

**Encounter these verses today:**  
*circle words that you identify with,  
underline phrases or sentences you'd  
like to remember, write questions about  
the passage out to the side ...*



## **1 Peter 1 :: We have a Great Hope (NIV)**

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, 25 but the word of the Lord endures forever."

And this is the word that was preached to you.



*When you think about Heaven,  
what is the first image that comes into your mind?*

**Question of the Day ...**

*Where is your home?*

**What does it mean to live as "aliens and strangers"?**

**How can we be sure that we are living this way?**  
*(1 Peter 1:13-16)*

**Personal Reflection:**

*How can I keep focused on the Kingdom of God?*



Miss Something? That's okay!!  
You can download this sermon at [flushingcommunity.org](http://flushingcommunity.org)

# Digging Deeper

[Use these readings to prepare you for worship next week!]

**Monday:** 09.10.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our church

**Passages:** 1 Peter 1-2

**Insight:** This past Sunday, Pastor Terry concluded our summer series, "The Story of God." This series has taken us from the beginning of time to our lives today and even to the very end of time in the future. Spend time reading again this passage from the Apostle Peter and allow it's meaning to sink deeper within you heart and soul.

Are able to envision life in Heaven? What excites you about what God is preparing for you? What scares you or has you worried? Can you live your earthly life with your focus toward eternity? What gets in your way?

**Tuesday:** 09.11.2012

**Prayer Focus:** The Flushing Community

**Passage:**

**Insight:** This Sunday, September 16, Pastor Terry will begin a series of messages that will give serious attention to the hurdles of life. Instead of reading a passage from the Bible today, let's begin the week by clearing our mind ...

Hurdles: obstacle - barrier - impediment - bar - hindrance.

What hurdles exist in your life today? What things are standing in the way of experiencing success or deeper meaning in your life? How are you doing at getting over them? *Take your time and write your thoughts below ...*

**Wednesday:** 09.12.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Intercession (use the iPray Guide)

**Passage:** 2 Chronicles 20

**Insight:** What hurdles existed for King Jehoshaphat and Israel in today's story? How did they get over them? What can we learn from this experience that is useful for our life today?

**Thursday:** 09.13.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Your School (teachers, admin, etc)

**Passage:** Jonah 1-3

**Insight:** This familiar Bible story for many of us is a great one to read again from time to time. Jonah is not unlike most of us ... he was thinking of himself in his running—completely not interested in following the ways of God. And then it appeared ... a hurdle in the form of a big fish! How did Jonah deal with this hurdle in his life? How did he overcome it? What took place in the City of Nineveh because of Jonah's proper response to God?

**Friday:** 09.14.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our nation

**Passage:** Luke 4:1-14

**Insight:** The temptation of Christ comes at a time when no one knew that Jesus was the Messiah. He had performed no miracles, no crowds were following him, few knew his name. But the devil knew Him and he was interested in tripping Jesus up before He could get started. In each of the temptations, Jesus is offered an easier way over the hurdle before Him ... hunger, fame, and security. We are still looking for those same things in our lives today. Are we taking the easy route or are we following the way God is instructing us?

iPray

*Sign up to receive our weekly iPray email that does just that! Email [mak@flushingcommunity.org](mailto:mak@flushingcommunity.org) today!!*