

# ***A Peculiar People*** | Standing in Hope, Living in Grace

Kindred 2022

## Week 1

### ***The Benefits of a Living Hope***

1 Peter 1:1-12

*"...you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith... may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*

I Peter 1:6-7 NRSV

**Introduction:** Peter addresses his letter to a dispersed, exiled suffering people – Jewish and Gentile Christians scattered through the Roman provinces of Asia Minor. Peter begins by calling this oppressed and fragmented people to an identity given not by the ruthless, dominant empire of Rome but by Almighty God. This identity is rooted in God's only Son who took on human flesh and willingly and knowingly chose a path of suffering and death to guarantee this hard-pressed people an indestructible inheritance. And Peter challenges believers to find joy and hope even as they suffer because for them awaits an even greater reward reserved by God for those who persevere.

**Prayer:** Father God as we begin our Kindred study together open our hearts to your Holy Spirit and to one another. Grant us ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to understand what you have for us. Amen.

**Read:** I Peter 1:1-12

#### **Discuss:**

1. How do the letter recipients' identities and their situation relate to us today?
2. How does knowing that you are chosen affect how you view yourself as a Christian?
3. What did Apostle Peter point out to his readers about the hope believers have in present suffering and hope for the future?
4. What distinguishes the benefits that God offers from the things the world offers?
5. How can you carry out your mission right where you are at this moment? Think of a 'do now'. What can you do today?

**Prayer:** Jesus thank you for the gift of the hope we share in you. As we face the ups and downs of the week ahead, remind us of your presence with us in our daily lives and the hope we have in being yours forever. Amen.