

UP, IN, OUT:

Summer is here. Does everyone know what your group plans are? How are you going UP, IN, and OUT this summer?

OPEN:

- How many times did your family move when you were growing up? Which time was the hardest?
- How geographically scattered is your family now? How often do you get together?

DIG:

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2

- Why do you think Peter refers to his readers as exiles?
- According to these verses, what are the roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? What do these mean?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

- Go through slowly identifying the things that God does and the things that we do. You may find it helpful to color code them. In the Sermon next week, Nick will use yellow for the work of God and green for our work.
- What did you learn by labeling the work of God and the work of humans?
- What questions does this raise for you? (Perhaps Ephesians 1:1-14 will help)
- What is the purpose or value of suffering in these verses?
- What does it mean to be born again into a living hope (v.3)? Compare John 3:1-7

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12

- How is your understanding of prophecy changed by these verses?
- If the prophets of the Old Testament predicted the suffering of the Messiah (Isaiah 53 especially), why do you think nobody seemed to expect the Messiah to suffer when he actually came?
- If time allows, go back through the whole passage and look for all the places the three members of the Trinity show up.

REFLECT:

- When have you felt like an exile in the world?
- How aware are you of God's guarding power over you? (v.5)
- What is your role in this guarding?

APPLY:

- How could you live more faithfully as an exile in this world? How could this group pray for and support you in this?

PRAY: