

Application

4. Peter speaks of two things that are permanent and imperishable: the blood of Christ (1:19) and the word of God (1:23 & 25). What is there in your life that shows that your focus is on these permanent things?

5. Write down the opposite of each characteristic that Peter lists in 2:1. For example, the opposite of malice might be goodwill. What are you doing to actively demonstrate each of these positive traits to people around you?

MAY 6, 2018

Jim Larson

SURVIVING THE STORM

Topics: Perspective, Redemption, God's Word

IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

1 Peter 1:22 – 2:3

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted.

Matthew 14:29-30

Stages in marathon living¹

Stage 1 - Excitement

Stage 2 - Denial

Stage 3 - Shock

Stage 4 - Isolation

Stage 5 - Despair

Stage 6 - The Wall

Stage 7 - Elation - "I made it!"

Abiding themes – living ...

as foreigners - differently

for the long-term – for the imperishable vs the perishable

in real faith and hope – not in doubt and despair

When things get tough, the first casualties are **faith** and **hope**.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ltnxJLAOeY>

Making imperishable connections

Living in the three great pillars of truth: faith, hope, and love. (1 Cor. 13:13)

Loving one another deeply is not an automatic result of belief, but it is what we were born again to do.

Being part of the *family of God* is more than just an expression - it's a reality!

Making priority choices

Changing our attitudes

Changing our attitudes gets our eyes off the waves.

Changing our focus

Craving the spiritual milk gets our eyes on the Lord

Small Group Homework - Week of May 6, 2018

Getting to Know You

1. Have you ever had a nickname? Are you willing to share it?

Into the Bible

2. Today's message calls us to be "in it for the long haul." Hebrews 11 is a list of Old Testament heroes who were also in it for the long haul. The theme goes on in Hebrews 12:1-3 to give us the example of Jesus, who endured suffering because he saw what was waiting beyond. Write down a few of the character traits of these people of faith in chapter 11. How would those traits look when they are lived out in the modern world?

3. 1 Peter 1:21 focuses on two parts of our belief in God: that he raised Jesus from the dead, then glorified him. How do these two beliefs make us ready to endure persecution? Why would losing those beliefs lead to a loss of faith, hope and love?