

The Big Picture

1 Peter 1:3-9

- I. God is to be praised, because of our salvation through Jesus
 - A. We have a LIVING hope
 - B. We are promised a PERFECT inheritance
 - C. It's GUARANTEED

- II. Trials and persecution strengthen our faith in Jesus

- III. Our faith leads to an indescribable joy of eternal praise and glory and honor to Jesus

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. In what ways have you been distracted from seeing the “Big Picture” recently? Have you found it difficult or easy to keep an eternal perspective?
2. Read the first part of v. 3. Reflect on our God and how he is worthy to be praised. Share with one another how this proclamation of worship encourages you. Mark 14:61-62, Luke 1:42, Psalm 100:3, Deut. 7:9
3. Read the rest of v. 3. **When you hear of God’s great mercy, what does that make you think of?** Jeff defined mercy from God as being spared from something you deserve, how do you understand mercy in your own words? What scriptures come to mind? Ex. 34:6, Deut. 4:13, Neh. 9:31, Ps. 23:6; 86:15, Is. 30:18, Lam. 3:22, Matt. 5:7, 10-12, Luke 6:36, 2 Cor. 1:3
4. **We are “begotten” by our Heavenly Father.** Discuss regeneration and the significance of being a new creation. Compare being born of Adam and born of Christ. John 3:3, 2 Cor. 5:17-19, Titus 3:4-7, 1 Cor. 15:20-22
5. Discuss our LIVING hope, PERFECT inheritance and its complete GUARANTEE. How does this give you encouragement?
6. Peter is discussing external trials and temptations and likely persecution of Christians. What does persecution look like today, globally and in our culture? How is it similar to and different than what the early church faced? Read vv. 6-7 and James 1:2-4, how does this help you understand the purpose of trials? Matt. 5:10-12, Romans 8:35-39, 2 Cor. 12:10, 2 Tim. 3:12.
7. Read Rev. 5:13 and Psalm 145:21. What is our eternal and ultimate purpose and goal? How do keep this in mind as we navigate the world we’re in?
8. How do we best share the hope and joy of Jesus in this season?

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle

hope
in
the
midst
of
exile