

Life Group Discussion Guide

What If? - September 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioning Service | September 26th, 6pm

You are invited to join our church family, as well as pastors and leaders, throughout our community to celebrate a new chapter of Abundant Life Church. We will recognize the journey that has come before and fix our eyes on Jesus for the road ahead. Information about how to RSVP coming soon.

Marriage Night | October 2nd, 4:30pm

Come laugh and learn with your spouse as you hear from marriage experts and discover how to honor God in your marriage. Information and registration at alcpnw.events.

LEADER NOTES

This week we began a new message series with our new Lead Pastor Gareth Gilpin. In this series we will be asking a number of “What if?” questions that help us better understand God’s plan and design for our lives.

This week we’re asking, “What if you could live with certainty in the midst of uncertainty?” As you discuss remember everyone in your group is an individual. It can be easy for spouses and close friends to answer collectively, or for one another. Encourage them to consider what Jesus has for each of them in this season.

Note that your discussion will end with a brief prayer experience to consider Jesus as our living hope. Consider playing some music or inviting people to find their own space for this time. These steps can help remove distractions as you recognize the presence of Jesus.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

THIS WEEK’S TEXT

1 Peter 1:1-9 (ESV)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though*

you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

LOOK UP

According to this week’s text, what should give followers of Jesus hope in the midst of uncertain and challenging times?

LOOK AROUND

What things in your life are you most certain about?

What things are you most uncertain about?

We often hear that Christians choose to follow God. Rarely do we stop to consider that God first chose us. What does it mean to you that you are chosen by God?

PRAY AND LOOK AHEAD

Pastor Gareth named three ways that Jesus demonstrates He truly is our living hope. As a group take a moment to invite Jesus into your time together and prayerfully consider each of these:

- The WORK of Jesus
(what Jesus did for you)
- The PRESENCE of Jesus
(how Jesus is currently with you)
- The PROMISES of Jesus
(what Jesus has prepared for your future)

After your time of prayer, come back together and discuss how the the work, presence, and promises of Jesus can help you experience true, living hope this week.