



September 22, 2019

# Connection Resource

## A Sojourner's Guide

1 Peter 1:10-13

**Connection Leader:** The passages of Scripture below are provided to expand on the concepts presented in the Pastor's message on Sunday. I encourage you to read them and familiarize yourself with the content prior to class. There are many ways to use these passages during your group time. Here's a suggestion:



The Blue Letter Bible is an online resource that provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of the Bible. It can be accessed online at [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org), or through a convenient App that is free on the App Store. With Blue Letter Bible, you can dig deep into the Word using the Lexicon (to examine words in the original language), Concordance (to examine other related verses), encyclopedias, commentaries, maps, and much more. (See the BLB handout for specific instructions).

There are four topics to discover and discuss with your group. It will be difficult to cover all of them thoroughly, so I encourage you to focus on the areas that appeal or apply to your group in particular. Take a cursory look at some passages while going deeper into other's. Allow the Holy Spirit to be your guide in this matter and follow where He leads. Encourage your group to use the **Bible Study Resource** to continue pursuing God during the week.

### The Sojourner's Instructions

1 Peter 1:13

Peter shares a great deal of wisdom in the book of 1 Peter, much of it gained through His own personal experience as he walked with Jesus. Like many of us today, Peter learned from his successes as well as his failures how to walk faithfully with God. In this passage we all benefit from Peter's experience, and find a powerful plan that provides a foundation for our actions today.

Using the Lexicon in the Blue Letter Bible, examine the following phrases from 1 Peter 1:13 in the original Greek language. To save time, divide into three groups and assign one to each group, then discuss the results together.

1. *"Prepare your minds for action."* It may be helpful to compare the Lexicon's definition of the mind to Webster 1828.
2. *"Keep sober in spirit."* It will be helpful to also use Webster 1828 to consider the definitions of words presented in the Lexicon such as: temperate, dispassionate, and circumspect.
3. *"Fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*

## **Prepare Your Mind for Action**

**Colossians 3:1-17, Romans 12:1-2**

Preparation for action begins in the mind. You will face difficult situations in this life, and God will often ask you to avoid the easy path and choose His direction. He asks us to forgo our plan to follow His instructions.

1. Read Colossians 3:1-4 and discuss together: What are the things in your life that beg for your time and attention? What practical things can you do to remind yourself to focus on the things of God throughout your day?
2. Read Colossians 3:5-17 together, then allow time for each person to read the passage quietly and prayerfully. Encourage them to consider and identify one area where God is convicting them of something they need to lay aside, and one area where God is encouraging them to take up and put on a Christ-like attitude or behavior.
3. Discover Romans 12:1-2 in the Blue Letter Bible. Consider in the original language phrases such as:

\* living sacrifice

\* transformed

\* good

\* reasonable service

\* renewing your mind

\* acceptable

\* conformed

\* prove

\* perfect

## **Faith for our Trials**

**Philippians 4:4-9, A Practical Example – Matthew 26:31-46, 69-75**

Preparation for action progresses from the mind to the spirit with the encouragement to be serious and self-controlled, so that when you encounter difficulties, you will wait for God's leadership rather than taking things into your own hands.

1. Consider the admonishment in Philippians, and read about Peter's difficulty in Matthew. Then discuss together: How did Jesus encourage Peter to prepare for the difficult times ahead? How did Peter's focus on the present disrupt his emotions and disturb his ability to be calm and self-controlled.?
2. How is the Holy Spirit encouraging you to prepare for difficult times ahead? What are your strategies for bypassing an emotional response in order to remain calm and self-controlled?

## **Fix Your Hope on Grace**

**John 14:1-3, Titus 2:11-14, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 15:19**

To fix your hope is to set it firmly in place and securely fasten it, but don't miss the POINT of where our hope is fastened. In this life, you will be sorely tested and tried. But because of the work of Jesus, you can be absolutely certain of the end result. Your future is firmly and securely held by God, and it will not be taken away.

1. What can you do on a daily basis to fix your hope on the certainty of Heaven?
2. How might you use the truth of Scripture to fix your hope?
3. How will fixing your hope bring rest in your current circumstances?
4. How will fixing your hope bring clarity to your doubts?