

Life Group Discussion Guide

3.28.21

ONE Series

An Alternate Community for the Sake of the World

¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 2:11-12

OPEN

There seems no shortage of heartbreak these days, what about the world around you globally or nationally or even locally and personally is a source of specific heartbreak for you right now?

NEXT

Read Isaiah 49:1-6 together. Who are these verses talking about? How can a person be described as being "Israel?" What does it mean to be "Israel?" What is this person's mission according to Isaiah 49:6? How does that relate to the identification with Israel?

Why did God choose Israel? In what ways did Israel represent the unfolding of God's redemption plan for the world? What was Israel supposed to be like? What was Israel supposed to do? What were they not supposed to do?

If Israel had lived fully into the purpose that God had for them how might that have affected the nations around them? What affect might their obedience have had on the desolation and desperation of the world?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. How does Peter's description of the church relate specifically to the description of Israel? How does the purpose of the church relate specifically to the purpose of Israel? What is the difference between the two (Israel and the church)?

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12. What does it look like for the church to live into God's mission for the sake of a heartbroken world? In chapter one of this same letter, Peter compels us to "be holy" (1:15). Then he calls the church a "holy nation" (2:9). What does it look like in our day for the church to "be holy?" What does it not look like?

How might a church's commitment to holiness be part of God's present-day rescue plan for a heartbroken world?

CLOSING

What do you need this group to be praying over you this next week? Pray together.