

Small Group Questions
“A Living Hope”
(I Peter 1:3)

- 1) Read I Peter 1:3. Any sermon thoughts from this week to start us off?
- 2) What is the difference between the Biblical idea of hope and the idea of worldly hope (i.e., how the average person in our culture might think about hope)? Why is worldly hope a “dead” hope? In what ways is Biblical hope “living”?
- 3) How are suffering / difficulty connected to hope (look at Lamentations 3:19-24, Psalm 39:5-7, Psalm 42:5 for some examples)? How can earthly blessings lead to complacency (and the feeling that hope is mostly unnecessary)? What role has hope played in your life as you have walked through both difficulty and blessing?
- 4) Think about Peter’s life. How did the resurrection make hope a possibility for Peter? Peter says that it is according to God’s great mercy that we are able to possess a living hope. How are mercy and hope connected? Why is it foolish to place our hope in other people or in changed circumstances? Why can’t other people or changed circumstances be authors of hope that is living?
- 5) What is the proper response for us to have when we reflect on God’s *causing* us to be born again to a living hope? What kinds of wonderful things can we “blame” God for? How does meditating on God’s goodness towards us help when we are struggling with different difficulties?