

<p>Theme & Passages</p>	<p>Holy Aliens 1 Peter 1:13–23</p>	<p>Notes prepared by Steve Elmes & Neil Casey</p>
<p>Welcome (10 mins)</p>	<p>When did you last feel 'out of place'? When did you last feel 'right at home'?</p>	
<p>Worship (20 mins)</p>	<p>What is our hope as Christians? Share your ideas and then enjoy the song 'Living Hope' – access HERE</p>	
<p>Working with God (20 mins): Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care</p>	<p>This week we are concentrating on the Arab speaking world by connecting with our friends at the Arabic Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Lebanon, one of our international mission partners. ABTS train church leaders who then lead churches in the Arab speaking world across the Middle East and North Africa. Their work is an example of evangelism and building the church in action, two of the five marks of mission. Do watch the video with your small group.</p> <p>I wonder how you felt hearing these Arabic voices? Take some time as a group to share as a group the different reactions and responses to hearing Arabic.</p> <p>Take some time to pray for the students at ABTS. When they have completed their studies, they will be going on to lead churches in places where the Muslim faith is dominant and where it can be dangerous to openly follow Christ.</p> <p>The students' commitment and willingness to reach out to those who come from different cultural backgrounds and don't believe what they believe is inspiring. As a group discuss how you can be more intentional about reaching out to others who come from a different cultural background and don't believe what we believe.</p>	
<p>Word (20-25 mins)</p>	<p>Read 1 Peter 1:13–23</p> <p>In the morning service, Pete brought a message based on this passage. At the start he gave us some context on Peter's letter, written to a church that was clashing with dominant values of day (the Roman Empire) and suffering as a result. Peter portrays the church as 'in exile': not truly at home in the world, which actually describes the position for all communities that follow Jesus.</p> <p>Is the idea of being 'in exile' helpful to make sense of things in our own setting? Where do you see or feel this today as a follower of Jesus?</p> <p>Pete went on to raise up four themes from the passage, each of which tell us about our calling. These were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope (verse 13) • Holiness (verses 14–16) • Reverence (verses 17–21) • Love (verses 22–23) <p>Talk about what these things mean 'on the ground' and how they connect with one another.</p>	

If you have time...

In the last few minutes of Pete's sermon, he shared the concept of 'parallel communities' expressed by **Václav Havel** (1936 –2011) a Czech statesman, author, poet, playwright, and former dissident. His essential idea was for a minority community to live together in ways that keep to its distinctive values and so illuminate and challenge the dominant culture.

How might this idea inform our life together as a Christian community?
What might this look like?