Connect: discussion guide

Living life expecting Jesus is coming - part 1
1 Peter: an overview
25th Oct 2026

WELCOME:

The Apostle Peter's letter to the churches in Asia Minor teaches believers about living life as followers of Jesus, in the expectation that he is coming back. Peter's focus however is less on Jesus' return than it is on living as a Christian. As we prepare for Christmas what can we learn about living life expecting the arrival of Jesus?

REFLECTION QUESTION: In what ways are expectations of Jesus coming initially at that first "Christmas" and expectations of Jesus second coming both similar and different.

1. Belonging to God is His work… however we have the choice about how we respond.

Read: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter introduces himself through Jesus and addresses the people who receive his letter as people belonging to God. The Gospels show a disciple who failed and received restoration. Grace gives us a place from which to grow.

Discussion Questions

- What does Peter place first in this greeting, before any instruction about behaviour?
- What "label" from your past can compete with your belonging to Jesus? (Share only what feels appropriate)
- In what ways can a church or group of Christians offer a place of belonging while still making room for honest change?

2. Live as a citizen of another kingdom/family

Read: 1 Peter 1:1; Hebrews 13:14–16

Peter names specific provinces while describing those who receive his letter as "foreigners" (Note: the Greek word 'parepidemos' can also mean "refugee.") The point he is making is that they have developed a deeper allegiance which is to Jesus more that the physical rulers over them. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews then connects a future home with doing good and sharing now.

Discussion Questions

- What are some ways that a Christian can be distinct and unapologetic about their faith, but still be wise and not become deliberately difficult?
- When you have conversations about faith with others, what helps you distinguish simple disagreement from people engaging in unreasonable hostility towards faith?
- Imagine a neighbour who does not share our faith. What do you think they might hope to receive from a church nearby?

3. Allow God's grace & peace to transform you.

Read: 1 Peter 1:2

The Father takes the initiative, the Spirit sets believers apart, and Jesus cleanses them for obedience. Readiness for Jesus is more than preparing an event; it involves allowing God to shape us.

Discussion Questions

- What do the actions of the Father, Spirit and Jesus reveal about Christian growth?
- Where could a small act of obedience become real in your world in this coming week?
- Who can you think of who might experience a sense of welcome or belonging through one practical step or act of grace or peace from you?

SUMMARY

1. Belonging to God is His work… it is an act of grace.
2. Live as a citizen of another kingdom, a member of a new family
3. Allow God's grace & peace to transform you

Our belonging begins with grace. We can live with an expectation of Jesus coming yet still actively love our neighbours and remain teachable while awaiting Jesus.

THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE:

Each morning, read *1 Peter 1:1-2* and pray for a couple of minutes. Thank the Father for receiving you, ask the Spirit to shape you, and offer one decision about the day to Jesus.

APPLICATION

Take one relational step this week. Begin a spiritual conversation, invite someone into a Christian environment, or arrange time to listen and pray for them. Aim for a continuing relationship, not a one-week evangelistic exercise. Share what happened when your group next meets.

REFLECTION

Where in my life am I allowing fear (of embarrassment or rejection or whatever) to shape my behaviour more than my belonging to Jesus.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, thank You for your grace revealing yourself and inviting all people to follow you. Forgive us when we have lacked grace and peace in our own lives because we have not allowed your Holy Spirit to transform us. Help us listen well, speak with grace and recognise where Your Spirit is already at work. Form in Connect Church a culture in which as followers of Jesus we naturally help others become disciples. Father, ground us in your grace. Spirit, form us in truth. Jesus, help us follow you and offer genuine welcome this week. Remind us that You are with us always.

In Jesus' name, ***Amen****.*