

first peter

a living hope

 REYNOLDA
CHURCH





first peter

a living hope

Week 1 [Days 1-5]: 1 Peter 1:3-25

by Pastor Brandon Williams

Week 2 [Days 6-10]: 1 Peter 2:1-12

by Pastor Barrett Johnson

Week 3 [Days 11-15]: 1 Peter 2:13 - 3:7

by Ashlee Johnson

Week 4 [Days 16-20]: 1 Peter 3:8-22

by Pastor Eric Shipton

Week 5 [Days 21-25]: 1 Peter 4:1-19

by Pastor Chuck Estes

Week 6 [Days 26-30]: 1 Peter 5:1-14

by Pastor Chris Lawson

The Elect Exiles

*lessons from first Peter
on living as both Saint and Sojourner*



*“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are **elect exiles** of the Dispersion”*

(1 Peter 1:1, ESV)

2022 SUMMER SERMON SERIES:

Christians, what are you in this world?

Are you the “elect?”— “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation”? (1 Peter 2:9)

Or...

Are you the “exiles”— “sojourners,” “insulted,” “grieved by various trials”? (1 Peter 2:11, 4:14, 1:6)

According to 1 Peter 1:1, the answer is “YES”—to both.

Yes, we are the overjoyed heirs, *“born again to a living hope... to an inheritance that is imperishable”* (1 Peter 1: 3, ESV) And, yes, we are the sojourners, *“grieved by various trials... tested by fire”* (1 Peter 1:6-7, ESV). We are both the “elect” (blessed and favored in Christ) and the “exiles” (strangers and misfits in an ungodly culture). We are, in Peter’s words: *“elect exiles.”* (1 Peter 1:1)

The first century Roman empire was preeminent in the world, but most of its citizens misunderstood Christians and the Messiah they followed. People worshiped a plethora of gods. The culture was philosophical and technologically advanced, but also was visibly lust-soaked, idolatrous, and deceived. And, because Christians didn’t fit in, they were often misunderstood, maligned, and persecuted.

Sound familiar?

Following Christ in Peter's first century world wasn't that different from walking with Jesus in contemporary American society. It can feel lonely to herald God's truth at risk of being dubbed a bigot. It can feel frustrating to live like a worshiper while being treated like a fool.

If you're troubled by today's culture and don't want to cave in, first Peter is for you!



If you want to keep your joy while living as sojourner in the world, first Peter is for you!



If you want to live fruitfully for Christ in an increasingly pagan world, first Peter is for you!

How does a Christian make a difference in a too-often hostile, hateful world? The epistle tells us plainly: "Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:12, ESV) How do we help the cause of Christ in a culture of sin and folly? Through Peter's pen, God makes it clear: "For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people." (1 Peter 2:15, ESV)

You can learn to live joyfully and triumphantly amidst increased cultural animosity toward Christianity. You can make a difference God's way!

This summer, join our chapter-by-chapter pilgrimage through 1 Peter and discover fresh, living hope. Discover the Gospel secret of living graciously in an ungracious world. Learn what it means to be an "elect exile."



CHOOSE ONE OF THESE APPROACHES TO BIBLE STUDY FOR EACH DAY'S READING. YOU MAY WANT TO DESIGNATE A NOTEBOOK TO CAPTURE YOUR REFLECTIONS AS YOU GO.

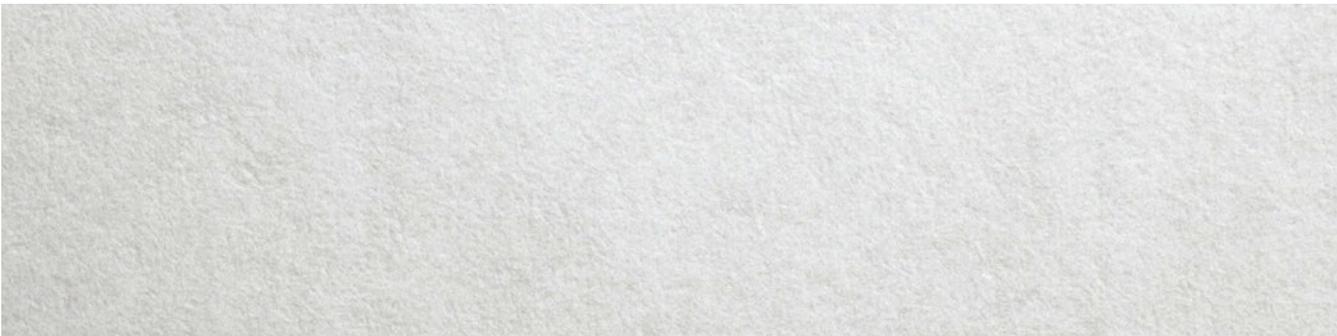
I. A.C.T.S. – Based on the day's passage, follow these four movements:

- a. **Adoration** – Praise God for His character and nature in the passage.
- b. **Confession** – Be honest and humble before God about your growth areas.
- c. **Thanksgiving** – Share your appreciation with God for what He's done.
- d. **Supplication** – Ask God for His help for others and yourself.

II. Hearers and Doers of the Word

1. Read the day's Scripture, asking the Holy Spirit what He wants to show you and what action He wants you to take.
2. Take action on what the Lord says in and through His Word.
3. Share it with someone else.

III. Meditative Prayer – Best suited for narrative texts, this method invites you to place yourself in the story. As you imagine yourself experiencing the events in the passage, what are the sights, sounds, smells, thoughts, and emotions that would take place for you?

- You will probably want to read and re-read the text multiple times
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to help you as you meditate on a given reading
 - How does the scene in your imagination connect you to Jesus?
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IV. Inductive Study – Write down notes for each of the following questions:

Observation – What does the text say?

Interpretation – What’s the significance or meaning of the passage?

Application – What does it all mean for your life?

V. Delight, Desire, Direction – Ask these three questions of the text:

- What brings me delight about these words, making my heart sing?
- How do these words stir desire, creating curiosity and longing?
- Where are these verses bringing direction, even challenge?

VI. God, Self, Others – Use these prompts to engage the passage

- What can I know about God in this section?
- How is my self-understanding being shaped by these words?
- Is there a new way for me to see other people in light of the passage?
- How can my view of the church be expanded through this text?
- What is the writer saying about the big story of God in the world?

NOTE: You may want to consider subscribing to the ESV Bible resources online to help if you come across questions: Visit “www.esv.org/about/” to learn more (\$3.99/month)

Memory Verse for Week 1



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Peter 1:3

DAY 1 — 1 PETER 1:1-25

Use today to get into 1 Peter 1:1-25 as a whole. What themes do you see in this passage? Also, be on the lookout for repeated words or key verses. It may help your study to try and summarize these verses in a single sentence or statement.

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time[a] the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action,[b] and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds,

DAY 2 - 1 PETER 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Inductive Study – Write down notes for each of the following questions:

- Observation - What does the text say?
- Interpretation – What's the significance or meaning of the passage?
- Application – What does it all mean for your life?

Questions for Individual Study:

1. Consider how Peter uses the word “foreknown” in verse 20 of chapter 1. How can it help you understand his statement, “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,” here in verse 2?

2. Based on these verses, what actions and initiatives has God taken toward every Christian? I.e., What has His movement been toward us?

Question for Group Discussion:

1. **How does this passage inform our view of ourselves and other believers? How would you summarize it in your own words? What movements does it create in our lives as individuals and together as the local church?**

Quotes:

“I find, I walk, I love, but, O
The whole of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee;
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul,
Always thou lovedst me.” (Anonymous)

“At Sinai Israel was made the people of God; they were joined to him in his covenant. Now Peter speaks of Gentiles becoming obedient to Christ through the new covenant in his blood. We are sprinkled, not with the blood of oxen, but with the blood of Christ. The altar that is sprinkled with his blood does not stand before Sinai, but in heaven; it is the very throne of God. The symbolism powerfully declares that Christ's death satisfies God's justice and makes atonement for our sins.” – Edmund Clowney

DAY 3 - I PETER 1:3-12

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

A.C.T.S. – Based on the day's passage, follow these four movements:

- e. Adoration** – Praise God for His character and nature in the passage.
- f. Confession** – Be honest and humble before God about your growth areas.
- g. Thanksgiving** – Share your appreciation with God for what He's done.
- h. Supplication** – Ask God for His help for others and yourself.

Questions for Individual Study:

1. Make a list of what we can know about God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – from these verses. What challenges your assumptions about Him? What gives you courage and joy?

2. What can we conclude about ourselves and our experience as the people of God, based on 1 Peter 3:3-12?

Question for Group Discussion:

1. Peter is writing to marginalized Christians facing religious persecution. How would his words have resonated with them as cultural outsiders? What message can the church in the West take from these verses?

Day 3 continues on next page

DAY 3 - CONTINUED

Quotes:

“Our hope is anchored in the past: Jesus rose! Our hope remains in the present: Jesus lives! Our hope is completed in the future: Jesus is coming! (1:5,7,13)” – Edmund Clowney

“What Peter is eager to point out is that his hearers are the heirs of the full message of the prophets. The least disciple of Christ is in a better position to understand Old Testament revelation than the greatest prophet before Christ came.” – Edmund Clowney

DAY 4 - I PETER I:13-21

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Delight, Desire, Direction - Ask these three questions of the text:

- What brings me delight about these words, making my heart sing?
- How do these words stir desire, creating curiosity and longing?
- Where are these verses bringing direction, even challenge?

Questions for Individual Study:

1. Choose the verse that has the clearest application for you from today’s reading. Internalize it and then summarize it in your own words. Is there one word or phrase you could carry with you today which captures the essence of that verse for your life?

DAY 5 - 1 PETER 1:22-25

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for

*“All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers,
and the flower falls,
25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.”*

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Hearers and Doers of the Word

1. Read the day’s Scripture, asking the Holy Spirit what He wants to show you and what action He wants you to take.
2. Take action on what the Lord says in and through His Word.
3. Share it with someone else.

Questions for Individual Study:

1. What can we conclude about the nature and reality of the new birth from today’s reading? Also, as we finish up the opening chapter of 1 Peter, you may want to survey and summarize everything that has been said about being born again (verses 3, 4, 14, 17).

2. What does Peter believe about the “word of God,” based on today’s reading? How does this challenge and/or encourage you? How can today’s quotes help you in your relationship with God through His word?

Question for Group Discussion:

1. Look back through chapter 1 and read the first 5 verses of chapter 2. Where does Peter use the word “living,” and where might the concept of LIFE be, even if the word is missing?

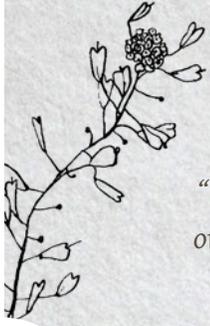
Quotes:

“What forms and sustains Christian community is, perhaps paradoxically, not a commitment to community per se but a commitment to the gospel Word.” Tim Chester and Steve Timmis

“We keep going back to the gospel, keep believing the gospel, keep nurturing our hearts with the gospel, and keep tasting the goodness of God in the gospel.” Tim Chester and Steve Timmis

“Do not think you are getting no good from the Bible merely because you do not see that good day by day. The greatest effects are by no means those which make the most noise, and are most easily observed. The greatest effects are often silent, quiet, and hard to detect at the time they are being produced ... Think of the influence of the moon upon the earth, and of the air upon the human lungs. Remember how silently the dew falls, and how imperceptibly the grass grows. There may be far more doing than you think in your soul by your Bible-reading.” – J. C. Ryle





Memory Verse for Week 2



“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” 1 Peter 2:9

DAY 6 – 1 PETER 2:1-3

Read through this week’s passage, 1 Peter 2:1-12, in total, and note any repeated words, interesting phrases, or key images. Also, be thinking about how this passage fits with what came before and comes after.

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
1 Peter 2:1-3

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

A.C.T.S. – Based on the day’s passage, follow these four movements:

- i. Adoration** – Praise God for His character and nature in the passage.
- j. Confession** – Be honest and humble before God about your growth areas.
- k. Thanksgiving** – Share your appreciation with God for what He’s done.
- l. Supplication** – Ask God for His help for others and yourself.

Questions for Individual Study

1. How would you define *malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander*? Why does Peter want the elect exiles to do so?

2. Considering that the word for *put away* often refers to taking off and laying aside clothes, what do you think Peter wants his readers to have in mind as he instructs them to *put away* those vices listed in verse 1? How can Christians do so?

3. Why do you think Paul uses the infant/milk metaphor? How does your knowledge of newborns inform your takeaways from this text?

4. What is the *pure spiritual milk*?

Question for Group Study

1. How can the vices Peter lists in verse 1 fracture community? How can *longing for pure spiritual milk* serve to unify and strengthen community?

Quotes

“Since God has reached out and effected their regeneration and it is an enduring act of his, they should live accordingly, rather than returning to wallow in corruptible life.” Davids 79

“What has been gotten rid of, however, is not the grosser vices of paganism, but the community-destroying vices that are often tolerated by the modern church.” Davids 80

“This command to ... “long for” is the only imperative in the passage [i.e., 1 Peter 2:1-10].” Davids 81

“...the picture of milk was powerful enough that in the third century Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus at least after baptism a cup of milk mixed with honey was given to new Christians along with the bread and wine at the celebration of the eucharist.” Davids 82, from Hippolytus, AT 21

“They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips...” Romans 1:29 (three of five vices included)

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!” Psalm 34:8

DAY 7 – I PETER 2:4-5

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Inductive Study – Write down notes for each of the following questions:

- Observation – What does the text say?
- Interpretation – What's the significance or meaning of the passage?
- Application – What does it all mean for your life?

Questions for Individual Study

1. What is a *living stone*, and why are both Jesus and his followers described as such?

2. How could the *living stone* (Jesus) be *rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious*?

3. Peter envisages Christians as not only the *spiritual house* but also a *holy priesthood* that *offer[s] spiritual sacrifices*. What do you think these *spiritual sacrifices* are, and how do we offer them *through Jesus Christ*? How does this square with the understanding that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the once-for-all sacrifice?

Question for Group Study

1. What does it practically look like to be built up as a spiritual house? Said another way, how can we as a group live in such a way that we are indeed built up as Peter envisions?

Quotes

“Christ is a “living stone.” This both introduces the stone imagery that will dominate the next five verses and designates Christ not as a monument or dead principle, but as the living, resurrected, and therefore life-giving one.” Davids 85

“The Christians are not naturally “living stones,” but become such as they are joined to Christ in conversion and baptism (cf. 2 Cor. 3:18).” Davids 86

“The “spiritual sacrifices” themselves are surely praise and thanksgiving (Heb. 13:15-16) and practical, loving service to one another (Rom. 12:1; Eph. 5:2; Phil.4:18). Davids 88

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” Psalm 118:22

“...therefore, thus says the LORD GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”” Isaiah 28:16

“...and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.” Exodus 19:6

DAY 8 – 1 PETER 2:6-8

6 For it stands in Scripture:

*“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

*“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”*

8 and

*“A stone of stumbling,
and a rock of offense.”*

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 1 Peter 2:6-8

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Hearers and Doers of the Word

- Read the day’s Scripture, asking the Holy Spirit what He wants to show you and what action He wants you to take.
- Take action on what the Lord says in and through His Word.
- Share it with someone else.

Day 8 continues on next page

DAY 8 – CONTINUED

Questions for Individual Study

1. Peter uses Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22, and Isaiah 8:14 for the three quotations in these verses. What is the point he is trying to make by utilizing these passages? What does belief have to do with it?
2. Why do you think stumbling comes from disobeying the word? What does disobeying the word practically look like?

Question for Group Study

1. Recall the time in your life when Jesus was a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. What were the circumstances around you perceiving him to actually be the chosen and precious cornerstone? Who in your life right now views Jesus as offensive? Pray for them in your group time.

Quotes

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” Psalm 118:22

“...therefore, thus says the LORD GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”” Isaiah 28:16

“And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” Isaiah 8:14

DAY 9 – 1 PETER 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Delight, Desire, Direction – Ask these three questions of the text:

- What brings me delight about these words, making my heart sing?
- How do these words stir desire, creating curiosity and longing?
- Where are these verses bringing direction, even challenge?

Questions for Individual Study

1. Peter weaves together Exodus 19:5-6 and Isaiah 43:20-21 to form verse 9. Why do you think he uses these Old Testament Scriptures to describe the followers of Jesus? Which descriptor of the people of God (of which you are a part) strikes you most deeply?
2. Peter bases verse 10 on the Old Testament book of Hosea (1:6, 9-10, and 2:23). The theme of Hosea is the rejection of Hosea's unfaithful wife and her children and then their subsequent reception. Given that most of Peter's audience were Gentile Christians, how do you think they would have received these words?

Question for Group Study

1. Peter says our function as God's people is to *proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*. How would you describe God's excellencies? What do you think it looks like to proclaim them?

Quotes

"Now, therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel." Exodus 19:5-6

"The wild beasts will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise." Isaiah 43:20-21

"She [Hosea's wife] conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him [Hosea], "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all.'" Hosea 1:6

"And the LORD said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God." Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God." Hosea 1:9-10

"...and I will sow her for myself in the land.
And I will have mercy on No Mercy,
and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people';
and he shall say, 'You are my God.'" Hosea 2:23

DAY 10 – I PETER 2:11-12

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Inductive Study– Write down notes for each of the following questions:

- Observation - What does the text say?
- Interpretation – What's the significance or meaning of the passage?
- Application – What does it all mean for your life?

Questions for Individual Study

1. What do you think Peter's identification of the believers as *sojourners and exiles* (see verse 1:1) has to do with *abstain[ing] from the passions of the flesh*? What are *the passions of the flesh*?

2. What kind of war do the passions of the flesh wage against your soul?

3. What does keeping our conduct honorable among unbelievers look like today?

Question for Group Study

1. How can the community of believers help individual Christians live out verses 11-12?

Memory Verse for Week 3



“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24



DAY II – 1 PETER 2:13-3:7

Today you're invited to read and meditate on 1 Peter 2:13 – 3:7. What themes do you see in this passage? Mark repeated words, phrases, or concepts. Note the various groups Peter addresses. Write down questions Peter's instructions stir in you and any particularly good news you discover.

13 Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution,[b] whether it be to the emperor[c] as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants[d] of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

3 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you[a] of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Day 11 continues on next page

DAY II – CONTINUED

Notes:

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

DAY 12 – I PETER 2:13-17

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today: **God, Self, Others**. Use these prompts to engage the passage...

- What can I know about God in this section?
- How is my self-understanding being shaped by these words?
- Is there a new way for me to see other people in light of the passage?
- How can my view of the church be expanded through this text?
- What is the writer saying about the big story of God in the world?

Questions for Individual Study

1. Why is it that we are to be subject to every human institution? (v. 13, 15, 16)

2. List Peter's four instructions from verse 17. Note the differences in his commands and their recipients. Why do you think Peter linked each command to the respective groups?

3. In your own life, what would honor and submission look like to leaders with whom you disagree?

Question for Group Study

1. **How does it challenge you to think about God's hand behind government structures? In what ways does this reality bring you comfort?**

Quotes

"We must never make use of our blood-bought freedom to justify rebellion against those duly appointed by God to exercise governmental authority." – Sam Storms

"But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing." - James 1:25

DAY 13 – I PETER 2:18-25

18 *Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. 19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. 21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

Suggested Bible Study Method: **Meditative Prayer**

Focus on verses 21-25; place yourself in the story as you ponder the words. What are the sights, sounds, smells, thoughts, and emotions that would take place for you?

- You will probably want to read and re-read the text multiple times
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you as you meditate on this passage
- How does the scene in your imagination connect you to Jesus?

Questions for Individual Study

1. What does Peter say is the gracious stance in suffering? How does one do this?
2. Make a list of things Peter notes that Christ did not do while he suffered on our behalf. Make another list of what He did in the face of suffering. Did Jesus forget about justice in the face of suffering?
3. What did Jesus' suffering accomplish for us?

Question for Group Study

1. How does seeing ourselves as straying sheep who have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls impact the way we endure unjust suffering?

Quotes

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” – Galatians 5:13-14

“Jesus was not, however, simply a Stoic who had moved beyond feeling to detachment. He was a believer who trusts in God. That God judges justly is a truism of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation; rather than take up one’s own cause, the believer commits his or her cause to this judge.” – Peter Davids

DAY 14 – I PETER 3:1-6

Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.

Suggested Bible Study Method: **Inductive Study** – Write down notes for each of the following questions:

- Observation - What does the text say?
- Interpretation – What’s the significance or meaning of the passage?
- Application – What does it all mean for your life?

Questions for Individual Study

1. What questions do you have about this passage?

2. Read verse 1 closely. To whom (specifically) is this passage addressed?

3. Do you think Peter forbids women from braiding their hair or wearing jewelry? Why or why not?

DAY 14 – CONTINUED

Question for Group Study

What are takeaways from this passage for men and women alike?

Quotes

“Authority has no value connected to it. It is simply a means of maintaining order within an organization. And when it is used well, it is not even associated with greater power.” – Jen Wilkin

“These women [wives of unbelieving husbands] are subordinate, but their subordination is revolutionary in that they are subordinate not out of fear or desire for social position or other human advantage but out of obedience to Christ, who treats them as full persons and allows them to rise above the threats and fears of this age.” – David Peters

DAY 15 – 1 PETER 3:7

7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Suggested Bible Study Method: **Delight, Desire, Direction** - Ask these three questions of the text:

- What brings me delight about these words, making my heart sing?
- How do these words stir desire, creating curiosity and longing?
- Where are these verses bringing direction, even challenge?

Questions for Individual Study

1. Note the first word of this verse. What is its significance, and how does this passage connect to the ones above?

2. What do you think Peter means when he references their wives as the “weaker vessel”? As you consider, take a look at 1 Thessalonians 4:4 and 2 Corinthians 4:7. What about this verse makes it impossible to mean that the women are weaker spiritually?

3. What is the motivation for husbands to live with their wives in an understanding way?

Group Question

What does it mean for husbands to live with wives in an understanding way?

Quotes

“Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.” – Colossians 3:19

“Peter is setting Christian marriage on the highest plane possible—husbands and wives possess the same eternal inheritance. They are but fellow pilgrims traveling on the same path to the same celestial city. This informs everything in a Christian marriage.” – Jason Helopoulos



Memory Verse for Week 4



“Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9



DAY 16 – 1 PETER 3:8-22

Use today to get into 1 Peter 3:8-22 as a whole. Use the questions below to set the stage for the rest of this week’s study.

1. What themes do you see in this passage?
2. What words are repeated?
3. Which verses do you have questions about or stood out to you in the reading?
4. What is the theme of the passage? If you had to summarize the passage in one sentence, what would that be?

Verse	Notes
<i>8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.</i>	
<i>9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.</i>	
<i>10 For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.</i>	
<i>11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.</i>	
<i>12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”</i>	

Verse	Notes
<i>13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?</i>	
<i>14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled</i>	
<i>15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,</i>	
<i>16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.</i>	
<i>17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.</i>	
<i>18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,</i>	
<i>19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,</i>	
<i>20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.</i>	
<i>21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,</i>	
<i>22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.</i>	

DAY 17 – I PETER 3:8-9

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Inductive Study – Write down notes for each of the following questions:

1. Observation - What does the text say?
2. Interpretation – What’s the significance or meaning of the passage?
3. Application – What does it all mean for your life?

Questions for Individual Study

1. What does it mean that we are called to bless others? Is our blessing dependent on how much or how little we bless others?
2. A primary value of Reynolda Church is that there is power in the blessing of others. How might you use the power of blessing for someone in your life today?
3. Think of a person that needs a blessing or that you would like to bless and write a blessing for them.

Question for Group Study

1. Do you have people in your life that speak blessing over you? If so, what has been the impact? If not, what has been the impact?

Quotes:

“Some people try hard to succeed so they will feel blessed. Other people try hard to succeed because they already feel blessed. It’s the difference between striving and thriving. It’s the difference between death and life.” The Power to Bless, Alan Wright

“God is more anxious to bestow His blessings on us than we are to receive them.” St. Augustine

“Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has many; not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.” Charles Dickens

DAY 18 – I PETER 3:8-12

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. 10 For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

Hearers and Doers of the Word

1. Read the day's Scripture, asking the Holy Spirit what He wants to show you and what action He wants you to take.
2. Take action on what the Lord says in and through His Word.
3. Share it with someone else.

Questions for Individual Study

1. In verse 3:8, what five things does Peter exhort everyone in the church to do? Of the five things, which is most difficult for you?
2. Peter says that we should not repay evil for evil or have an attitude of striking back when someone strikes us? In what areas of life does this apply?
3. Why do you think Peter says that if you want to see good days, you should keep your tongue from evil?
4. In what ways is Peter comparing the idea of blessing to the idea of speaking evil (curse)?

Question for Group Study

1. Which of the five behaviors listed in verse 3:8 is most needed in today's church?

Quotes:

"To what will you look for help if you will not look to that which is stronger than yourself?" C. S. Lewis

So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." Gen 16:13

DAY 19 – I PETER 3:13-17

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

God, Self, Others: Use these prompts to engage the passage

1. What can I know about God in this section?
2. How is my self-understanding being shaped by these words?
3. Is there a new way for me to see other people in light of the passage?
4. How can my view of the church be expanded through this text?
5. What is the writer saying about the big story of God in the world?

Questions for Individual Study

1. In verse 3:14, what does it mean to suffer for the sake of righteousness? How does this compare to verse 3:17?
2. Everyone has a past, things that they wish they would have done differently. In verse 16, Peter speaks about “having a good conscience.” How can you have a “good conscience” if you have a “bad” past?
3. Consider verse 17, how could it be the will of God for someone to suffer?

Question for Group Study

1. **To always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks the reason for your hope means you must have hope that is visible to others. How are you making hope a part of your everyday life?**

Quotes:

“My past drives me! It doesn’t define me, and it can’t defeat me. Jesus is enough!”

“We should ask God to increase our hope when it is small, awaken it when it is dormant, confirm it when it is wavering, strengthen it when it is weak, and raise it up when it is overthrown.” John Calvin

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.” Proverbs 13:12

“Other men see only a hopeless end, but the Christian rejoices in an endless hope.” Gilbert Brenken

DAY 20 – 1 PETER 3:18-22

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 **in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,** 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 21 **Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you,** not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Delight, Desire, Direction - Ask these three questions of the text:

1. What brings me delight about these words, making my heart sing?
2. How do these words stir desire, creating curiosity and longing?
3. Where are these verses bringing direction, even challenge?

Questions for Individual Study

1. Read verses 3:18 and 3:22 together. How do these first outline the gospel?
2. Re-read the flood account in Genesis 6 – 9: Why do you think Peter references the flood and Noah in this passage?
3. The primary or central idea of this passage is that we have victory in Jesus and that through His sufferings, He has conquered, and all things are subjected to Him. How does this become a reality now as we await His return?

Question for Group Study

1. The sacrament of Baptism doesn't save us, but it appears that Peter thinks it does. What does it mean in verse 21 for Peter to write "baptism, which corresponds to this now saves you"?

Quotes:

"The cross was a glorious outworking of the grace of God, by which the Father commissioned the Son to make full satisfaction so that sinners might be saved with no sacrifice of God's justice." R.C. Sproul

"O Victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!

He sought me, and bought me with His redeeming blood;

He loved me 'ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him -

He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood. E.M. Bartlett

Memory Verse for Week 5



Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8



DAY 21 – 1 PETER 4:1-2

Read through this week's passage, 1 Peter 2:1-12, in total, and note any repeated words, interesting phrases, or key images. Also, be thinking about how this passage fits with what came before and comes after.

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

S.O.A.P. – Based on the day's passage, follow these four movements:

Scripture – Read chapter 4 entirely. This gives you a larger view of Peter's writing. Then read the selected text again with the 'chapter' in view.

Observation – Write down anything noteworthy about the passage. What stands out? What prompts questions?

Application – Ask, "How does this passage apply to me today?" How does the scripture inspire you? How does it lead you to hunger to know more?

Prayer – Begin and end your study time with prayer. Pray how to apply God's word to your life.

Questions for Individual Study

1. Peter uses the word suffer twice in this passage. Why do you think he did that?

2. What do you think it means to "suffer in the flesh"?

3. What do you think Peter means when he says, “whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin”? How may human passions lead to sin?

4. Human passion is a God-given gift. We’re made to be passionate beings, especially toward our Creator. So, why would Peter ask his readers to refrain from human passions in the time we have left on earth?

Question for Group Study

Christians are increasingly being marginalized in today’s world. How can suffering for righteousness’s sake be a thing to seek (as Peter alludes to in our passage)? What are the benefits of being in God’s will?

Quotes:

“We shall never be clothed with the righteousness of Christ except we first know assuredly that we have no righteousness of our own.” John Calvin

“It’s more important to be righteous than to be right.” Lauryn Hill

“We do not become righteous by doing righteous deeds. Rather, having been made righteous, we then do righteous deeds. I state this in opposition to the philosophers.” Martin Luther

“Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.” Matt 5:6

DAY 22 – I PETER 4:3-7

3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

DAY 22 – CONTINUED

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Inductive Study – Write down notes for each of the following questions:

- Observation - What does the text say?
- Interpretation – What's the significance or meaning of the passage?
- Application – What does it all mean for your life?

Questions for Individual Study

1. Think about the difference between a Christian's life and the life of a non-Christian. What do you, as a Christian, value most? What does a non-Christian value most? How do they compare?
2. We're told to be not of the world but in the world. How can we be IN a world we're not part of?
3. Describe a time when you felt peer pressure – it may be to take a drink or do drugs, tell a lie, or steal something. What was going on inside your heart and mind during this experience? What were the consequences of your decision?

Group Exercise

Draw up a plus-minus chart; with two columns. In one column, write down all the positive things about being a Christian the group can think of. In the other column, write down all the negative things the group can think of. Now, create a second chart and do the same exercise but from the perspective of a non-Christian. How do they compare? What can we learn from this exercise?

Quotes

“People are too quick to pass judgment and too slow to self-reflect.” *Pinterest*

“If you judge people, you have no time to love them.” *Mother Theresa*

“You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.” *Romans 2:1*

“But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.” *Matthew 12:36*

DAY 23 – I PETER 4:8-11

8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Hearers and Doers of the Word

- Read the day's Scripture, asking the Holy Spirit what He wants to show you and what action He wants you to take.
- Take action on what the Lord says in and through His Word.
- Share it with someone else.

Questions for Individual Study

1. Peter gives great advice – love one another, show hospitality, use gifts to serve, and speak to bless. What other things can you think of that glorifies God? What things can you do that glorifies God?

2. The text mentions the “oracles of God.” What is an oracle of God? Why are God's oracles good news?

Question for Group Study

How does the list of attributes in this text compare to the list in Romans 12:3-8?

Quotes

“God's mercy and grace give me hope - for myself, and for our world.” *Billy Graham*

“The first fresh hour of every morning should be dedicated to the Lord, whose mercy gladdens it with golden light.” *Charles Spurgeon*

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.” *1 John 4:7*

DAY 24 – I PETER 4:12-16

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

Here's a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

The 5 P's – Consider these five “P's” as you study today's passage:

- **Position** yourself to hear from God.
- **Pore** over the passage (summarize if you can)
- **Pull** out the spiritual principles.
- **Pose** the question
- **Plan** of action – how do you plan to put God's word into action?

Questions for Individual Study

1. Peter says that we are to expect trials (as a test) and not be surprised by them. How have you faced trials of faith against a faithless world? Did the trial build your faith, or did it weaken it?

2. Suffering as a Christian shouldn't be a shameful experience, but sometimes it is. How did you find encouragement when insulted for your faith?

Question for Group Study

Share a recent encounter with a person antagonistic to your beliefs in your group. This could even be someone calling themselves a Christian! Were you surprised by the conflict? Were you or the other person defensive? Or was the conversation congenial?

Quotes

“In this world you will have trouble. Take heart! I have overcome the world.” *John 16:33*

“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.” *1 Tim. 6:12*

“A river cuts through rock, not because of its power but because of its perseverance.” *Pinterest*

DAY 25 – I PETER 4:17-19

17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Inductive Study – Write down notes for each of the following questions:

- Observation - What does the text say?
- Interpretation – What’s the significance or meaning of the passage?
- Application – What does it all mean for your life?

Questions for Individual Study

1. What do you think of when you hear the word judgment? Describe how it might be positive or negative.
2. The Bible says that we will account for all our works on the last day (Day of Judgement): Ps. 62:12; Jer. 17:10; Matt 16:27; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:17; Rev. 20:12. How is your opinion of the Day of Judgement informed by scripture? How does this picture compare to the world’s view?
3. What do you think of being judged in light of Romans 8:1? *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Topic for Group Study

Judgment is a prickly topic in today’s world. No one likes to talk about judgment because the word is seen as an oppressive idea, a restriction to freedom. Yet scripture is clear that the world will be judged. Consider the passage below from Matthew’s gospel:

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matt. 25:31-34

Discuss how Christians view ‘judgment’ and how it is applied. How should we find hope in this view? How do we know that our suffering hasn’t been in vain?

Memory Verse for Week 6



“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:6-7



DAY 26 – 1 PETER 5:1-3

“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.”

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

A.C.T.S. – Based on the day’s passage, follow these four movements:

- **Adoration** – Praise God for His character and nature in the passage.
- **Confession** – Be honest and humble before God about your growth areas.
- **Thanksgiving** – Share your appreciation with God for what He’s done.
- **Supplication** – Ask God for His help for others and yourself.

Questions for Individual Study

1. Read John 21:15-17, where Jesus commissions Peter as a shepherd to feed the sheep as the backdrop for Peter’s teaching on shepherding the flock of God in 1 Peter 5.

2. Which spiritual leader in your life has most exemplified the Christ-like character that Peter lists?

Questions for Group Study

1. Make a note of the things Peter says should not be part of Christ-like leadership.

2. Who sees you as a spiritual leader (e.g., spouse, child, employee, etc.) and would benefit most from you learning these leadership lessons from Peter?

Quotes

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” John 21:15–17

“I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord.” Philemon 13–14

DAY 27 – I PETER 5:4-5

“And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’”

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Hearers and Doers of the Word

1. Read the day’s Scripture, asking the Holy Spirit what He wants to show you and what action He wants you to take.
2. Take action on what the Lord says in and through His Word.
3. Share it with someone else.

Questions for Individual Study

1. Who do you shepherd, and who shepherds you (verses 1-4)?

2. Since Jesus is the “chief Shepherd,” what are His values and culture that you need to cultivate and create (verse 4)?

3. What are some practical ways that when you clothe your body each morning, you can also remember to clothe your soul in humility (verse 5)?

Questions for Group Study

1. What are some practical ways that when you clothe your body each morning, you can also remember to clothe your soul in humility (verse 5)?

2. How is pride the leadership model of Satan and humility the leadership model of Jesus?

3. What are some specific ways that Jesus has been a Good Shepherd to you that we can thank God for?

Quotes

“Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant” Hebrews 13:20

“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him...If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.” John 13:3–5, 14

DAY 28 – I PETER 5:6-9

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Meditative Prayer – Best suited for narrative texts, this method invites you to place yourself in the story. As you imagine yourself experiencing the events in the passage, what are the sights, sounds, smells, thoughts, and emotions that would take place for you?

- You will probably want to read and re-read the text multiple times
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you as you meditate on a given reading
- How does the scene in your imagination connect you to Jesus?

Questions for Individual Study

1. How big of a struggle are pride and anxiety for you (verses 6-7)?
2. What precisely does being “sober-minded” and “watchful” regarding Satan’s work in your life look like (verse 8)?

Questions for Group Study

1. What does resisting Satan look like in practical areas of your life (e.g., temptation, unforgiveness, lies, etc.) (verse 9)?
2. What practical ways can you be “casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you”?

Quotes:

“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.” Psalm 37:5

“Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”
Psalm 55:22

“When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:21–22

DAY 29 – 1 PETER 5:10-11

“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Inductive Study – Write down notes for each of the following questions:

Observation - What does the text say?

Interpretation – What’s the significance or meaning of the passage?

Application – What does it all mean for your life?

Questions for Individual Study

1. What is the connection between pride and the demonic realm with Satan, who is the first leader to ever become proud, in verses 5-10?
2. List out the things God promises to faithful leaders in verse 10?

Questions for Group Study

1. After Satan has beaten you up, how has God come to build you up just as He did Jesus following the temptation from Satan (verse 10)? (cf. Mathew 4:1-11 emphasis on verse 11).
2. As we finish 1 Peter, what would your final takeaway, lesson learned, or life change experience be that we could join you in thanking God for?

Quotes:

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.” Luke 22:31-34

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

DAY 30 – 1 PETER 5:12-14

“By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.”

Here’s a suggested Bible study method to guide your time today (feel free to use an approach that feels more natural to you):

Delight, Desire, Direction – Ask these three questions of the text:

- What brings me delight about these words, making my heart sing?
- How do these words stir desire, creating curiosity and longing?
- Where are these verses bringing direction, even challenge?

Questions for Individual Study

1. Peter ends by speaking of a special “peace” that only comes to those “who are in Christ.” How have you experienced this peace?
2. Peter mentions the people he is grateful for. Who would make your list and why?

Questions for Group Study

1. In verses 12-13, Peter mentions by name the godly, wonderful people he was grateful for. Who would be on your list?
2. Peter wrote a letter to love and encourage the people he cared for. Who should we pray for you to do the same for?
3. After studying 1 Peter, if you had to summarize all you’ve learned in one word, what would that word be?

Quotes:

“When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.” Acts 12:12

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:1-2



