

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Jeremy launched Cornerstone's 40-day initiative, "Joining God in the Neighbourhood," calling us to slow down, pray, and pay attention to where God is already at work in our everyday places. Drawing from 1 Peter, we were reminded that as God's chosen people, we are not called to be superior but to be a blessing right where we are. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we have a "living hope" even in the midst of suffering and uncertainty. We are invited to live differently—holy and present—in our communities, seeking their flourishing and embodying Christ's love to our neighbours.

SHARE

What's one thing you appreciate about your neighbourhood or community? Is there a favourite spot, person, or routine that helps you feel connected?

READ

Let's read **1 Peter 1:1-12** aloud together.

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember, the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. In verses 1-2, Peter calls his readers "God's elect, exiles scattered." What do these words mean in their historical context, and how might understanding them shape our own identity as followers of Jesus today?

3. Peter emphasizes that being "chosen" is not about status or superiority, but about purpose (see Genesis 12:2-3; Exodus 19:5-6). According to these passages, what was God's purpose for His people, and how does that connect to Pastor Jeremy's challenge for us to be a blessing in our

neighbourhoods?

4. Verse 3 says we have been given “new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” What does “living hope” mean to you, and how does this hope affect the way you see your neighbourhood and the challenges around you?

5. Digging deeper into verses 6-9: Peter acknowledges suffering and trials, yet speaks of “rejoicing.” What theological insight do you see here about hope, suffering, and faith? How might this shape our witness as exiles on mission?

6. Pastor Jeremy shared a story about an elderly neighbour facing health struggles, highlighting the importance of noticing and being present with those around us. How might you or your group take a simple step to “notice” or bless someone in your own context this week?

7. Peter calls us to “be holy in all you do” (v.15). What does holiness look like when lived out on your street, at work, or in your day-to-day routines?

NEXT STEPS

- Choose one practice from the “Joining God in the Neighbourhood” workbook (or **the website**) to try this week—such as a prayer walk, meeting a neighbour, or serving someone nearby.
- As a group, consider picking one place (a neighbourhood, school, workplace, or local spot) to pray for and pay attention to during these 40 days.

PRAY

Spend time praying together as a group:

- Invite group members to share any specific people or places they feel God is drawing their attention to.
- Pray together for open eyes, courage, and opportunities to join God in what He’s already doing in your neighbourhoods.
- Ask God to help you live as a blessing and to fill your group with a “living hope” in Jesus.

CONNECT

Be on the lookout for upcoming community **events**, **workshops**, or **serving opportunities** at Cornerstone.

Check out **The Hub** for for ways your group can get involved together and support the wider church family.

CLOSING

Let’s encourage each other to pay attention and join God in our neighbourhoods this week, trusting that He has chosen us, given us a living hope, and called us to live differently for the sake of others.