

Series - A Counter-Cultural Life
Topic - Living in Hope (1 Peter 1:1-12)

Date - 30-AUG-2020
Speaker - Snr Ps Ben Lee

WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for *icebreakers* suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like

1. Purify
2. In Christ Alone

WORD [45 min]

Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Refresh our understanding of what Christian Hope is,
2. Reaffirm our commitment to rely on this Hope for our lives, and
3. Rejoice because of this Hope even when life is hard.

Sermon Summary

The following are the key points of the sermon:

1. We are temporary residents on a faith journey, strangers in this world but chosen and called to live for God!
2. We have a living Hope because Jesus defeated death and rose again. This Hope gives us joy for today even when life can be hard.
3. We know that we are being prepared for glory in a future secured in Jesus Christ.
4. We are heirs to a living Hope foreseen by the Prophets in the Old Testament and envied even by the angels. Our response is to love Jesus, live for Him and take His message everywhere we go.

Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

We are starting a new message series titled 'A Counter-Cultural Life.' This series, which is based on the letter of 1 Peter, will equip us to live a life that neither compromises with the culture nor retreats from it. 1 Peter was written at a time when life was not good as a Christian, living under Roman rule with its pagan roots which underscored the conflict of cultures at that time. There are parallels today of the strong influences working in our world counter to the values we hold as Christians. It is totally counter-cultural to live with hope when life is hard. In 1 Peter 1:1-12, there are discoveries on how we do that.

1. **We are temporary residents** (vv 1-2)

We live in a land under the influence of an enemy power. As Christians, we are temporary residents on a faith journey. We are strangers in this world, and this is not our home. We do not belong in this world as we are citizens of God's eternal kingdom. We follow Jesus and as believers, we are called to a different destiny. We are chosen by God and called to live for Him!

2. **We are born into a living Hope** (vv 3-5)

Hope in the Bible is not a "cross your fingers and hope it's true" kind of belief. It refers to that which is real, but not yet fully fulfilled. Christian Hope is real because it is founded on something real that happened.

- We are born anew to a hope founded on Christ's Resurrection. We can face today with an entirely different perspective. We have a living Hope because Jesus defeated death and rose again.
- We can be certain of our future as we have a never-ending inheritance waiting for us. An inheritance and a hope that death and disease cannot touch. Something that is glorious that makes all pain worth it. See 1 Corinthians 2:9.
- Our journey is protected by God's power. This Hope gives us joy for today even when life can be hard. We expect tensions but we can also endure them. As we experience God working through us, our faith is built up and our hope is strengthened.

3. **We are being prepared for Glory** (vv 6-9)

Life is training for eternity. God is preparing us for the life to come. As Christians, we expect trials in our lives. The journey is difficult with some rough places where we will suffer – see 2 Corinthians 4:16-17.

Parts of the journey are hard to see and the storms in life may throw us off balance. Even through these dark times, Jesus sees us! Trusting Jesus is how we look beyond the brokenness of this life. The end location of our journey is secure. Jesus encourages us to continue and we can finish the journey despite the obstacles we may encounter along the way. We know that we are being prepared for glory in a future secure in Jesus Christ!

4. **We are heirs of an ancient Hope** (vv 10-12)

We are heirs to a living Hope foreseen by the Prophets in the Old Testament. They predicted that the Messiah would experience suffering and glory – see Isaiah 61:1-3. We are heirs of the things they longed for. As Christians, we are heirs of all their hopes! See Luke 10:23-24. Our salvation was envied even by the angels. We are privileged to enjoy this reality of a personal relationship with a Saviour even as we go through the earthly trials of life.

We live in a world of fragile hopes. But the Hope that Jesus Christ offers is different. It is living. It is sure and eternal. Our response is to love Jesus, live for Him and take His message everywhere we go.

Discussion Questions

1. **What is the difference between “hoping for good weather for an event” and “our Christian Hope”? What is our Christian Hope? (Recap)** [10 min]
 2. **Read 1 Peter:6-9. God uses trials that come our way to refine our faith. Are you facing any trial right now for following Jesus? Share it with the cell and as a group, talk through how understanding this passage and God’s promises can transform this suffering? (Relate)** [15 min]
 3. **Read 1 Peter:10-12. We are heirs to an Ancient Hope. This is a living Hope. How does this help us to live a Christ-centred life now? How can we rejoice even amid difficulties? (Reflect, Response)** [20 min]
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WORKS [10 min]

Let’s pray for the following pointers:

1. COVID-19 Situation
 - Pray for Christians to continue to grow and share the good news during this period.
 - Pray for the recovery of our economy, locally and globally.
 - Pray for the decrease in the total number of infections in the community and dormitories.
2. Pray to commit to live a counter-cultural life based on what God values.
 - For joy in the living Hope that God has given us.
 - To love Jesus and to live for Him.
 - To take God’s message everywhere we go.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access the latest Bible Reading Plan by visiting www.riverlifeorg.sg/brp.
2. **We Belong 2020.** For those of you could not join us last weekend – you can now catch up on the e-Gathering online at rlc.sg/wb2020-catchup. We have also launched our exclusive Sticker Pack for WhatsApp & Telegram featuring some of our beloved pastors and leaders. The links are provided in the session videos.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

SCAN ME



2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029



Church Vision

"A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations."

Mission

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.