Peter says this salvation is spoken about by prophets. Read Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12. We often read this passage at Easter. How does this passage stand as an example of the Old Testament predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories that follow?

How does 1Peter 1:1 - 12 encourage you as you look at what is going on in the world and in your life?

Conclude your time together in prayer.

Study 1: A Living Hope

Reading: 1Peter 1:1 - 12

The letter is addressed to Christians scattered in a number of locations in what is now modern Turkey. In 1Peter 5:13 Peter indicates he writes from 'Babylon' although this is code for Rome. We are not told his connection with these churches but many of them may have been formed from those who travelled to Jerusalem for Pentecost and heard Peter's sermon in Acts 2.

Peter's letter has many quotations and allusions to the Old Testament and has a pervasive theme of hope for the persecuted exiles. As Peter sums up in 1Peter 5:12 "I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it."

<u>Read 1Peter 1:1 - 12:</u>

How does Peter introduce himself, why is this important?

What are we told about the recipients?

How does v1 and v2 introduce some of the themes that follow?

In v3 is being “born again’ something you do or something that is done to you? How does this relate to the description of Peter’s readers in v2?

This new birth takes place on what basis? Through what event?

According to v 3 to 5, God’s people are born ‘into’ two things: a living hope and an unfading inheritance. In the structure of the Greek sentence, these are not two separate things (one after the other), but the same thing. Why is it a living hope (or an inheritance that can never perish)? How certain is the ‘hope’ in this passage?

When will this inheritance be received?

What is the vehicle or mechanism through which God guards or shields us? Does this mean Christians are protected from all difficulty?

In v6 - 9 trials are described. What is their duration (compared to eternal inheritance)? What sort of trials will come? What is their immediate purpose, then their end result?

What does Peter believe is true of genuine faith?

What is the significance of the fact they have not seen Jesus? How is this encouraging for you?

By what different routes did the news of salvation come to the readers of Peter’s letter (v10 - 12)?