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- 45 full color pages
- Note taking areas for Large Group Sessions
- Interacts with the Small Group Lessons your teachers access Online
- Features four bonus devotions for use throughout your event
- Biblically solid, culturally relevant, highly interactive

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# RELENTLESS

*pursuing Christ at all costs*

interactive student book

BY ED NEWTON

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## RELENTLESS: *pursuing Christ at all costs*

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# INTRO

## RELENTLESS

If you had to list the things in your life by order of importance, where would you put your faith? Be honest. Even if you say it's first, do your actions back this up? Do you live your life in full pursuit of Jesus? The honest truth is that many Christians don't. For many Christians, faith is something that is easily set aside, especially when their faith makes them a target for ridicule or abuse.

### **AND HEREIN LIES THE PROBLEM.**

The kind of faith that Jesus actually called us to? It's not one that can be put aside when it's convenient. It's a faith that never lets up. A faith that's solid in any circumstance. A faith that is **RELENTLESS**. Over the next few sessions, you'll be challenged to live this type of faith. Are you ready?

### **HAVE YOU PREPARED FOR THE JOURNEY?**

Ask yourself: Is my heart prepared to be challenged? Am I willing to be changed? If you can't answer "yes" to these questions, this journey might not be nearly as spectacular as it could be. If you need to, take a moment and silently talk to God in prayer. Ask God to radically move in your life.


### **YOU'RE HOLDING YOUR MAP**

This book you're holding is the road map for your journey. It will help guide your experiences. Write your name and the date in the front. Hold on to it. You may want to look back and remember this time in your life.

### **LEARN. AND TEACH.**

Keep your eyes and ears open for those valuable moments where God wants to teach you something. But don't miss the chance to teach your friends, and to be taught by them. Your friends are with you in this experience. Be open to what God is doing in and through them, and how He might be using them to speak to you. And vice versa.

### **YOUR JOURNEY TO A RELENTLESS FAITH IS JUST BEGINNING. BE PREPARED TO BE CHANGED . . .**



ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND  
SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING  
HYMNS TO GOD, AND THE PRISONERS  
WERE LISTENING TO THEM.



ACTS 16:25

# LARGE group *notes*

## SESSION 1

These two pages are designed for you to take notes on during Large Group Sessions. The stuff you're learning will really build on itself over the next few sessions. So even if you're not much of a note taker, you might want to at least jot down what you think is important.

### **TRY WRITING DOWN**

- Any specific teaching points
- Verse references for Scripture passages
- Quotes that make you think
- Anything you have a question about





# **SMALL** group *intro*

## **SESSION 1**

What makes you happy? This is a pretty fun question to consider. After all, it's fun to think about things that make us smile. Our friends. Our family. Food. Music. Exercise. Clothes. Nature. The list could go on and on.

Here's another question: When was the last time you got really happy when you thought about God and what He's done for you?

Interesting question, isn't it? Deep down, those of you who have come to a saving relationship with Jesus would most likely say that you are indeed thankful for what God did for you. And when you take time to think about it, you probably get pretty happy about it. But why isn't this an emotion we experience daily? Why aren't we more joyful about what Jesus has done for us? And what about when things get tough? When we experience trials because of our faith? What then?

You're about to read an awesome collection of verses. 1 Peter 1:3-9 is an amazing passage. It's packed full of theological truth. But don't be intimidated! Peter makes his point clear. This passage is a joyful, powerful message of praise in response to what God has done for us through Christ. Through studying this passage, you'll see that praising God, even in the midst of tough times, is the only right response once we truly comprehend the salvation He has purchased for us.

**HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?**

Work with your leader to  
come up with the right  
response for each scenario.

# getting *started*

SCENARIO 1

SCENARIO 5

SCENARIO 4

SCENARIO 2

SCENARIO 3

## SESSION 1

# DIGGING IN

Work with your group to read the passages and answers the questions below.

### *praise in three parts*

#### **PART 1: PRAISE FOR WHAT? (VS. 3-6)**

- Look at verse 3. Describe Peter's tone. What hint(s) gives his tone away?
- Why is Peter excited?
- What does Peter mean when he says "Born again into a living hope"?
- Peter talks about the way in which this new life is obtained. What does Peter say?
- In verse 4, Peter describes our salvation as an inheritance that God is keeping for us. What words does Peter use to describe this inheritance? How does this make you feel about your relationship with God?
- Look at the first few words of vs. 6. Peter says in "this" we rejoice. What is the "this"?

**WHEN YOU THINK OF THE SALVATION GOD OFFERS YOU,  
WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?**

## PART 2: PRAISE IN SPITE OF TRIALS (VS. 6-7)

	+		=	
	+		=	

## PART 3: PRAISE TODAY, PRAISE TOMORROW (VS. 8-9)

- Verse 8 describes the concept of faith pretty well. What does it say?
- Peter links faith and joy together once again. What is it about our faith that leads people to be joyful (especially in the face of persecution or tough times)?
- In verse 9, Peter says that our faith obtains for us an outcome of salvation. This is all about the future. What future hope awaits Christ-followers?
- How does this impact your life today?



SESSION 1

*wrapping*



Follow your leader's instructions to have a time of praise, thanking God for the salvation He has made possible for us.