. How can we develop a heart that prioritizes generosity and discipleship in our daily lives? What practical steps can we take?

Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
- ◆ What "one thing" might Jesus ask you to give up to follow Him more fully?

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Participant Guide for June 16, 2024

Because We Are Saved

1 Peter 1:13-25

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

Don't Lose Heart...Because We Are Saved

1. Has there ever been a time when you felt like other's expectations of you have been overwhelming? Why do others feel like they can burden you with expectations?
2. What was the price God had to pay in order that we might be saved? Read John 3:16-21. Discuss the price paid by God and the expectations He has for us.
3. Read our passage for today. 1 Peter 1:13-19. How does this further clarify God's right to direct our lives for His Glory?
4. In your experience, do you feel the church adequately answered the question "Now What?" when you professed Christ as Savior?
5. What can you and/or the church do to clarify our responsibility as believers that have been saved by the blood of Jesus Christ? What does the role of accountability play in maturing as a believer?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Take the next step to move forward in our WallaceKnox Discipleship Pathway. Don't let past experiences hinder your decision to grow spiritually.

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Participant Guide for June 23, 2024

Because We Are His

1 Peter 2:1-10

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

Don't Lose Heart...Because We Are His

1. Gardeners know they need to remove weeds to allow plants to thrive. What are some "weeds" that hinder your spiritual growth? Why is it just as important to get rid of bad habits as it is to add good practices?
2. Just like a plant needs specific nutrients, what are some things that nourish your spiritual growth? Think about "bad influences" as weeds and "good practices" as fertilizer. Share some examples from your own life.
3. Imagine a baby eagerly reaching for milk. Have you ever felt that strong of a desire to learn more about God's word? If so, what was happening in your life at that time? What might be causing a lack of interest in scripture lately?
4. We often hear Jesus referred to as the "cornerstone" of our faith. But what exactly is a cornerstone, and how does it function in a building? How does this metaphor illustrate the importance of Jesus in our spiritual foundation?
5. Peter describes believers as a "chosen people," a "royal priesthood," and a "holy nation." What does this mean for you? How can we live out these special identities in our daily lives? Think about concrete examples of how to act as God's chosen people in the world.

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, meditate on how following Jesus transforms your identity to live a holy life and share God's message of salvation.



Participant Guide for June 30, 2024

Because We Are Witnesses

1 Peter 2:11-3:7

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

Don't Lose Heart...Because We Are Witnesses

1. Witnesses are critical in determining accurate outcomes in a trial. Why are witnesses often conflicted in their accounts of the same event?
2. As witnesses for Christ why is it essential that we portray Christ according to the truth of God's Word and not according to our own experiences or emotions?
3. The question concerning our Christian witness is not are we or are we not called to be witnesses, the question is are we a good one or a bad one?
4. Holiness is our standard according to God himself. If your someone took an anonymous survey amongst your friends and coworkers, where do you think you would land on a scale of 1-10 with 1 being a bad witness for Christ and 10 being a perfect witness for Christ? Why did you pick the score you did?
5. Why does our shame concerning the lifestyle we have lived in the past hinder our witness in the presence?
6. As we enter another election cycle, why is this discussion important?
7. Read 1 Peter 1:13-17 again. How can you use this to transition political discussions to Gospel discussions?

Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
- ◆ Make a conscious decision today to step up your witness game. Work on being Holy as God is Holy. Work on finding ways to transition from divisive conversation to unifying conversation.



Participant Guide for July 7, 2024

Because We Will Suffer

1 Peter 3:8-22

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

Don't Lose Heart...Because We Will Suffer

1. We've all been treated unfairly. Think back to a time when this happened. How did you react in the moment? Looking back, would you handle it differently now? Based on Peter's advice in this passage, what might you do differently next time?
2. Peter tells us not to retaliate when insulted (v. 14). How does this passage echo what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:10-12? How does following this teaching challenge us?
3. Sometimes we suffer simply for doing what's right. What does that mean to you? Can you share a story (yours or someone you know) about suffering for righteousness?
4. A clear conscience can be a source of strength during suffering (v. 16). How do you maintain a clear conscience in your daily life?
5. Peter says to "seek peace and pursue it" (v. 11). What does that look like in action? How can we actively work towards peace in our relationships and communities?
6. Being "of one mind" is important for Christian fellowship (v. 8). What does that mean? How can we cultivate greater unity within our church or faith group?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ This week, focus on the qualities listed in verse 8 (sympathy, compassion, humility, gentleness, patience, etc.). Pick one you want to strengthen. How can you make a practical change to demonstrate this virtue more consistently?



Participant Guide for July 14, 2024

Because We Need Each Other

1 Peter 4:1-11

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

Don't Lose Heart...Because We Need Each Other

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, "we must deny self"?
2. In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, much is said about the benefits of living in peace and harmony with one another. What is the analogy Paul uses to illustrate the concept of "one another?"
3. Why is it important to understand that we are now obligated to one another?
4. What do you feel God has uniquely gifted you for in the Body of Christ? Are you exercising that giftedness in order to maximize the effectiveness of our church in its role in building the Kingdom of God on earth in anticipation of the Kingdom of God in Heaven?
5. What are some ways that others have come along side of you to make you a better follower of Jesus Christ?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Pray and ask God to put someone on your heart to encourage and helping them to become a more effective follower of Christ. Then be obedient!

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Participant Guide for July 21, 2024

Because He Is Faithful

1 Peter 4:12-5:5

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

Don't Lose Heart...Because He Is Faithful

1. These verses talk about suffering but also God's faithfulness during those times. Think back to the passages we've discussed in 1 Peter. What are some examples of God's faithfulness in the face of hardship? Now, share your own story! Can you think of a time in your life when you experienced God's faithfulness during a difficult situation?
2. Peter encourages us to rejoice when we share in Christ's sufferings (v. 13). This might seem strange! Why would we find joy in suffering?
3. The passage talks about being reviled for the name of Christ (v. 14); but what does it mean to truly live up to the name "Christian"? How can we glorify God through our actions and words, not just by our label?
4. In verse 19, Peter reminds us to entrust ourselves to the "faithful Creator." Why is this specific title significant? What does it tell us about God's character and how we can trust Him, even in challenging times?
5. The passage reminds us of God's faithfulness to His people. How can we share this message of hope and encouragement with others who might be facing trials? Can you think of someone in your life who might need to hear about God's faithfulness right now? How can you share it with them in a genuine and supportive way? (Think beyond simply telling someone "I'll pray for you.")

Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
- ◆ This week, consider what practical steps you can take now to build a stronger foundation of faith that will sustain you through difficult times.



Participant Guide for July 28, 2024

Because We Have A Future

1 Peter 5:6-14

Highlight

Action Step:

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

Don't Lose Heart...Because We Have A Future

1. Have you ever been so weighed down by your past that you couldn't imagine, little less think about your future? Looking back at those times, were they ever fruitful, were they ever joyous?
2. Read our passage for today. 1 Peter 5:6-14. How does this speak into past vs. future?
3. How does humility place us in the proper place for God to form our future?
4. In John 10:10, Jesus says, "I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance." How do those words speak into our future?
If Jesus proclaimed such a hopeful truth about our future, why would we even think about settling for anything less?
5. The road to our future, as a follower of Christ, is paved with the Grace and mercy of God. Read V.12 in our passage for today. What does Peter tell us to do in the midst of God's grace?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ As we close our series, I encourage you to not lose heart. And I challenge you to walk in the goodness of God! It is His will for you.

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