9-WEEK STUDY ON THRIVING IN EXILE

WEEK 1

Exile: There's No Place Like Home

1 PETER 1:1

WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: 1 Peter 1:1

Secondary text from this week: 1 Peter 2:11-17

Read ahead for next week: Genesis 37-41

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand our identity as "aliens"

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: Go around the group and find out where everyone was born. Talk about which place feels more like home: the place you live now, or the place where you were born. Why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. Have you ever felt town between two homes (because of a move, a divorce, college, etc.)? Describe your experience.
- 2. What was one thing that stood out to you about Pastor Doug's message about exile as the primary theme that unifies the story of the Bible?
- 3. Peter calls his audience exiles, strangers, and aliens in the opening to his letter as a way of identifying these early Christians with the people of God before them. Read 1 Peter 2:11-17 and answer the questions below:

Does it surprise you that Peter continues to use the language of exile throughout his letter?

In 1 Peter 2:12, why does Peter exhort these early Christians to "live good lives?" How have you found that truth in your own personal experience?

Remember that these early Christians were being brutally persecuted for their allegiance to Jesus. In light of that reality, do his instructions in 1 Peter 2:13 -17 surprise you? How would we apply those instructions now?

- 4. Think about Pastor Doug's statement, "We live in a form of exile of our own making." Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
- 5. What are some ways that our allegiance to Jesus conflicts with our residency in this world?

ALIENS



WEEK 1

PRAY

Pray for each other: Have the group leader or a volunteer pray for any specific needs in the group.

Pray on your own: Ask God to help you live out your allegiance to Jesus in a way that causes people to "see your good deeds and glorify God." (1 Peter 2:12)

ACTION STEPS

Write down five observations this week about how the world we live in (its systems, values, and ideologies) is in conflict with our allegiance to Jesus. Bring those observations to the group to share next week.

NOTES		

ALIENS