**IDOP Service 2021 - Bible Talk Outline**

**1 Peter 1:1-9 – Elect Exiles**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:1-9 (ESV)**

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Born Again to a Living Hope

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This Bible talk outline is based on 1 Peter 1:1-9 and is intended for use in IDOP 2021 services focusing on the theme of displacement. It gives some initial ideas, structure and suggested stories/illustrations for further development. Talks based on this outline could be 15-25 minutes long.

**Introduction**

*Illustration* – think about the word ‘home.’ What does it mean to you, what connotations does it have? Contrast this with the word exile. What does it mean, what connotations does it have?

*Issue* – show the displacement map and mention that Christians are forced to flee from several countries because of their faith. Share the story of one family or individual to highlight this.

**Bible Passage - 1 Peter 1:1-9**

*Context* – The letter is addressed to ‘exiles’ who have been scattered throughout the first century Roman world. The term ‘exiles’ has spiritual significance which is developed later in the letter (2:11), but there is a strong possibility that Peter’s readers were also literal exiles forced from their homes because of their faith. In the face of this unjust treatment Peter writes to comfort and encourage them.

*Hope* – Peter says his readers have been born again into a living hope (1:3). Explore what hope means. What do people generally hope in? Christian hope is sure and certain because it is secured through the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus has defeated death so no matter what the world throws at us our hope is secure.

*Inheritance* – Peter says his readers have also been born again into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade (1:4). This is particularly significant for exiles as the idea of inheritance is traditionally tied to land – land that they have lost. But material inheritance decays – think of examples to illustrate. In contrast our eternal inheritance is incorruptible. Share the story of one family or individual to highlight this.

*Trials* – Despite his encouragement, Peter doesn’t minimise the real suffering of his readers (1:6) and neither should we when it comes to persecution today. But nevertheless, Peter says we can rejoice because trials prove the reality of our faith (1:7). Jesus said, ‘if they persecuted me, they will persecute you’ (John 15:20). Although trials hurt, they come because of our identification with Jesus and therefore they assure us, and demonstrate to the world, that we belong to him. They deepen our relationship with him (1:8) and help our faith to grow (1:9). Share the story of one family or individual to highlight this.

**Response**

*Stay informed* – Encourage people to sign up for *Voice* magazine and other information.

*Pray* – Encourage people to use the Prayer Shield prayer diary to pray consistently.

*Give* – Point people towards our current appeal.