



# Sermon Growth Guide

January 10, 2020

**Here We Go! - Live for God**

**1 Peter 1:1-9**

**Key Verse:** 1 Peter 1:8

“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.”

**Big Idea:** Value #1 Live for God: worship trains our hearts to beat for God.

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## Foundations

“**Here We Go!**” That’s the name of our new series that launches today. In January 2020 we held Vision Weekend where we introduced **The First Way: 7 Values in Our Pursuit of Jesus**. Then, COVID. Wow, God gave us our 7 Values in our pursuit of Him just before the shutdown.

Pastor Tim reflects: “It was as if the Lord had dropped in on us in January (2020) and handed us a compass and map right before we flew into the fog. God is so good!” It’s time to regroup around these values. Today, **Value #1, Live for God**. Worship trains our hearts to beat for God. Each week of this series we’ll be in the book of 1 Peter.

Pastor Tim at length: “The church is not primarily a social change agent or a gathering of people pursuing a common spiritual interest. It is not in its essence a factory for good deeds or an inspirational rally for moral behavior training. It is not at its core a place for education or dissemination of information. The church is a body of people called into a special relationship with God, commanded to gather together in His presence and give Him worship and praise from whatever context or corner they find themselves in. Praise be to God!”

Gathered together with your circle, open your time of study in prayer. Ask the Spirit to guide and guard your spiritual formation, your growth in Christ.

## Understanding God’s Word

In verses 1 and 2, what do we learn about those to whom this letter is written? How does one come to love God according to these verses?

Spend time working through verses 3-9. In what ways are you encouraged, challenged and exhorted in these stunning sentences?

## Applying God’s Word

Peter exclaims in verse 8, “though you have not seen him (Jesus), you love him.” One of our values is “Live for God.” We strive to live for God because we love Him. One way we love God and live for God is to devote our “First Hour” to Him in worship every week. How are you doing in gathering together with the Church in lifting up the name of the Lord and declaring that He alone is worthy of all praise? How can you cultivate an even deeper habit of praise?

## Witnessing God’s Word

A part of this week’s sermon is about identifying idols in our own hearts. What gets your attention most? What do you ascribe as “worthy” first and foremost? We must cultivate hearts that seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. When we do this, we witness well and the watching world will see God through us.

End your time praying that you and every person in your circle would reflect the light of heaven throughout each moment of your upcoming week. Pray that as you “Live for God” the watching world will, in turn, follow suit.