



between2worlds
Thriving IN DISSONANCE

INTRODUCTION

In every generation, disciples of Jesus consistently point to their time in the Scripture and in prayer as a centerpiece of their spiritual growth. So, kudos to you for making Biblical devotions a priority for 2021! Our theme for the entire year is thriving with God. on mission. together.

After putting 2020 to bed :), a year of upheaval, forced pauses, and uncertainty, how important it will be to reflect intentionally on what it means to thrive and not just survive. God still has great things in store for each of us individually and as a church family, as we continue to embrace His mission where we live, work, and play. Over the course of 2021 we will walk through ten different series each with a slightly nuanced take on this theme of “thriving.”

SERIES INTRODUCTION

Have you ever walked into a new situation: a new job, a new school, a new town? You feel like an outsider because in a very real sense you are! You don't belong. The aromas are different, the tastes, the sounds, the ethos of the culture...etc. Everything's foreign. And you generally set out to “fit in” as quickly as possible. But as disciples of Jesus, there is another calling. When you give your life to King Jesus, you don't stop living where you live, but you start living with new priorities, new affections, and new hopes. As a citizen of God's Kingdom you start living the life of an exile—in the world, but not of it. Your life shifts profoundly. You give up some familiar things and adopt some new things. People begin to wonder why you're deliberately choosing to be different. “*Who does that?*” Some will wonder with intrigue, but some will eventually press for conformity. The less willing you are to conform, the harder the press. And the harder the press, the greater the challenge to remain faithful, not only to God, but to God's mission in His world. Let's learn how together. Welcome to *between2worlds!*

HOW TO USE YOUR JOURNAL

As we make our way through 1 Peter, we will continue our pattern: **Mondays** – Receive Gospel Grace – How do we see God's undeserved love and kindness in the passage for this week? **Tuesdays** – Blue Triangle – Examine what God's primary purpose or theme seems to be in the passage. **Wednesdays** – Blue Triangle – Continue examining the text through the “2-10-1” method of reading Scripture: reading the passage “2” times, summarizing the passage in “10” words or less, then ask God for “1” thing that He most wants to say to you through the passage. **Thursdays** – Orange Circle – What does the passage say about how we are to love one another in the body of Christ, and here at Hope? **Fridays** – Green Arrow – What does the passage teach us about how we are to interact with those who are “outside the faith but inside our reach”? May God only deepen in us, as a Hope Church family, our experience of “the LIFE” that He came to give us, for His glory and the lasting joy of all people!



Monday

Receive Gospel Grace

Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. Where do you see the grace of God demonstrated in this passage?

One of the places we see God's grace is in the first three words, that Peter was an apostle. Read Matthew 26:30-35 and 69-75, and John 21:15-19. How did Peter experience God's grace? How have you?



Tuesday

Thriving with God

What does Peter praise God for in verses 3-9? List them below. Notice the tenses of the verbs, what God has done for us in the past, what He is doing, what He will do. Write a prayer of gratitude to Him for His abundant mercy and kindness!



Wednesday

Thriving with God

Do the "2-10-1" method of reflecting on this passage. Read the passage "2" times, summarize the passage in "10" words or less, remembering that summarizing is a great way to study and understand a passage of Scripture, then write down the "1" thing you sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today.



Thursday

Thriving Together

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12. List all the "parties" Peter refers to in these verses that contributed to you hearing about God's salvation (hint: there are at least three people/groups). Thank God for all of them. Write names of people who taught you. Consider writing a note of thanks to a key person who is still living, thanking them for their role in you hearing about God's salvation.



Friday

Thriving on Mission

Read 1 Peter 1:1-12 again. Look back at the list you made on Tuesday of what God has done, is doing, and will do for those who love Him. Then think of people in your life who are “outside the faith but inside your reach.” Write their names below, then pray that they will come to know and experience these glorious things that God has made possible through faith in Jesus!

Group Discussion Questions

1. What highlights do you remember from Peter’s life? What are ways you feel you can relate with Peter? In what ways can you not relate with him?

Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. Then choose a few of the questions below for discussion:

2. Share your 10-word summary of this passage (give them time to complete it if they haven’t done it yet).
3. Where do you see the grace of God demonstrated in this passage?
4. One of the places we see God’s grace in this passage is in the first three words, that Peter was an apostle. Read Matthew 26:30-35 and 69-75, and John 21:15-19. How did Peter experience God’s grace? How have you?
5. What does Peter praise God for in verses 3-9? List them together. Notice the tenses of the verbs, what God has done for us in the past, what He is doing, what He will do. Which of these are you most grateful for right now?
6. List together all the “parties” Peter refers to in these verses that contributed to you hearing about God’s salvation (hint: there are at least three people/groups). Share about one person from this list that you are most grateful for.
7. Ask the group to think of someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach” that God has been putting on their heart lately. As a group, read through the passage one more time, each person praying silently that this person would come to know the joy of the things Peter has written here.

Message Notes: September 5



Monday

Receive Gospel Grace

Read 1 Peter 1:13-25. In verse 13, Peter says to “set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Reflect again on the grace of God that is still out ahead of you! (You can refer back to 1 Peter 1:3-9, or Revelation 21-22, etc.). Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for this grace that is still ahead!



Tuesday

Thriving with God

Read 1 Peter 1:13-20. What do we learn about God the Father in these verses? What do we learn about Jesus?

Holiness and obedience are key themes in this passage. Why does Peter say it is so important? Is there an area of your life where you are failing or refusing to live in holiness and obedience? Ask God to show you. Write a prayer of confession and repentance. Consider confessing that to a trusted brother or sister in Christ, and ask them to pray for you and hold you accountable.



Wednesday

Thriving with God

Do the “2-10-1” method of reflecting on this passage (1:13-25). Read the passage “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, then write down the “1” thing you sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today.



Thursday

Thriving Together

Read 1 Peter 1:22-24. (The section continues into chapter 2, so read especially 2:1 as well.) What does Peter say in these verses about our love for one another in the body of Christ? What is it like? How is it possible? What is the result?

What are things we are to “put away” in 2:1? Look up definitions of each word. Ask God to show you how many of these things are present in your life. Is there any repentance or reconciliation needed, anyone you need to ask for forgiveness?



Friday

Thriving on Mission

Read 1 Peter 1:13-21. In these verses, how does Peter characterize life before following Jesus? What are some ways you saw that in your own life? How do you see that in the lives of people in your own life who don't know Jesus? Pray for them, that they would turn from those ways and know the grace of God and the joy of obedience and holiness.

Group Discussion Questions

1. In today's passage, Peter mentions the "futile ways inherited from your forefathers." What "ways" did you primarily "inherit" from your family (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents)? Godliness? "Futile ways"? Other?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-25. Then choose a few of the questions below to discuss:

2. Share your 10-word summary of this passage (give them time to complete it if they haven't done it yet).
3. What do we learn about God the Father in these verses? What do we learn about Jesus?
4. Holiness and obedience are key themes in this passage. Why does Peter say it is so important? Is there an area of your life where you are failing or refusing to live in holiness and obedience?
5. Re-read 1 Peter 1:22-24. (The section continues into chapter 2, so read especially 2:1 as well.) What does Peter say in these verses about our love for one another in the body of Christ? What is it like? How is it possible? What is the result?
6. What are things we are to "put away" in 2:1? Discuss what each word means. Which of them is a greater temptation or tendency for you? Is there any repentance or reconciliation needed, anyone you need to ask for forgiveness?
7. How does Peter characterize life before following Jesus in these verses? What are some ways you saw that in your own life? How do you see that in the lives of people in your own life who don't know Jesus? Pray for them, that they would turn from those ways and know the grace of God and the joy of obedience and holiness.

Message Notes: September 12

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WEEK 3: SEPTEMBER 13-17 - 1 PETER 2:1-12



Monday

Receive Gospel Grace

Read 1 Peter 2:1-12. In verse 3, Peter says, "if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good." How have you "tasted that the Lord is good?" Write a prayer to Him about that. (Use "Notes" section at end of journal if needed.)



Tuesday

Thriving with God

Re-read 1 Peter 2:1-12. What do these verses say about Jesus?

What do these verses say about us who are in Christ? Which of these are you most grateful for, and why? Thank God for who He has made you (and us) to be!



Wednesday

Thriving with God

Do the "2-10-1" method of reflecting on this passage. Read the passage "2" times, summarize the passage in "10" words or less, then write down the "1" thing you sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today.



Thursday

Thriving Together

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10. Based on these verses, how would you respond to someone who said to you, "I'm not really connected to a church, I'm content to just watch church from home"? If you know someone who has that approach, consider reaching out to them, sharing these verses, and encouraging them to engage at Hope or their local church.



Friday

Thriving on Mission

What does this passage say about people who don't know Jesus? How has your conduct among them been honorable? How has it not been? Pray for them...those you know personally and some who come to mind that you don't know personally...that they would "glorify God on the day of visitation," for God's glory and their joy!

Group Discussion Questions

1. Over the course of your life, how would you say you have "tasted that the Lord is good"? How about recently?

Read 1 Peter 2:1-12. Then choose a few questions below to discuss:

2. Share your 10-word summary of this passage (give them time to complete it if they haven't done it yet).
3. What do these verses say about Jesus?
4. What do these verses say about us who are in Christ? Which of these are you most grateful for, and why?
5. Based on these verses, how would you respond to someone who said to you, "I'm not really connected to a church, I'm content to just watch church from home"?
6. What does this passage say about people who don't know Jesus? How has your conduct among them been honorable? How has it not been? Pray for them as a group...those you know personally and some who come to mind that you don't know personally...that they would "glorify God on the day of visitation," for God's glory and their joy!

Message Notes: September 19

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Monday

Receive Gospel Grace

Read 1 Peter 2:13-25, then reflect on the grace of God through Jesus, demonstrated in verses 20-25. Write below what Peter says that grace cost Him.

Peter teaches here that Jesus didn't die only so our sins would be forgiven (though that's part of it). He also died that we might die...to sin...and live a whole new kind of life, a life of righteousness! How have you seen that in your life? (This is another opportunity to acknowledge any current sin in your life that God has revealed to you, to receive His grace, and yield yourself again to His Lordship.)



Tuesday

Thriving with God

Read 1 Peter 2:13-25. In verses 13-17, Peter says we are to "Be subject to" and "Honor the emperor." The Greek word translated "honor" here literally means to attribute great worth or value to them. Why does Peter say we must be subject to them? How are you doing right now at being subject to and honoring our governing authorities? What needs to change?

Who is Peter addressing in verses 18-21? What does he call them to do, and why? What questions do you have about that?



Wednesday

Thriving with God

Do the "2-10-1" method of reflecting on this passage. Read the passage "2" times, summarize the passage in "10" words or less, then write down the "1" thing you sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today.



Thursday

Thriving Together

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. Peter says we are to "Honor everyone." What brother or sister in Christ are you struggling to honor right now? Why? Admit to God any negative attitudes towards them, ask Him to change your heart, and pray God's richest blessings for them.



Friday

Thriving on Mission

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17. Again, Peter says we are to “Honor everyone.” What person outside the faith are you most struggling to honor right now? Why? How are we to honor people who don’t love God, who may even fight for causes that are against God’s purposes? Admit to God any negative attitudes towards them, ask Him to change your heart, and pray God’s richest blessings for them.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Were you a rule follower as a kid, or not so much? What about now?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-25.

2. Share your 10-word summary of this passage (give them time to complete it if they haven’t done it yet).
3. Where do you see the grace of God in this passage?
4. When you normally think of the question, “Why did Jesus die on the cross,” what is your first response? How does Peter answer that question in this passage? Does that feel like good news to you? Why or why not?
5. In verse 17, Peter says we are to “Honor everyone.” Think of someone you struggle to honor (don’t share their names). What does it look like to “honor” someone? Why is it a struggle for you to honor them?
6. How are we to honor people who don’t love God, who may even fight for causes that are against God’s purposes?
7. In verses 13-17 Peter says we are to “Be subject to” and “Honor the emperor.” The Greek word translated “honor” here literally means to attribute great worth or value to them. Why does Peter say we must be subject to them? How are you doing right now at being subject to and honoring our governing authorities? What needs to change? (Remember to be honoring of the governing authorities as you speak about them!)
8. Who is Peter addressing in verses 18-21? What does he call them to do, and why? What questions do you have about that? Respond to each other’s questions as a group.

Message Notes: September 26



Monday

Receive Gospel Grace

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. In verse 7, Peter says that husbands and wives are heirs together of the grace of life. This, of course, is true of all who are in Christ, married and single. The word "heirs" here has the same root word as the word "inheritance" in 1:3. Read again 1 Peter 1:3-9 and reflect on the "grace of life," life now and life forever, that we have in Christ! Focus on an element of those verses you haven't thought much about over these weeks, and thank God for it.



Tuesday

Thriving with God

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. Refer back to 2:13, to see the introductory statement for this whole section. List below the instructions that Peter gives to wives and husbands. Beside each, write the reason he gives for that instruction.



Wednesday

Thriving with God

Do the "2-10-1" method of reflecting on this passage. Read the passage "2" times, summarize the passage in "10" words or less, then write down the "1" thing you sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today.



Thursday

Thriving Together

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7, and pray for your brothers and sisters at Hope Church. Pray for marriages to be strengthened, for husbands and wives to love one another in ways that honor Christ. Pray for single people to experience Christ's love and the love of their Hope Church family more deeply than ever, and for them to be strengthened to honor God in their singleness.



Friday

Thriving on Mission

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7 through the lens of someone who is outside the faith but inside your reach. How do you think they would respond to this passage? How would you respond to them?

**For further reading, find online the article "What If I'm Not the Submissive Type?" by Rebecca McLaughlin.*

Group Discussion Questions

1. What is the best example of marriage you have seen? Name one or two qualities about their marriage that make it such a good example.

Refer back to 2:13 to see the introductory statement for this whole section, then read 1 Peter 3:1-7.

2. Share your 10-word summary of this passage (give them time to complete it if they haven't done it yet).
3. List together the instructions that Peter gives to wives and husbands. For each, identify the reason Peter gives for that instruction.
4. What, if anything, do you find beautiful about these instructions? What, if anything, do you find difficult or offensive? Why? How do you resolve that?
5. If you could ask Jesus one question about this passage, what would it be...and why?
6. Read this passage aloud, thinking through the lens of someone who is outside the faith but inside your reach. How do you think they would respond to this passage? How would you respond to them?
7. Did you read the article? If so, what was helpful about it? What wasn't?

Message Notes: October 3

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Monday

Receive Gospel Grace

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and 4:12-19. List below where you see the grace of God displayed in these verses, and thank God for them.



Tuesday

Thriving with God

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and 4:12-19. What do we learn about God in these passages (from what Peter says explicitly, and the kinds of commands God gave through Peter)?

A major theme of these passages is suffering, especially how we respond when we suffer for doing good. What does Peter say about that in these verses? What would be (or is) hardest for you about that? Write a prayer to God about that.



Wednesday

Thriving with God

Write a 10-word summary for 3:8-22, and another for 4:12-19. What is one thing you sense God wanting to say to you through each of these passages today? Write it below.



Thursday

Thriving Together

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and 4:12-19. In 3:8, Peter lists five things that we are to have toward one another. Write each below. Prayerfully reflect on each of the five. How are these finding expression in your life right now in your relationships at Hope Church? How are they not finding expression? What do you sense God stirring you to do about that?



Friday

Thriving on Mission

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and 4:12-19. What does Peter say in these verses about how we are to relate with people who are outside the faith? How can you grow in this? What is a next step for you?

Group Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been insulted or “suffered” for being a Christian? If so, how? How did you react? How would you react differently today? If you haven’t, why do you think that is?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and 4:12-19. Then pick a few questions below for discussion:

2. Share your 10-word summary of this passage (give them time to complete it if they haven’t done it yet).
3. Where do you see the grace of God displayed in these verses? Which is most meaningful to you at this point in your life, and why?
4. What do we learn about God in these passages (from what Peter says explicitly, and the kinds of commands God gave through Peter)?
5. A major theme of these passages is suffering, especially how we respond when we suffer for doing good. What does Peter say about that in these verses? What would be (or is) hardest for you about that?
6. In 3:8, Peter lists five things that we are to have toward one another. How would you define each word or phrase? How are these finding expression in your life right now in your relationships at Hope Church? How are they not finding expression? What do you sense God stirring you to do about that?
7. What does Peter say in these verses about how we are to relate with people who are outside the faith? How can you grow in this? What is a next step for you?

Message Notes: October 10

WEEK 7: OCTOBER 11-15 - 1 PETER 4:1-11



Monday

Receive Gospel Grace

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11. Peter begins this section by talking about Christ's suffering in the flesh. Read Matthew 27:24-50 and reflect again on what it cost Jesus to extend grace to you, out of love for you...then thank Him for it.



Tuesday

Thriving with God

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11. List the commands in this passage, leaving a little room to write beside it. In verse 11, Peter states the goal and purpose of all of these commands. What is it? Write beside each command you listed how that command accomplishes that purpose.



Wednesday

Thriving with God

Do the “2-10-1” method of reflecting on this passage. Read the passage “2” times, summarize the passage in “10” words or less, then write down the “1” thing you sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today.



Thursday

Thriving Together

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11. In verse 8, Peter says, “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly.” What reason does he give, and what does he mean by that? How does he call us to love in the following verses?



Friday

Thriving on Mission

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11. What does Peter say in this passage about his readers' life before Christ? What was your life like before Christ? How does he describe the "Gentiles" life now (those apart from Christ)? Do you know anyone who fits that description? Pray for them, that God would rescue them and give them life, as He has done for you.

Group Discussion Questions

1. What do you believe are your primary spiritual gifts? What has been your most meaningful experience of using that gift (those gifts) in a church?

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11.

2. Share your 10-word summary of this passage (give them time to complete it if they haven't done it yet).
3. Peter begins this section by talking about Christ's suffering in the flesh. Read Matthew 27:24-50 and reflect again on what it cost Jesus to extend grace to you, out of love for you. What reflections come to mind as you read it?
4. What do you think Peter means when he says in verse 2, "whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin"?
5. What does Peter say in this passage about his readers' life before Christ? What was your life like before Christ? How does he describe the "Gentiles" life now (those apart from Christ)? Pray for them, that God would rescue them and give them life, as He has done for you.
6. In verse 11, Peter states the goal and purpose of all of the commands he lists here. What is that purpose? Now go through and name each command. How does each of these commands accomplish that purpose?
7. In verse 8, Peter says, "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly." What reason does he give, and what does he mean by that?
8. How does he call us to love in this passage? Which of these come easily to you? Which do you find most difficult? Why? Is there a next step God is calling you to take here?

Message Notes: October 17

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Monday

Receive Gospel Grace

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. Re-read verse 4. The “crown” is not only for elders, but for all who love Him (see 2 Timothy 4:8 and James 1:12). Imagine yourself on that day, when you are with Him face to face, and He gives you an unfading crown of glory. Write a prayer of thanks to God for this coming gift of His grace!



Tuesday

Thriving with God

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. List the ways elders (church leaders) are to serve. What temptations does he warn against? If you are serving in church leadership, how are those temptations for you, and how are you doing living out these commands? What is the instruction for those who aren't elders? If you aren't an elder, how are you doing with this?

For additional reading: Read John 21:15-19. Peter uses the same phrase in 5:2 that Jesus said in 21:17. What can we learn here?



Wednesday

Thriving with God

Do the "2-10-1" method of reflecting on this passage. Read the passage "2" times, summarize the passage in "10" words or less, then write down the "1" thing you sense God wanting to say to you through this passage today.



Thursday

Thriving Together

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. In verses 5-7, Peter talks about clothing ourselves with humility towards one another. What reasons does he give for doing that? What does it mean to humble ourselves?



On the review pages at the end of this journal, list all of your ten-word summaries from the journal (every Wednesday). This will give you your own summary of 1 Peter. Then fill out all of the “one things” you sensed God saying to you. Which of the “one things” do you sense God calling you to do something about moving forward?

In 5:12, Peter concludes his whole letter by saying, “This is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.” Looking over your ten-word summaries, pray for someone who is “outside the faith but inside your reach,” that they would experience this “true grace of God,” the life that is truly life! Ask God what next step He might have you take with that person to help them come to know Jesus, and write it down.

Group Discussion Questions

1. What is the most memorable reward you have received, and what made that memorable? OR...What reward did you most want to receive...but didn't? What made that so desirable?

Read 1 Peter 5:1-14, then choose a few discussion questions:

2. Share your 10-word summary of this passage (give them time to complete it if they haven't done it yet).
3. The “crown” is not only for elders, but for all who love Him (see 2 Timothy 4:8 and James 1:12). What thoughts or feelings does that stir up in you, and why?
4. List the ways elders (church leaders) are to serve. What temptations does he warn against? How might those be temptations for you if you were serving in church leadership?
5. What is the instruction for those who aren't elders? If you aren't an elder, how are you doing with this? What is hard about this?
6. Read John 21:15-19. Peter uses the same phrase in 5:2 that Jesus said in 21:17. What can we learn here?
7. In verses 5-7, Peter talks about clothing ourselves with humility towards one another. What reasons does he give for doing that? What does it mean to humble ourselves?
8. In 5:12, Peter concludes his whole letter by saying, “This is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.” Why do you think he would call the whole letter the “true grace of God”? How might you “stand firm in” this true grace of God that Peter speaks about in this letter?
9. What one thought sticks out to you from this series in 1 Peter? What is a primary next step for you?

Message Notes: October 24

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REVIEW OF 10-WORD SUMMARIES

Re-write all of your 10-word or less summaries. This will give you your own summary overview of the letter of 1 Peter.

1:1-12

1:13-25

2:1-12

2:13-25

3:1-7

3:8-22

4:1-11

4:12-19 (from week 6)

5:1-14

REVIEW of "1 TAKEAWAY'S"

Re-write all of your primary takeaways (the "1" thing you sensed God saying to you...from Wednesday each week). This will give you a summary of what you sensed God saying to you over the last eight weeks.

1:1-12

1:13-25

2:1-12

2:13-25

3:1-7

3:8-22

4:1-11

4:12-19 (from week 6)

5:1-14

What do you sense is a primary word God has for you from this 8-week series through 1 Peter? What is one step you sense God is calling you to take in response? Take some time right now to share it with someone.

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