

Lesson 1: Claim your Heritage

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: (Help people discover these points – if the principles are not emerging in group discussion, ask questions to bring these out – do not “lecture” to them.)

- **Claim your heritage** – Reclaim it if you’ve been robbed.

1) **Pray.** Open with prayer. Spend time in small group prayer as appropriate during the session.

2) **Discovery Bible Study (DBS): 1 Peter 1:3-9 (Our heritage in Christ)**

Ask 2-3 people to read the verses out loud, from varying translations when possible. Alternatively, listen to the verses being read aloud on an audio device 2-3 times. Then ask someone to retell the passage, as completely as possible, in their own words. Ask the group to contribute anything missed. Fill in gaps as needed.

Pray as a group and ask God to speak through His word. Spend time listening silently. Then discuss the following questions. Help everyone participate. If you have more than 6-7 people, first split into small groups.

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about people who follow Jesus?
- What does this passage teach us about the heritage in Christ of followers of Jesus? (i.e. can’t be robbed, includes living hope and indescribable joy)
- Has your experience of living hope and indescribable joy ever been robbed?
- How can followers of Jesus rob the robber and get their stuff back?
- What are the main lessons in this passage?
- How are you already applying the principles in this passage? How would you like to grow in applying these principles? (Encourage people to consider possible applications, then choose one or two clear, specific and realistic personal applications.)
- What does God want you to do to apply this?
- Who will you tell?
- Who will you share this lesson with?
- What key principles will your group share with the large group?

3) **Follow-up Activities.**

- **Share** key principles, drawings and motions with the large group. Ask each small group to share one key principle. Write these (in words or pictures) on a large paper or whiteboard. Continue until you have all the main points in the lesson.
- **Gesture:** Decide together on a gesture or hand motion for this lesson. Then ask all participants to stand up and do the gesture together.
- **Brainstorm together** elements of our heritage in Christ. (i.e. living hope, indescribable joy, peace that passes understanding)
- **Spend time** individually reflecting on your heritage in Christ, thanking God for ways you’re experiencing it, and identifying any places where you’ve been robbed. Ask God what He’d like to say to you. Spend time listening for His response. Then share and pray for one another in small groups.

- **Clarify** the next meeting time and any pre-work to be completed beforehand.
- **Pre-work** for next lesson:
 - **Memorize:** 1 Peter 1:3
 - **Pray:** Read and meditate on Psalm 62:5-8.
 - **Share:** Share with others what you are learning.
 - **Practice:** Identifying any ways in which your experience of your heritage in Christ has been robbed, and asking God to restore it.

4) Pray a closing prayer. Ask people to commit to pray for one another between training times.

Note: You may also want to incorporate a time of sharing and prayer – for blessings and challenges.