

Welcome



How many times did your family move when you were growing up? How scattered is your family now?

Word



Introduction to the series:
In AD 64, much of Rome was destroyed and Emperor Nero was believed to be responsible. He looked for a scapegoat, and began to persecute Christians as a result.
(Up to this point in history, Christianity was regarded as a sect of Judaism). Peter wrote his letter to remind the church that Hope is here, whatever the circumstances.

4. How could this truth get someone under persecution through extreme times?
5. Verse 6-8: What perspective does Peter give on suffering?
6. In times of personal crisis, do you tend to lean more on God or blame God? Has suffering made you bitter or better?

Read the passage together:

1. Verse 1: In what sense are 'God's elect' strangers in this world?
2. When have you most felt like a stranger because of your faith?
3. Verse 3 & 4: What is unique about the living hope we have in Jesus?

Talk in pairs about current challenges you are facing and pray God's presence and power on each other.

Worship



Bring a globe or atlas to cell meeting. Get your group to point out the places on it where people they love now live.

Remind each other of bible verses that tell us that God is 'Everywhere-present'. Eg: Jesus said 'I am with you always, even to the end of the age', 'There is nothing that can separate us from God's love'.

Thank the Lord that this is true for us and everyone else, no matter where we might be located!

Witness



The lighter evenings are finally here and Summer is on its way! Plan time together in the next 6 weeks when your cell could have some fun and invite some of your friends and family to join in. Put a date in the diary so you make it happen !



- Looking ahead
- Next Sunday—25th April—is Resource Sunday. Worship at 10am—eating together and then two mini-seminars—all finished by 3:30pm. Please plan to come along, enjoy the fellowship and learning together.