***In Times Like These - James, Peter, John, Jude***

**Lesson 7**

**A Living Hope**

Read I Peter 1:1-12

 Memory Work: I Peter 1:6,7.

Challenge 1. In this letter, Peter refers to suffering at least fifteen times. Quickly scan this letter to find out why they suffered in each incident. (Use the other side of this paper)

 2.a. To whom was Peter addressing this letter and where did these people live?

 b. Find these places on a Bible map.

 c. What do we call this area today?

 3. Using a Bible dictionary or a dictionary, define:

 Apostle Dispersion

 Pilgrims Elect

 4. Rephrase I Peter 1:2 in your own words.

 5.a. When Peter wrote, “According to His abundant mercy”, how would he have known this

 experientially? See John 13:38; 18:15-27.

 b. How had Jesus restored Peter? See John 21:15-19.

 c. If someone said to you that God wouldn’t forgive her/him because of what that person had done,

 what would you say to that person, using Peter’s life as an example?

 d. Can you think of other Bible characters, in whose lives, God has demonstrated His “abundant

 grace?”

 6.a. Peter used the phrase in I Peter 1:3, “Begotten us again to a living hope.” What do the following

 verses tell us about the phrase, “Begotten us again?”

John 1:12,13.

 John 3:3-8.

 Galatians 4:4-7.

 b. And “A living hope.” (From I Peter 1:3)

 Romans 8:22-25.

 I Corinthians 15:20-28.

 I John 3:1-3.

 c. How would you define this hope?

 7.a. There are many reasons for trials. I Peter 1:7-9 and James 1:2-4 describe what kinds of trials?

 b. Why is it necessary to have your faith tested?

 c. What did the Lord tell Paul regarding Paul’s thorn in the flesh? See II Corinthians 12:7-10. How did

 Paul respond?

 d. How is God’s grace related to trials?

Think about e. How does denying trials that are painful make the suffering even worse?

 f. How might you appropriate His grace for your past, present, or future trials?

 g. How does the fact that God controls our trials give comfort to us when we are going through them?

 I Corinthians 10:13; II Corinthians 12:9; Proverbs 17:3; Job 1:1-22.

 8.a. How does God look at our faith that has been tested by fire? I Peter 1:7.

 b. How is it possible to love Someone whom you’ve never seen? Verse 8.

 c. How can we, “Rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith–the

 salvation of your soul?” What does this mean?

 9.a. What had the Old Testament prophets longed to see and experience? Verses 10,11.

 b. What had the angels been left out of which they longed to see before Christ came? Verse 12.

c. Who else in the Old Testament had foreseen Jesus’ day and was glad? John 8:48-58.

d. In what way would these facts have helped Peter’s original readers. . .and us?