

A PRE-STUDY CHALLENGE

If you want to get the maximum impact from studying first Peter, grab some notebook paper and spend a few intense hours doing the work below. When you're finished, you'll have read the entire letter of 1 Peter four times.

1. Read the entire letter of 1 Peter and list every fact you learn about the author.
2. Read 1 Peter again and list every fact you learn about the recipients of the letter.
3. Read 1 Peter again and list every fact you learn about Jesus.
4. Read 1 Peter again and list important words you see repeated. Seeing these words will help unlock the meaning of what Peter is saying in his letter. After you list the repeated words, go back and tally how many times each occurs. Which two or three words appear most often in the text?
5. Based on the repeated words, what would you say is the theme of this letter?

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE

Therefore, with your minds ready for action, be serious and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Peter 1:13

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Week One



WEEK ONE – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2.

WHO is the author, and how does he describe himself?

WHO are the recipients of the letter?

WHERE are the recipients?

WHY do you think Peter calls them “temporary residents”?

Of what two truths about themselves does Peter remind these dispersed people?

For WHAT two purposes were these people set apart by the Spirit?

Read Ephesians 1:3-4. WHAT does Paul tell the believers is the purpose of God choosing his people?

HOW do you think God wants his people to feel about being set apart for obedience?

How central is obedience to God, in your daily stream of thought?

What specifically has God put in front of you to obey currently?

WEEK ONE – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.

WHO does Peter bless (which means to praise or adore)?

WHAT quality does God have that makes him praiseworthy?

WHAT action has God taken that demonstrate the level of his mercy?

HOW is a “living” hope different than just saying the word “hope” by itself?

WHAT kind of inheritance have the born-again people been given?

WHAT is God doing for his people, until he reveals his salvation?

HOW are we being protected?

Faith seems like something that’s all on us. It seems like something that could fail if we’re having a bad day. Would you say that’s true or false, based on verse 5? Explain your answer.

Read John 10:27-30. HOW does this compare to 1 Peter 1:5?

How does today’s passage shape your perspective on your current circumstances?

WEEK ONE – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7.

WHAT is causing the recipients of this letter to rejoice?

WHAT have these followers of Christ been experiencing?

“Distressed” means “thrown into sorrow.” HOW is it possible that these followers of Christ are grieving through trials *and* rejoicing? (Use information from 1 Peter 1:3-5 to answer this question.)

WHY have the followers of Christ *had to be* distressed by trials?

WHAT is the value of genuine faith?

WHEN will the praise, glory, and honor happen?

Read James 1:12. WHAT do trials have to do with genuine faith?

If a person’s faith is *not* genuine, how do we see this when a trial comes his way?

Do you rejoice in hope when distressed by a trial of some kind? If not, how would you describe your typical response to trials?

Describe a trial you endured and how you feel that experience proved your faith in Christ to be genuine.

WEEK ONE – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 1:8.

WHAT simple statement does Peter make about these scattered believers?

Re-read 1 Peter 1:1-8. This entire passage is a list of statements, none of which is probably new information to the recipients of the letter. They know the love of Jesus. They know He gave them new life. They know they're suffering. Why, then, do you think Peter goes to the trouble of saying all of this?

Read Ephesians 4:29. How do you think Peter's statements benefit and build up these scattered believers when they read his letter?

What benefit does it give to your own soul, to read the words, "You love Him, though you have not seen Him"?

WEEK ONE – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 1:8-9.

WHAT kind of joy do these believers have?

WHY the joy?

WHAT is the goal of the believers' faith?

Compare 1 Peter 1:8-9 to 1:5-6.

Think about the connection between goals and joy. Why would a believer lack joy?

Read Hebrews 2:1-3. What warning is given to the Hebrews?

Combine the truths of Hebrews 2:1-3 with the truth in 1 Peter 1:8-9, to make one great statement. Make sure you include the words "drift away," "great salvation," "goal," and "joy."

Evaluate your own soul. What is the working goal of your faith? Is that goal resulting in an inexpressible and glorious joy or some other emotional state?

If a fellow believer is lacking joy, what counsel would you give him or her, based on today's Scripture study?

Week Two



WEEK TWO – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12.

WHAT did the Spirit of Christ testify?

Besides the prophets, to WHOM did the Spirit of Christ testify?

HOW did He give this testimony?

WHAT was revealed to the prophets about their service?

Underline what is repeated in these phrases:

the grace that would come to you
not serving themselves but you
things that have now been announced to you
preached the gospel to you

WHAT profound impact would it have on the readers, as they absorb the fact that the prophets of old were serving them, by speaking of the coming Messiah?

How does this personal nature of grace and good news affect you?

WEEK TWO – DAY TWO

Read Isaiah 9:2-7.

List the facts you learn from this prophecy regarding the coming Messiah:

Compare Isaiah 9:6 to 1 Peter 1:10-12.

For WHOM is the child born?

To WHOM is the Son given?

WHO is being served by Isaiah's prophecy?

How has the news of the coming child personally affected you?

WEEK TWO – DAY THREE

Read John 20:30-31.

WHAT is not written in the gospel of John?

For WHAT purpose has John written these stories about Jesus?

Compare John 20:31 to 1 Peter 1:12.

WHO is John serving, by writing down some of Jesus' signs?

What impact does this have on your day, to know John was writing *for you*, so that you would have life?

WEEK TWO – DAY FOUR

Read Luke 2:10-14.

Compare Luke 2:9-11 to 1 Peter 1:12.

List every phrase found in Luke 2:10-14 that tells us WHO are the recipients of the good news:

WHY do you think the angels say that peace has come for all people, but then tell the shepherds the Messiah was born “for you”?

How is this same idea seen in John 3:16?

What would you say if you had the opportunity to tell someone how the Messiah came to you personally:

WEEK TWO – DAY FIVE

Read Romans 5:8.

To WHOM does God prove His love?

For WHOM did Christ die?

Go back through all of the Scripture this week and write the phrases that say “for us” or “for you.”

Can you think of someone in your life who needs to hear that all of God’s goodness is delivered personally for him or her? How could you turn what you’ve learned this week into a conversation starter?

Week Two



WEEK THREE – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16.

List all of the commands in these verses:

People obey commands for different reasons –sometimes out of fear and sometimes to get a reward. Based on 1 Peter 1:3-12, what would you say should be the essence of a believer’s motivation for obeying the commands found in Scripture?

Peter talks about joy. How does joy fit in with Peter’s instructions about how the believers should live?

What has been your motivation for obeying instructions found in Scripture?

WEEK THREE – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 1:13.

WHAT is the believer supposed to do with his mind?

The imagery in these words is that of a soldier preparing for battle. Compare the command in 1 Peter 1:13 to Paul's words in Ephesians 6:10-18. Based on Paul's instructions, in what specific ways do we prepare our minds?

What is the action for which we are mentally preparing, according to Paul?

WEEK THREE – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 1:13.

Peter tells the believers to be “self-disciplined.” The meaning of this word is rich and carries these ideas:

-sober in spirit

-calm and collected

-discreet

-wary and unwilling to take risks

-not influenced by strong emotion

-able to be rational and impartial

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. Peter expects the believers’ faith to shine in the middle of trials. Go back and look at the definitions of self-control above. Make note next to each about how each quality is necessary in the middle of a trial.

What kind of control do you exercise over your own spirit on a daily basis?

WEEK THREE – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 1:13.

WHERE are the believers to set their hope?

WHEN will this hope be realized?

WHY does Peter use the word “completely”?

Read Romans 5:1-5.

HOW is hope produced?

WHAT does Paul promise about the hope we set completely on God’s grace?

WHAT happens if a person does not completely set his hope on the grace of God? (In your answer, include thoughts about disappointment.)

Confess below any places where you are currently hopeful *besides* in the grace of God:

WEEK THREE – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 1:14-16.

Consider the extraordinary contrast between living in ignorance with one set of desires, versus becoming holy in conduct. WHY is this transformation expected of the believers, and HOW is such an extreme transformation possible? (Use words from 1 Peter 1:1-16 to answer these questions.)

Is holy conduct 100% dependent on one's ability to be obedient to God? (Consider 1 Peter 1:2 in your answer.)

HOW is hope essential, for a person moving from ignorance to holy conduct?

Describe specific ways you have been obedient to God, in leaving behind old desires and moving toward holiness:

Week Three



WEEK FOUR – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 1:17.

WHAT do you learn about God from this verse?

If a person chooses to address God as Father, WHAT conduct is then expected?

WHY should a believer's conduct be driven by fear/reverence of the Father?

HOW does Peter describe our time on earth?

Read Hebrews 9:27-28. How does this passage explain WHY believers should conduct themselves with reverence?

How do you conduct yourself with reverence toward the Father?

WEEK FOUR – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 1:18.

WHAT do the believers know?

WHAT kind of life did they have before being rescued by Christ?

WHERE did the people get this empty way of conducting themselves?

Read 1 Peter 1:17. If the people used to have an empty way of living, what is Peter implying about the value of this new and reverent conduct?

WHY would it matter if a person were redeemed with something perishable?

Gold and silver are very valuable. WHY would Peter make a point to say redemption was *not* purchased with these things? (If you don't know what he's about to say in verse 19, what would you expect he's getting ready to say in contrast?)

Think of the family you've grown up in. What way of living did you inherit from them?

WEEK FOUR – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19.

WHAT did Christ use to purchase the lives of these believers from their slavery to generations of empty living?

HOW does the blood of Christ compare to gold and silver?

HOW should the redemption price of blood affect the daily conduct of a believer? (In answering this question, consider the word “reverence” that Peter uses in 1 Peter 1:17.)

If you inherited an empty way of living, what kind of changes in conduct have you made since coming to know Christ?

WEEK FOUR – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 1:20.

About WHOM is this verse talking?

Now read Ephesians 1:3-5 and combine the ideas with 1 Peter 1:20:

WHAT happened before the foundation of the world?

WHAT was Christ's destiny?

WHAT was the believer's destiny?

WHEN was Christ finally revealed?

WHY was Christ revealed at the end of the times?

Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. WHAT does this command have to do with your destiny?

God put a lot of pre-thought into your destiny of holiness. How much time do you spend thinking about it?

Who in your life most encourages and challenges you to think about and to conduct yourself with holiness? Consider thanking them for their impact on your life...

WEEK FOUR – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 1:21.

HOW does Peter describe the recipients of this letter?

HOW did they become believers? (See 1:19-20.)

WHAT two actions did God take with Christ?

Read Hebrews 1:1-4. HOW did God glorify Christ?

Read 1 Peter 1:21 again. WHAT do God's actions mean for the believer?

WHY do you think Peter says "faith and hope"? Define these two words and the difference in each.

Is it possible to have faith without hope? Why or why not? (Consider 1 Peter 1:13 in your answer.)

Is your life characterized by faith *and* hope? Explain your answer.

Week Five



SMALL GROUP
ministry

WEEK FIVE – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 1:22.

WHAT is the command in this verse?

WHAT kind of love should it be?

HOW does the heart become pure? (Use words from the verse to answer this question.)

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. HOW do the commands in these verses relate to purifying one's heart?

Read 1 Peter 1:22 again. Believers are to love each other earnestly, which means intensely. If that kind of love comes from a pure heart, then what does that say about the energy level one should put into purifying one's heart?

What do you think this verse says to us about church involvement?

Think of the brothers and sisters in Christ with whom you go to church. What kind of love are they receiving from you?

How do you think they know if your love for them is sincere or not?

WEEK FIVE – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 1:22-23.

From verse 23, WHY should believers have an intense love for one another?

Read 1 Peter 1:3 and 1:17. HOW does Peter refer to God?

Read 1 Peter 1:22. How does Peter refer to the believers?

Considering the word “Father” and “brothers,” WHAT would you say is relationally true about people who are born again?

WHY does Peter make another point of saying that redemption came through something imperishable? (WHAT implication does that have for relationships between believers?)

WHAT does this verse tell us about belonging to a church?

When a relationship between you and a brother or sister in Christ becomes strained for some reason, how should you respond and why should you respond that way, based solely on 1 Peter 1:22-23. Be thoughtful and specific in your answer.

WEEK FIVE – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 1:23-25.

According to verse 23, HOW is a person born again?

In verse 23, WHAT two words does Peter use, to describe the word of God?

In verses 24-25, WHAT word picture does Peter use, to describe the flesh (bodies) of men?

HOW did this living and enduring word come to the believers, according to verse 25?

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25 as a whole. WHY is rebirth through the imperishable word of God Peter's argument for the believers to earnestly and sincerely love their brothers in Christ? (Consider Peter's opening statement in verse 22.)

HOW has your obedience to the truth of God's word impacted your relationships within the family of God? Give specific examples.

WEEK FIVE – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 2:1.

List the qualities that Peter knows are still present in the hearts of the believers. Write a definition next to each:

“To rid” means to put off or aside or away.

Read 1 Peter 1:14. According to this verse, why didn't the recipients of this letter rid themselves of such dark qualities *before* they knew Christ?

WHAT changes when a person believes in Christ that enables and motivates him to rid himself of ugly behaviors? (Answer this question using the elements of 1 Peter 1:14.)

Of the behaviors listed in 1 Peter 2:1, which ones have you had to labor to rid yourself? How has God specifically worked to help you, in your move towards holiness?

WEEK FIVE – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 2:2-3.

WHAT expectation does Peter vocalize, for someone who has been saved into living hope?

WHY do you think Peter says a person can grow “in salvation”?

Read again slowly, from 1 Peter 1:1 to 2:2. List the different ways Peter says a saved person must grow:

According to 1 Peter 2:2, HOW is all of this growth going to happen?

WHAT is this “spiritual milk” of which Peter speaks? (Consider 1 Peter 1:22-25 in your answer.)

Read 1 Peter 2:3. WHAT does Peter offer to believers, as motivation for growing in salvation?

WHAT different motivations does the world offer, as motivation for a person to better himself?

How does 1 Peter 2:3 compare to the world’s perspective of motivation?

Week Six



WEEK SIX – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 2:4 and 2:6.

WHAT specific kind of “stone” is this?

Do some research –what is a cornerstone and what is its purpose?

WHERE has this stone been laid?

HOW is the stone described?

Read Isaiah 28:16. WHO has laid the stone, and HOW is the stone described?

Read 1 Peter 1:18-19. WHAT does this passage say about the value of Christ?

In the world of finance, there is a process called “valuation”, which is used to determine the present value of assets.

WHY do you think Peter is talking through a “valuation” of Christ for these believers? (Consider 1 Peter 2:1-3 in your answer.)

The value of the cornerstone is at the front of Peter’s thinking, as he writes to the believers. How prominent is the value of the cornerstone in your thinking?

WEEK SIX – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 2:4 and 2:7-8.

According to verse 8, WHAT is the cornerstone to some people?

HOW do they stumble?

WHY do they stumble?

In 1 Peter 2:8, we read that some are destined to stumble on the stone, so why does he then say they stumble because they haven't obeyed the message? (Destiny is out of one's control. Obedience is in one's control. How can both of these be the reason for stumbling?)

Read 1 Peter 2:4 again. WHAT is being contrasted in this verse?

God's own chosen nation, Israel, has stumbled over the cornerstone. As a whole, they have rejected the message of their own Messiah. If you have time, consider going to this website: oneforisrael.org. On the video page, watch a few of the incredible Jewish testimonies, and hear for yourself how the Jews have been stumbling over Jesus. Will you pray for the salvation of the Jews this week? Read Psalm 122 and "pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

WEEK SIX – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 2:5.

WHAT are the believers?

WHAT are they being built into?

WHAT is the purpose of this house?

Read Malachi chapters 1-3, if you have time. (If not, read 3:1-4.)
Compare this passage to 1 Peter 2:5.

To WHOM is Peter referring as the priests?

Read Romans 12:1-2 and compare it to 1 Peter 1:13-14. WHAT do the new “spiritual sacrifices” look like for the new “holy priesthood”?

Read 1 Peter 1:17. HOW does the idea of “reverent conduct” compare to 1 Peter 2:5?

In what way is your conduct befitting a Holy Priest?

WEEK SIX – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 2:6-7.

WHAT are the two possible responses people have to the cornerstone?

If a person believes in the cornerstone, WHAT are the two guaranteed results?

One definition of “shame” is that a person has been deceived by something, in which he was setting his hope. With this definition in mind, contrast 1 Peter 1:13 to 2 Peter 2:6.

How have you responded to the cornerstone?

Is there anything you’re setting your hope on right now that has the potential to disappoint you? Write a confession below, followed by a prayer of renewed belief and hope in Christ:

WEEK SIX – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10.

WHAT used to be true about the recipients of this letter?

List WHAT is true of the recipients now:

WHAT is the purpose of God's people?

The word "praises" means any excellence of a person.

Read from the beginning of 1 Peter through 1 Peter 2:10. List all of the excellent qualities of God and Christ:

Read Psalm 134.

WHAT does the psalmist command?

WHO is to do the praising?

WHERE is the praising taking place?

Evaluate your own mouth. Where and when do you formally and purposefully proclaim the excellence of God?

How often and where do you find yourself informally praising God?

Week Seven



WEEK SEVEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 2:11.

WHAT is Paul's relationship to his readers?

From WHAT does he urge his friends to abstain?

Compare 1 Peter 1:14 to 2:11.

WHAT do these fleshly desires do?

Read James 4:1 and compare it to 1 Peter 2:11.

In 1 Peter 2:11, WHAT stance does Peter urge the believers to take?

Read Hebrews 11:1-16. According to verses 14-16, what is made clear when a person confesses he is a foreigner and temporary resident on the earth?

Read 1 Peter 2:11 again. WHAT does a believer's temporary residence have to do with abstaining from fleshly desires?

WHAT fleshly desires have been warring against you lately?

Read Hebrews 11:13. Write a personal statement about your temporary status on earth:

WEEK SEVEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 2:12.

WHAT does this verse tell you about the environment in which the recipients of Peter’s letter live?

WHAT command does Peter give?

According to 1 Peter 2:12, why should the believers conduct themselves honorably among the Gentiles?

WHAT might cause a hostile Gentile to glorify God?

“Visitation” means investigation or inspection –that act by which God looks into and searches out the ways, deeds, and character of men, in order to judge their lot accordingly.

Compare the “day of visitation” to 1 Peter 1:17.

WHY do you think the Gentiles will glorify God on this day?

How is your own conduct among those who do not follow Christ?

When you’re driving:

When you’re in a check-out line:

Among colleagues:

In financial dealings:

At recreation events:

WEEK SEVEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 2:13-15.

WHAT command does Peter give?

WHAT is the believer's motive for submitting to human institutions?

WHAT is God's will in this matter?

“Submission” means to place oneself under an authority. Why would this silence foolish people?

WHAT examples does Peter give of human institutions?

WHAT human institutions exist in our culture?

Examine your conduct. Confess any way in which you are not submitting to these institutions. How will you change your conduct in the future?

WEEK SEVEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 2:16.

WHAT are the believers?

Compare 1 Peter 2:9-10 to 2:16. WHAT phrases in 2:9-10 support the idea of slavery to God?

According to 1 Peter 2:9-10, what kind of environment is slavery in God's kingdom?

Read 1 Peter 1:3 and 1:18-19. HOW did the believers become slaves of God?

Read 1 Peter 1:16. How can a person be God's slave but live as a free person?

Describe HOW a believer might use his freedom to conceal evil:

Think about decisions and actions you're thinking about in your life right now. How can you approach these with a slave mentality?

WEEK SEVEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 1:14, 2:11 and 2:16.

WHAT are the defining perspectives of the believers in these verses? (They are written after the word “as.”)

Read 1 Peter 2:17-18. List the commands Peter gives in these verses:

The list you just made is full of huge, sweeping commands. To make these personal, add some real faces to each.

List three people in your life and how you show honor to each:

List three brothers or sisters in Christ and how you will love them purposefully this week:

List three attributes of God that cause you to fear him:

Write a prayer for the president of the United States and for your governor:

Week Eight



WEEK EIGHT – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 2:18-21.

WHAT is Peter commanding the household slaves to do?

WHAT brings favor with God?

According to verse 21, to WHAT were the slaves called?

WHY in the world would a slave submit himself, with all respect, to a cruel master? (Pull from 1 Peter 2:12 and 2:21 to answer this question.)

There is a philosophy going around in our culture that if a relationship is “toxic” or harmful a person should get out of it. How does today’s passage contrast to that line of thinking?

Is the truth in 1 Peter 2:21 in any way applicable to us now? (Make sure to list Scripture that supports whatever answer you give.)

Describe a time when you endured the grief of suffering unjustly, because of conscience toward God:

WEEK EIGHT – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 2:21-22.

According to verse 22, WHAT example did Christ set when he was treated with cruelty and injustice?

List the possible sinful responses a person might do or say when treated with cruelty or injustice:

Read Matthew 5:38-42. List Jesus' specific examples of how to respond to mistreatment:

How does today's truth apply to your life right now?

WEEK EIGHT – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 2:23.

WHAT happened to Jesus?

“To revile” means to rail at someone or to heap abuse upon someone.

Read Mark 15:16-20. In what ways was Jesus reviled?

Read 1 Peter 2:23.

WHAT response does Jesus deny himself?

HOW does he respond instead?

HOW is God’s character described in this verse?

Read 1 Peter 1:17 and compare it to 2:23.

WHY is justice at the core of Jesus’ response to evil men?

Read Psalm 37:5-6. King David knows how it feels to suffer for years at the hands of an evil man. WHAT action does he say a person can trust the LORD to take?

Read 1 Peter 1:13. A longing for justice is a fierce emotion. How can a believer remain sober in spirit and not allow himself to be influenced by this emotion when experiencing grief from suffering unjustly?

How can you get your mind ready for future injustice?

WEEK EIGHT – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 2:24.

WHAT did Christ do?

For WHAT purpose did He do this?

Carefully go back through the first two chapters of 1 Peter. Make a chart that includes the sins to which a believer has to die and then specific ways in which a believer is to live.

DIE TO SIN

LIVE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

From these two lists, what is the Lord working in you right now?

WEEK EIGHT – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 2:25.

WHAT did these believers used to be like?

Now WHAT has happened?

HOW is God described in this verse?

Read 1 Peter 2:18. WHY would the Guardian of souls ask His people to submit themselves to cruel masters?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. For WHAT purpose have the sheep returned to the Shepherd?

HOW is submitting to a cruel master going to result in a slave proclaiming the praises of God?

Read 1 Peter 2:24. WHAT is the Shepherd's greatest desire(s) for His sheep?

Why is this righteousness paired with suffering and dying to sins?

Read Jesus' words in Matthew 5:6 and 5:10. HOW do these verses compare to 1 Peter 2:20-24?

How hungry are you to be righteous?

Week Nine



WEEK NINE – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 3:1-2.

To WHOM is Peter speaking?

Peter says “in the same way”, so write a brief recap about what he had just been spelling out in the verses before this:

WHAT does Peter command the wives to do?

WHAT is this submission going to look like to the husband, according to 1 Peter 3:2.

Compare 1 Peter 3:2 to 1 Peter 1:17 and 1:22-23.

Read 1 Peter 3:1 again. WHAT is true of some husbands?

WHAT might possibly win these men to Christ?

Compare 1 Peter 3:1-2 to 2:12.

What do people observe when they see how you live your life? (If you are married, answer this specifically in regard to your spouse.)

WEEK NINE – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 3:3.

In WHAT outward ways do wives strive to be beautiful?

Compare 1 Peter 3:3 to 1 Peter 1:14. HOW might thoughts of outward beauty be connected to a woman's "former ignorance"?

WHAT is Peter discouraging? (Answer carefully.)

Compare 1 Peter 3:3 to 3:1-2. WHAT does outward beauty have to do with winning a husband to Christ?

Peter suggests that a woman can control the source of her own beauty. Write a personal response to this concept:

WEEK NINE – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 3:3-4.

WHAT is being contrasted in these verses?

Of WHAT should a woman's beauty consist?

WHAT two qualities are imperishable?

Compare 1 Peter 3:4 to 1 Peter 1:17. WHY are imperishable qualities important?

WHAT is very valuable in God's sight?

Read 1 Samuel 16:7. WHAT is the contrast in this verse?

Compare 1 Peter 3:3 to 1 Peter 3:1-2. If men tend to judge with their eyes, then how is it that a woman with a gentle and quiet spirit will maybe win her unbelieving husband to Christ?

Read Ephesians 4:29 and compare it to 1 Peter 3:3-4. If we want to encourage and to build up sisters in Christ, how should we talk to them about beauty?

With all honesty, evaluate your own perspective on a woman's beauty. What is of greatest value to you regarding beauty?

WEEK NINE – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 3:5.

WHO is Peter holding up as an example in this verse?

HOW does Peter describe these women?

Compare 1 Peter 3:5 to 1:13. WHERE did these women set their hope?

WHAT action did these women take, to make themselves beautiful?

HOW did they act toward their husbands?

These women set an example for future generations. How do you think the holy women of today can set an example in regard to beauty, hope, and marriage?

WEEK NINE – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 3:5-6.

In verse 6, WHAT example does Peter offer to married women?

WHAT did Sarah call Abraham?

What attitude does the term “lord” display?

How is the word “lord” going to land in our current culture?

In what two ways can women follow in Sarah’s footsteps?

WHY do you think Peter tells women not to be afraid? (Consider the context of 1 Peter 2:11 through 3:6.)

Read 1 Peter 3:1-6 again. In your own words, what would you say is the overall message for women in this passage?

How has this week’s study challenged or improved your thoughts on a woman’s beauty, value, and influence?

Week Ten



WEEK TEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 3:7.

Peter begins by saying “in the same way.” Go back through 1 Peter 2:11 through 3:25 and make a list of what “this way” means:

Read 1 Peter 2:24. Given Christ’s example, what do you think it means for a husband to “live for righteousness”?

WEEK TEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 3:7.

HOW does Peter instruct husbands to live?

Read Proverbs 4:5, 7. Summarize the main idea in these verses:

Read 1 Peter 3:7 again. It is like gold for a husband to understand WHAT about his wife?

Compare 1 Peter 3:7 to 1:14.

How do you think a man can grow in understanding who his wife is?

WEEK TEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 3:7 again.

The word “nature” in this verse is the word we use for “vase.”
What adjectives would you use to describe a vase?

Looking at those adjectives, how would you say they describe a woman as compared to a man?

WHAT is it Peter really wants husbands to understand that will affect how they live with their wives?

Compare 1 Peter 1:14-15 to 3:7. How will a husband’s understanding of his wife show itself in holy conduct toward her?

Describe a good example you’ve witnessed, of a man understanding his wife as having a weaker nature and conducting himself as such:

WEEK TEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 3:7 again.

WHAT does Peter contrast?

If a man sees his wife as weaker, how might he be tempted to treat her?

In WHAT way are husband and wife equal, according to this verse?

WHAT do both stand to inherit?

Compare 1 Peter 1:3, 1:13, 3:5, and 3:7. How should a husband's treatment of his wife affect her hope?

Read Ephesians 4:29 and compare it to 1 Peter 3:7. How is this verse in Ephesians an excellent guideline of conduct for a husband?

On a personal note, write below how it feels to be an heir of the grace of life:

WEEK TEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 3:7.

WHAT does Peter imply will happen to a husband, if he does not act with holy conduct toward his wife?

In his book, *Generous Justice*, Timothy Keller makes this statement:

“God’s character includes a zeal for justice that leads Him to have the tenderest love and closest involvement with the socially weak.” (Page 8)

WHY would a man’s treatment of his wife affect his relationship with God? (Use Scripture to support your answer, and also consider the above quote by Timothy Keller.)

Look back over 1 Peter 3:1-7. How has God shifted your thinking during the study of this passage?

Week Eleven



WEEK ELEVEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 3:8.

To WHOM is Peter speaking in this verse?

List the expectations of conduct Peter lays out:

WHAT do all of these have in common?

WHAT does it mean to be like-minded?

Read through all of 1 Peter leading up to this verse, and pay special attention to *mindset*. Make a list of thoughts that followers of Christ should have in common:

Read 1 Peter 3:8, and compare it to 1 Peter 1:13. For WHAT specific kind of actions is a believer preparing his mind?

How can you prepare your mind, so that you're ready to be sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble toward your brothers and sisters in Christ?

WEEK ELEVEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 3:9.

WHAT assumptions does Peter make in this verse?

Compare 1 Peter 3:9 to Paul's words in Romans 8:5-6.

WHAT is the mindset of the flesh when someone does evil to us or insults us? And what actions naturally follow?

Read 1 Peter 3:9 again. In this situation, to WHAT mindset are believers called? (Use verses from 1 Peter, chapters one and two, to answer this question.)

HOW should a believer respond to evil and insult?

WHAT does it mean to give a blessing?

WHAT is the motive for blessing in response to evil?

WHY is a believer's inheritance connected to his response to evil? (Look to 1 Peter 2:21-25 to answer this.)

HOW do you normally respond to insult or being wronged?

WEEK ELEVEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 3:10-12 and Psalm 34:11-16a.

In Psalm 34:11, WHAT is the lesson David is singing to his children?

Compare Psalm 34:11 to 1 Peter 1:17.

Read 1 Peter 3:10. To WHOM is this song appealing?

According to 1 Peter 3:10, what specifically is the inheritance to which Peter was referring in verse 9?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5 and expound on what Peter means by inheriting a blessing:

Compare the verbs used in 1 Peter 3:10 and Psalm 34:12, to describe the actions in a person's heart.

In the beginning of 1 Peter 3:10, he says “for the one who wants ...” So the question is, what do you want for yourself? What do you really long for?

WEEK ELEVEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 3:10-11.

If a person wants to love life and see good days, make a list of WHAT he must do or not do:

How do verses 10 and 11 expand on what Peter was saying in verse nine?

This is one of those passages that is super easy to understand, but excruciating to do. Yet it's the very key to having a good life. Walk back through the list of conduct instructions you listed above, one at a time, and evaluate your own obedience. Write specifically about what each of these "musts" looks like in your own life right now:

WEEK ELEVEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 3:12.

Peter follows the hard “musts” of 3:10-11 with reasoning for motive. WHY must a person watch his tongue, turn from evil, do good, and pursue peace?

Peter is writing to followers of Christ. WHAT does he want them to know about praying, according to 1 Peter 3:12?

Compare 1 Peter 3:12 to 1:17. WHAT does God’s Fatherhood have to do with a believer’s conduct and prayers?

Read 1 John 2:1. WHAT encouragement does this verse add to what Peter is saying in 1 Peter 3:12?

Evaluate your own prayer experience with God, in light of 1 Peter 3:12:

Week Twelve



SMALL GROUP
ministry

WEEK TWELVE – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 3:13.

WHAT does Peter expect the believers to be?

“Passionate” means, to most eagerly desire something and to defend and uphold it.

Read 1 Peter 1:14 and compare it to Peter’s thoughts about desires in 3:13.

Read 1 Peter 2:2-3.

WHAT do these believers know of what is good?

WHAT does this verse say about desire?

HOW will the believers make the huge swing from desiring evil to being passionate for what is good?

What “spiritual milk” has helped flip your passions?

WEEK TWELVE – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 3:13-14.

In verse 13, WHAT does Peter imply about the general result of doing good?

Read John 3:19-20. Considering Jesus' words, WHY might a believer suffer for doing good?

Read 1 Peter 3:14 again. WHAT is true about the person who suffers for doing what is right?

Read Matthew 5:10-12. WHY does Jesus say a person is blessed when persecuted for righteousness?

In 1 Peter 3:14, WHAT command does Peter give?

Read Isaiah 8:11-13. HOW is fear an act of worship?

Read and compare Jesus' words in Matthew 10:28 to 1 Peter 1:17 and 2:21-23.

What truly fuels your passion to do good? And will that fuel still burn strong, if people start responding to your good works with hostility?

WEEK TWELVE – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 3:13-15.

In verse 14, WHAT does Peter know will be the most natural reaction to suffering?

In verse 15, WHAT two actions does Peter offer, in contrast to living in fear?

Read 1 Peter 3:15 again. If a person is saved by confessing Jesus as Lord, why would Peter write to believers and tell them to set apart the Messiah as Lord in their hearts? Haven't they already done this?

Now think about hope. WHAT would cause someone to ask a believer about his hope?

How is a believer's hope visible to others?

Read 1 Peter 1:13 and compare it to 3:15. Both of these verses talk about the act of "setting". What daily habits do you think someone must have in place, in order to continually "set" hope and Christ's Lordship in their proper place?

Describe a recent situation, in which you had to work to make sure Christ was Lord in your heart:

WEEK TWELVE – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16.

WHAT are the believers to be ready to do?

In WHAT tone and from WHAT posture is a believer to defend his hope?

WHAT possible response to the defense does Peter anticipate?

WHAT will put the accuser to shame?

Read 1 Peter 2:12, 3:1-2, and 3:16. WHAT do these verses have in common?

Peter talks about a clear conscience. Compare this thought to 1 Peter 3:8-12. WHY do gentleness and respect in giving a defense of the gospel connect to one's own conscience before the Lord?

Read 1 Peter 1:13 and compare it to 1 Peter 3:15. In WHAT specific way do you need to prepare your mind?

Write below a gentle, respectful reason for the hope that is in you. (Imagine giving this defense to a real person in your life who might actually ask you about your hope.)

WEEK TWELVE – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 3:17.

WHAT might be God's will?

Read Psalm 14:1-3.

WHAT is the LORD looking for?

WHAT is true of mankind?

Read 1 Peter 3:15, and compare it to 3:17. If a person sets apart the Messiah as Lord in his heart, WHAT is he opening himself up to?

Read 1 Peter 1:13, and compare it to 1 Peter 3:17. For WHAT specifically do believers need to mentally prepare?

How do you see our current culture in America growing in its accusation against Christ followers?

How can you mentally prepare yourself to face suffering for doing good, if that should be God's will for you?

Week Thirteen



SMALL GROUP
ministry

WEEK THIRTEEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 3:18.

List WHAT happened to Christ:

For WHOM did Christ suffer?

WHAT was his purpose in suffering?

WHY is the truth of this verse a motive for what Peter is asking of the believers in 1 Peter 3:17?

Read 1 Peter 2:21 and 3:18. WHAT example has Christ given?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. WHY is it so important for us to persevere in doing good, even in the face of growing hostility toward our hope in Christ?

Read Luke 9:23-24. If we want to follow Christ, WHAT must we do?

To prepare your mind for suffering, consider what it means “to deny” yourself right now. In what ways is Christ asking you to deny yourself? Describe your level of willingness and obedience.

WEEK THIRTEEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 3:19.

WHAT “state” is Peter talking about? (Use 3:18 as a contextual reference.)

WHERE did Christ go?

WHAT did he do there?

WHAT was the proclamation?

WHY did he go there?

WHAT was accomplished by this visit?

Dig back through 1 Peter and see if you can find any clues that help you understand this verse.

Read Paul’s words in Philippians 2:5-11. HOW might this verse shine light on 1 Peter 3:19?

WEEK THIRTEEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 3:19-20.

WHO was in prison? (Give as many specific details as you can from this verse.)

Read Genesis 6-8.

Contrast the heart of Noah to the hearts of everyone else in the world.

Read 1 Peter 3:20 again.

WHAT was God doing in the days of Noah?

WHAT was Noah doing?

WHAT was happening with the ark?

WHAT purpose did the ark serve?

WHO was in the ark?

From WHAT were the people saved?

HOW were they saved?

WEEK THIRTEEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 3:21.

“Baptism” means immersion or submersion.

WHAT does baptism represent?

WHAT does baptism do?

WHAT doesn't baptism do?

WHY do you think Peter clarifies that baptism doesn't remove filth of the flesh? (Why might people think that was its purpose?)

Why can it be difficult for people to follow Christ's instruction of baptism?

How would you explain this as an important act of obedience to a believer that has not been saved?

WEEK THIRTEEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 3:22.

WHO has gone?

WHERE has He gone?

WHERE is Jesus now, more specifically?

WHO is subjected to Jesus?

Read Hebrews 1. WHY is it significant that Jesus is at God's right hand?

Read 1 Peter 3:13-14 and compare it to 3:22. WHY do the recipients of Peter's letter need to know where Jesus is now and about His great authority?

HOW is 1 Peter 3:22 of comfort and encouragement to you today?

Week
Fourteen



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WEEK FOURTEEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 4:1-2.

WHAT command does Peter give to the believers?

Compare the command in 1 Peter 4:1 to the command in the beginning of 1:13. How is the language similar?

With WHAT kind of thinking are the believers supposed to arm themselves?

WHO is the “One” who suffered in the flesh? See 3:18 and 2:21 for this answer.

WHAT did this One who suffered accomplish?

In the chart below, list the human desires you still struggle with and then write about specific ways you are laboring to do God’s will in those areas.

HUMAN DESIRES

GOD’S WILL

WEEK FOURTEEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 4:3.

WHAT is Paul's concern about time here?

How does 4:3 compare to 4:2?

List the activities of the pagans:

Compare this list to 1 Peter 1:13-14.

What pagan activity have you spent enough time doing?

WEEK FOURTEEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 4:4.

WHO is surprised?

WHAT surprises them?

“To plunge” means to run along together.

WHY does following Christ mean a change in relationships?

Peter uses the word “flood” to describe the overflow of wild behavior of the pagans. HOW does this image of overflowing contrast with what Peter says about emptiness in 1:18-19?

Read Jesus’ words in John 10:7-10. WHAT does He say about an overflowing life?

Read 1 Peter 1:13. WHY does abundant living come with self-discipline? Don’t these seem contradictory?

Read 1 Peter 4:5. WHY do you think the pagans are slandering the followers of Christ?

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. When invited to the wild parties of old friends, HOW should a follower of Christ respond?

How is your life overflowing now, compared to your life before you knew Christ?

WEEK FOURTEEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 4:5.

WHO will give an account? (See verse 4.)

To WHOM will they give an account?

HOW does Peter describe the One to whom an account will be given?

WHO is judged?

Compare 1 Peter 4:5 to 1:17, 2:20, and 3:12.

Why is it extremely important, according to Peter, that we keep in mind the coming judgment?

If there is anyone from your old life who is slandering you because you won't party anymore, what encouragement do you have from today's study?

WEEK FOURTEEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 4:6.

WHAT was preached?

“Gospel” means good news.

To WHOM was it preached?

WHY was it preached?

Compare 1 Peter 4:6 to 3:19-20. Given this context, to whom was the gospel preached?

Read Romans 9:14-24. HOW does this passage help us to cope with 1 Peter 3:19 and 4:6?

Compare 1 Peter 4:6 to 2:1-3. In what ways have you been growing this week, to live by God in the spiritual realm?

Week Fifteen



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WEEK FIFTEEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 4:7.

WHAT does Peter say is coming?

How close is the end?

Read Malachi 4:1-3.

WHAT is coming?

WHO is coming?

List what will happen to the arrogant and wicked on that day:

Read 1 Peter 4:7 again. Because the end is near, what two things should believers be?

For WHAT purpose are believers to be clear-headed and disciplined?

WHY is control over one's passions necessary for prayer?

Read Mark 14:32-36. HOW does Jesus demonstrate self-control over his own passions for prayer?

What have you been praying about lately, and how have you controlled your passions for prayer?

WEEK FIFTEEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 4:8.

WHAT assumption does Peter make about people in this verse?

WHAT should be done above all?

Read Matt. 22:34-40 and compare it to 1 Peter 4:8. WHY is love for one another above all the things Peter has been telling the believers to do?

In 1 Peter 4:8, what does Peter say love does?

“To cover” means to keep from being visible. Why do you think love keeps people’s sins out of our line of sight?

Compare 1 Peter 4:8 to Proverbs 12:16. The same verb meaning “to cover” is used in both verses.

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12 again. HOW is giving a blessing connected to the covering of sin?

Describe the last time a fellow believer hurt or offended you. How did you respond?

Think of someone in your life who graciously overlooks your sinfulness on a regular basis. Describe that person’s demeanor toward you and how he or she blesses you.

WEEK FIFTEEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 4:9.

WHAT command does Peter give?

Read 1 Peter 4:3. WHAT was life like previously for these believers?

WHY would Peter have to command hospitality? How is hospitality a different lifestyle than how the believers lived before?

Read 1 Peter 4:9 again. WHAT instruction does Peter tack on to the command to be hospitable?

Read 1 Peter 3:10. WHAT does this verse say to the person who is tempted to mumble under his breath about being hospitable?

What opportunities have you had to be hospitable to your brothers and sisters in Christ, and how have you handled those?

WEEK FIFTEEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 4:10.

WHO is Peter talking about in this verse?

WHAT have they received?

HOW should each person's gift be used?

WHAT is at the core of the gifts that were given?

HOW does Peter describe the grace?

“Varied” means a variety of colors. Why do you think Peter uses this word to describe God's grace?

WHAT role does Peter describe believers as having?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and answer these questions:

WHAT is given to each believer? (verse 7)

WHAT does Paul have to say about the colorful variety of God's grace?

WHAT is the purpose of these gifts? (verse 7)

WHAT grace gift has God given to you?

When you use your gift, what “color” of God's grace do you think people experience through you?

WEEK FIFTEEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11.

HOW is verse 11 a continuation of Peter's statement in verse 10?

If someone has a gift of speaking, HOW should he speak?

If someone has a gift of service, HOW should he serve?

WHY does it matter *how* a person's grace gift is managed?

Read 1 Corinthians 13. As Paul continues speaking about grace gifts, how does he say these gifts might be poorly managed?

Compare 1 Corinthians 13 to 1 Peter 4:10-11.

In using your gift to serve others...

Do you speak God's words or your own?

Do you serve in reliance on God's strength or on your own?

Do you manage your gift with love for others, or are you just a clanging symbol?

What do you need to change in the management of the grace gift God has given you, so that God is glorified?

Finish by meditating on 1 Peter 1:22, in consideration of how you're using your grace gift.

Week Sixteen



WEEK SIXTEEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 4:12.

WHAT does Peter know will arise among the believers?

“Fiery ordeal” means a burning, like when metal is heated so the dross can be removed.

Read 1 Peter 3:13-14. WHAT does Peter have in mind when he says “fiery ordeal”?

Peter says the fiery ordeals arise for WHAT reason?

Compare 1 Peter 4:12 to 1:6-7.

In 1 Peter 4:12, what does Peter say about the believer’s possible response to suffering, and how is this response related to the believer’s perspective on the ordeal?

Compare 1 Peter 1:13 to 4:12. For WHAT specifically do believers need to prepare their minds?

Read James 2:2-4.

WHAT does James say about the believer’s mindset toward trials?

WHAT does the believer know?

WHY the joy?

WHAT various trials have you been going through lately?
HOW have you responded to those trials –like a victim surprised by the difficulty or with joy and understanding of what God is accomplishing in your soul?

WEEK SIXTEEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 4:13.

WHAT does Peter offer as an alternative response to feeling like a victim of trials?

Experiencing trials means a sharing in WHAT?

Read Philippians 3:7-10.

WHAT is most valuable to Paul?

WHAT is his goal?

How does this passage compare to 1 Peter 4:13?

Compare 1 Peter 4:13 to 1:8-9. WHY is choosing joy in trials now connected to experiencing great joy when Christ is revealed?

WHAT trial will you choose to rejoice in today? Write down your reason for this joy, using thoughts from 1 Peter.

WEEK SIXTEEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 4:14.

WHY might a person be ridiculed?

WHAT is true for the person ridiculed?

WHY is a person blessed if ridiculed for the name of Christ?

Read Acts 7:54-60.

List all of the emotions and actions of the Jewish leaders toward Stephen, after he has spoken to them of Christ:

Verse 55 says, “But Stephen...” Describe Stephen’s experience, according to verses 55-56.

Compare Stephen’s story to 1 Peter 4:14. HOW is Stephen blessed when men are screaming at him?

Read 1 Peter 4:15. For WHAT reasons should a believer *not* suffer?

Contrast 1 Peter 4:14-15 to 3:10-12. WHAT does the Spirit of God do when a person does evil?

Describe a time when you felt the blessing of attention and care from God’s Spirit on you, as you were going through a trial that was due to no fault of your own:

WEEK SIXTEEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 4:16.

In 1 Peter 4:14, Peter talks about ridicule as a form of suffering. In 4:16, WHAT do we see as a very natural response to ridicule?

Instead of feeling ashamed, what does Peter say a believer should do instead? (See 4:16.)

In 1 Peter 4:16, about WHAT name is Peter talking?

How does ridicule affect the victim's name or reputation?

Read Matthew 16:24. WHAT significance does this mandate hold, in regard to a person's good name when faced with ridicule?

Read Malachi 1:11. HOW do the LORD's words compare to 1 Peter 4:16?

As Americans, how are we especially driven culturally, to make a name for ourselves?

How can you prepare your mind, to allow your own name and reputation to become less and even now to glorify the name of Christ on a daily basis?

WEEK SIXTEEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.

WHY does Peter go straight from talking about suffering to talking about judgment? WHAT is the connection?

WHY would judgment begin with God's household, and is this a word of encouragement or warning?

WHAT is Peter contrasting in verses 17 and 18?

WHAT conclusion does he draw in verse 19?

In 1 Peter 4:19, WHAT two words does Peter use to describe God?

If you're going to do good and potentially suffer for it, HOW are these two characteristics of God a lifeline for you?

Are you weary of all of Peter's talk of suffering? As American believers, so far we have been largely untouched by real persecution because of our faith. How does it make you feel, to think of suffering the way our brothers and sisters in the world are suffering? (How informed are you about the suffering of believers around the globe?)

Read 1 Peter 4:19 and write a prayer, entrusting God with your wellbeing, in the face of any future suffering you will endure for his name's sake. Commit yourself to doing good, regardless of the cost.

Week Seventeen



SMALL GROUP
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WEEK SEVENTEEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 5:1.

WHAT credentials does Peter give for himself?

Read Mark 14:27-72.

WHAT suffering does Peter witness?

WHAT suffering does Peter himself *cause* Jesus?

As you think about Peter's first-hand experiences with Jesus, what weight does that give, to everything you've read in 1 Peter so far?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5 and 5:7 again. When you look into Peter's eyes and see his experiences in the garden and his own public betrayal of Jesus, how do these verses strike you?

Peter is about to give the church elders some instructions. WHAT tone is he setting in 1 Peter 5:1?

Over whom do you have authority in your life?

How can you follow Peter's example of authority and tone, when you need to instruct someone?

WEEK SEVENTEEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 5:1-2.

If you've never heard of "elders" before, WHAT would you say is their role, according to these two verses?

WHY do you think Peter uses the imagery of "shepherd" and "flock"? WHAT do these words bring to mind?

Read Mark 6:30-34.

HOW does Jesus see the people who are coming to him?
(See verse 34.)

WHAT does he see they are lacking?

HOW does he respond to them?

Read 1 Peter 5:2 again. HOW does this verse further explain the role of a shepherd?

HOW does Peter contrast the possible motives of being a shepherd? (Make a simple chart below, showing the contrast.)

If someone is looking for a church home, how will he know if the shepherd of that church is serving by compulsion or to get money versus serving to please God and with eagerness to care for the flock? What signs should one look for?

With what motive would you say the pastor(s) of your church serve? How is this evident?

WEEK SEVENTEEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 5:1-3.

WHAT shouldn't the elders do?

How would you describe the attitude and action difference between a master and a shepherd? (Consider also the contrast between "sheep" and "subject," as you answer this question.)

Read Matthew 23:1-12.

HOW do the Pharisees act toward the people?

WHAT does Jesus say about men acting like they're masters over others?

In what ways do you see the shepherd(s) of your church serving others in humility?

In places where you're leading others, do you lord it over people or humbly serve them?

WEEK SEVENTEEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 5:1-3 again.

Instead of lording it over the sheep, shepherds should do WHAT?

Start at the beginning of 1 Peter and read up to 5:3. Look for the commands Peter has given to the believers, and turn it into a master list for a shepherd, for ways to be an example of how to live and think. A shepherd should:

Choose one thing from the list and describe how your shepherd(s) has set an example for you in this.

WEEK SEVENTEEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 5:4.

WHAT day is coming?

Read 1 Peter 1:4, 13 and 2:12 and 4:5,7,13 and 5:4. List everything you learn about the day that is coming:

In 1 Peter 5:4, WHO does Peter say is coming?

Considering the context, WHO is the Chief Shepherd?

Read Matthew 23:10 and 1 Peter 3:15. Compare these to 1 Peter 5:4. WHAT do the elders always need to keep in mind?

In 1 Peter 5:4, WHAT will happen to the elders when the Chief Shepherd appears?

Compare this to Jesus' words in Matthew 23:12.

What motivates you to serve others? How much is the return of the Shepherd and pleasing him the foundation of how you live?

Week Eighteen



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WEEK EIGHTEEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 5:5.

In the first half of this verse, to WHOM is Peter talking?

WHAT comparison does Peter make? (Why the word “likewise”?)

WHAT does Peter command the younger men to do?

“To submit” means to willingly place one’s self under someone else’s authority.

To WHAT are the young men submitting?

Describe a real-life example of what it looks like for a young man to submit to the shepherd of the church:

WEEK EIGHTEEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 5:5.

In the second half of this verse, to WHOM is Peter speaking?

WHAT is true about God's relationship with people?

Read these verses and write what you learn about pride and humility:

Proverbs 15:25a

Proverbs 16:5

Proverbs 16:19

Proverbs 18:12

According to 1 Peter 5:5, to WHOM does God give grace?

WHY doesn't God give grace to a proud person?

Read Jesus' words in Matthew 5:3. WHAT is poverty of spirit, and how might it be the key in clothing ourselves with humility?

Would you say God seems to be resisting you right now or pouring out His grace on you?

What work do you do in your heart and mind, to clothe yourself with humility toward the people in your life?

WEEK EIGHTEEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 5:6.

WHAT is Peter contrasting?

Is God's mighty hand associated with the exalting or with the humbling?

Read Mark 14:32-36.

HOW is Jesus experiencing being under God's mighty hand?

HOW does Jesus humble Himself?

Read Philippians 2:5-10.

HOW does Jesus humble Himself under God's mighty hand?

WHY does God exalt Jesus after His death?

WHAT command does Paul give in 2:5?

Read 1 Peter 3:17. In WHAT way is suffering connected to God's mighty hand?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and 2:12 and 4:4, 12, 14. In WHAT ways are these believers suffering under the mighty hand of God?

How does it affect your feelings and response to hardship, if you have the perspective that you're under the mighty hand of God?

WEEK EIGHTEEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 5:6 again.

WHAT will happen if a believer humbles himself under God's mighty hand?

WHAT does it mean to be exalted?

WHEN will the exaltation happen?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. List every detail that describes WHAT Peter has in mind when he talks about exaltation:

Read James 1:12. HOW does this compare to 1 Peter 1:6?

When you go through a trial and can feel the weight of God's hand testing you, do you naturally humble yourself and put all your hope on the day when God will crown you with life? If this is not your first response, what can you do to prepare your mind to start thinking and responding this way?

WEEK EIGHTEEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 5:6-7.

HOW does God feel about His followers?

HOW is it possible for God to rest a mighty hand on someone and care for that person at the same time? (Answer this question using only verses from 1 Peter.)

How does the knowledge of God's care affect your willingness to humble yourself under His mighty hand?

In 1 Peter 5:7, WHAT does Peter command believers to do?

WHY is humility an absolute requirement, in order to place one's cares on God? (What would the prideful person do with his cares?)

Read 1 Peter 1:13. In WHAT way is self-discipline required, in order to cast one's cares on God?

Read 1 Peter 5:7 again. HOW many cares is the believer to cast on God?

If a person holds back and only casts some cares on God, what knowledge of God is that person missing (from 1 Peter 5:7)?

Where are your cares? Your lap or God's? What does this answer reveal about your soul, humility or pride? What does it reveal about your belief in God's feelings about you?

Week Nineteen



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WEEK NINETEEN – DAY ONE

Read 1 Peter 5:8.

WHAT is happening?

HOW does Peter describe the Devil?

WHAT is the Devil's goal?

Read Revelation 12.

WHO is the Devil?

In 12:17, HOW does the dragon (Devil) feel?

Against WHOM is he waging war?

Read 1 Peter 5:8 again. WHAT two commands does Peter give?

Read Ephesians 6:10-12. WHAT are some of the tactics of the Devil? (Use Scripture from 1 Peter to answer this question.)

Look back through 1 Peter. WHAT are some of the truths that you want to use, as armor against your great adversary?

WEEK NINETEEN – DAY TWO

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9.

WHAT do believers always need to keep in mind? (See verse 9.)

WHY is this an important perspective?

WHAT command does Peter give in verse 9?

“To resist” means to set one’s self against, to withstand, to resist, to oppose.

As Americans reading this, we probably picture something like *The Avengers*. But read 1 Peter 3:10-11 and 3:17-18 and 3:10-11. When Peter says “resist” WHAT does he have in mind?

Compare 1 Peter 5:9 to 5:7. HOW do these thoughts go hand-in-hand?

In what ways has the Devil been coming at you lately (in body, mind, or soul)?

What have you been doing to resist him?

WEEK NINETEEN – DAY THREE

Read 1 Peter 5:10-11.

List WHAT you learn about God in this verse:

To WHAT has God called the believers?

WHAT four things will God personally do for the believers?

WHEN will He do this?

Compare 1 Peter 5:10 to 1:6 and 4:12. How can Peter say “suffer a little” after he just used the words “distressed” and “fiery ordeal”?

Compare 1 Peter 5:8 to Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

In 1 Peter 5:11, WHAT does Peter declare?

Compare 1 Peter 5:11 to 5:8. WHO dominates?

In what practical ways can you keep your focus on eternal glory when you’re in a distressing trial?

WEEK NINETEEN – DAY FOUR

Read 1 Peter 5:12-13.

WHO is the ghostwriter for this letter?

WHAT relationship does Peter have to Sylvanus?

WHO else sends their greetings?

For WHAT two reasons has Peter written?

WHY do you think Peter uses the word “grace” to summarize his letter?

WHAT command does Peter give?

“Take your stand” means to establish one’s self.

Go back through 1 Peter and make a how-to list. HOW does a person plant himself in grace, practically speaking?

Would you describe yourself as a person firmly standing in the grace of God? If not, what actions do you need to take to remedy that?

WEEK NINETEEN – DAY FIVE

Read 1 Peter 5:14.

A kiss was a common greeting in Peter's time, but HOW is this kiss to be given?

HOW does this expression of love by followers of Christ compare to what you know of other world religions?

WHAT good word does Peter leave with the followers of Christ?

Read 1 Peter 1:2 again. WHAT does Peter say about peace?

HOW can a guy write a whole letter about suffering for Christ and then end by saying "peace to all of you"? How does this make sense? (Use verses from 1 Peter to explain your answer.)

Read Jesus' words in John 14:1-3, 27-28.

WHAT does He say about peace?

WHY can His disciples have peace?

Compare John 14:27 to 1 Peter 1:13.

How can you prepare your mind, to live in the peace Jesus gives?

How can you control your heart, so it is not influenced by fear?

For you, what has been the most useful or encouraging or challenging part of Peter's letter?