

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes
w/c 5th March 2023
Believe and Be Baptized – be rooted in Christ

On Sunday 5th March we were witnesses to another baptism. If you didn't see it then you can catch up on YouTube. This dramatic and simple event is a rich symbol for Christians. To be baptised is a picture of a new start. It's an act which features at the start of Jesus' ministry (Mark 1:9 – 13), it is included in Jesus last instructions to his disciples (Matthew 28:19 – 20), it is at the beginning of the church (Acts 2:38 – 41). It is also rich picture for big ideas in the Bible ideas in several of the letters in the New Testament. Many of us who are believers have been baptised (whether as infants or adults) and so these Sundays are a great opportunity to remind ourselves of our decision to be rooted in Christ and how we are to grow.

BIG IDEA: Life in Jesus is His gift to us. We receive this gift to be able to live differently. How are we getting on?

It'd be good to balance this session much more towards the 'Living It' and 'Pray it' sections. The aim is to focus on testimony and encouragement.

WAY IN: What promises have you relied upon today? What or who do you lean on when you need strength to keep going? What do you need for a godly life?

In this session, we're helping people think about what motivates our actions each day.

Peter is writing to groups of Christians scattered across 'Asia Minor', the area that makes up Turkey. It a letter to encourage people to make good use of the precious gift given to them because the days are short. The first chapter reminds them to 'never stop growing'

READ: 2 Peter chapter 1 verses 3 - 11

DIG IN Take some time to understand what Peter is saying

1. What do you think 'everything we need' suggests about God's gift and power to us?
Salvation comes from God, not from us. God is generous in his grace towards us. These gifts are not only for a future hope but for a godly life now.
2. How has he given these things?
Through his Son the Lord Jesus Christ. When we come to know Him we receive all these things. Perhaps a chance to share again how we came to know Jesus.
3. What does the phrase to 'participate in the divine nature' mean?
We are God's people in the world he has created. We are given his Spirit and so we live with His life in us.
4. What characterizes this lifestyle?
We respond to God's promises by seeking change in our lives. We make effort to see this happen. We are deliberate in our discipleship.
5. What is the consequence of developing these characteristics? And if we don't?
Our lives are effective in God's purposes. We live a life worthy of our calling. When we don't we lose sight of the reason we are saved, forgetting that we have forgiveness.
6. What part does church community play in this lifestyle?

'Brothers and Sisters' – help each other pay attention to these things. Encourage each other when we see these characteristics lived out.

Living It – possibly break in to smaller groupings to share and pray.

1. Is there a particular characteristic that is a challenge / focus for you at the moment? How are you looking to 'add it' to your faith?

2. What would help you continue to 'make every effort to confirm your calling and election'?

Pray Together

Pray together – (maybe in pairs again), is there an action or priority from the list above for which you'd like prayer. Share that and take time to pray for God to work in those areas.

Pray for each other to be effective and productive in our knowledge of Jesus Christ.....tomorrow, or in a particular situation you can think of? Share something of how you spend your time in the week to guide these prayers.