

1st Week of June

A Man of Faith with a 'Living Hope'

- **Text:** 1 Peter 1:3~4 (June 1)
- **Bottom line:** A merciful God has saved us and given us living hope through Jesus Christ.

≡ 1. Praise

(Hymn 95) O Thou, in Whose Presence

≡ 2. Prayer

Father, we gathered together, remembering that You, even though we can't see You, You are the owner of our home. Please make it a time to listen to Your Word and worship You with all our hearts.

≡ 3. The Word

Read 1 Peter 1:3~4 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

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,

<NASB>

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

Understanding Text

Peter praises God for His great and special grace to us. It is because God, who is full of mercy, has saved us and given us a "living hope." God raised Jesus from the dead on the cross and gave us an incorruptible and incorruptible inheritance in heaven to us who believed in Jesus and became God's children.

Understanding the text for leaders

1 and 2 Peter are letters written by Peter to the Saints who were scattered in Asia Minor. At that time, the saints were living like strangers who had to flee their homes at any time because of the full-scale persecution of the Roman Emperor Nero (64 A.D.). Peter wanted to confirm that even though he was living in a painful world, the saints did not belong to this world and were citizens of heaven who were promised eternal inheritance. So, let the saints who are living in persecution know how precious and precious they are before God. It encourages me to be firm in my faith. At the beginning of his letter, Peter explains the privilege of the Saints. That privilege is that we, sinners, have been born again through God's mercy and have a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here, 'living hope' refers to a desire that gives us the strength and courage to still live in the midst of a difficult reality. The basis of this hope is the eternal kingdom of heaven that has been prepared in heaven and will not disappear. If this world were all there is, then our life of faith would be in vain. Paul also says that if the things of this world are everything, then our faith is in vain (1 Corinthians 15:17, 19). If we look at this life as a stranger and remember our identity as eternal citizens of heaven, we will be able to speak clearly about the reason for our hope (1 Peter 3:15).

4. Sharing

1) What has God, who is rich in mercy, done for us? (verses 3~4)

Upper Grades

What is it that we have gained from God's mercy in particular? (verse 4).

Lower Grades

What is the special grace that God has given us? (verse 4).

Question Guide

After declaring that he is praising Heavenly Father, Peter explains the privileges that God's merciful grace has given us. Read verses 3 and 4 carefully, looking specifically for the privileges you have been given.

Comments for Leaders

Peter clearly tells the believers who are living a difficult and difficult life of faith in a situation of persecution that the faith they are holding on to is not in vain. Remind one another that we have been born again through God's mercy, that we have been given a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that we have been given an eternal inheritance to live toward as strangers.

2) Give a modifier that describes "me" in your own position. Share what kind of person you are as a believer in Jesus.

■ **Upper Grades**

Write a short introduction to yourself.

■ **Lower Grades**

Introduce yourself with your family.

□ **Question Guide**

There will be a lot of things that will introduce you. Introduce yourself and reflect on what you look like as a child of God. Also, share how you would like to be presented.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

Despite our diverse biographies, we must remember that our identity as a "child of God" is final and eternal. We strive to have the specs that the world wants, but we have to remember that that's not everything. Encourage each other to believe in each other's lives remembering that parents do their best at work and children study hard, but in the end, our final destination is the eternal kingdom of God.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Thank God for His great mercy to help us be born again and to live with the living hope of heaven.

≡ **6. Prayer**

Thank you, God, who is rich in mercy, for sending Jesus to us and giving us eternal "living hope." Whenever we encounter hardships, please let us think of the heavenly inheritance and reward, overcome evil with good, and live boldly with faith.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer
