

1. Have you ever been in an environment where you had a wide circle of acquaintances, but you weren't quite sure who you could depend on? Describe what that felt like and what resources you wished were available to you in that instance.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. Review the themes that Peter establishes at the beginning of his letter. What is his purpose for introducing the letter the way he does in 1:1-2? Why does he write a blessing in 1:3-5? What does he have to say about trials in 1:6-9?
3. Now, read 1 Peter 1:10-12 once again. Who are the characters to which Peter refers here? What is the unifying theme of the three verses and how do you see it in action with each of the characters?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:12. What role do the Prophets have in serving the church? How does knowing this give us context and confidence for reading the Old Testament?
5. How do you see the Spirit in action throughout verses 10-12? Why is the ministry of the Spirit essential to the efficacy of the gospel?
6. Consider the occasion at which you first heard the gospel. As you look back, how do you see the Spirit at work in helping you to understand the good news and respond to it?
7. Why do the angels long to look into "these things" in v12? What does that say about our place in the unfolding story of grace woven throughout Scripture and continued now in our present time?
8. Take a few moments to reflect on the wonder of God employing so many resources to bring the gospel to you. Ask him for the strength to endure trials such that you might continually embrace the good news and be available to encourage others with it as well.