



# 1 & 2 Peter

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## INTRODUCTION

Written to a scattered and persecuted church, the letters of 1&2 Peter challenge them to godly living. While Peter urges his readers to practice costly obedience he also comforts them with reminders of all the benefits they enjoy as God's chosen people.

In His first letter, Peter equips the believers to love well and overcome the dangers that arise from the pagan culture without. In his second letter he confronts the danger of false teachers and evildoers within the church.

The words of this faithful pastor and shepherd continue to encourage people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. It is the witness of such people that shines light into the world's darkness.

## LESSON ONE: 1 PETER 1:1-2

**OPENING QUESTION:** *Do you remember ever receiving a letter when you were far from home that helped or comforted you?*

1. Who was Peter?
2. The following passages contain some of the key events in Peter's life. Write a chapter heading for each passage.

Luke 5:1-11

Matthew 16:13-20

Luke 9:28-36

Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75

John 21:1-22

Acts 4:1-20

3. What was the Good News or Gospel about Jesus that Peter proclaimed? (Acts 2:22-39)
4. How did the people respond to the Good News? (Acts 2:37-47)  
How do you respond?

5. What do you know about the recipients of Peter's letter? (1 Peter 1:1-2)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What difference does it make to live as a stranger in the world?  
What implications are there for today's Christians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Why might a letter from Peter have been especially welcome?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What blessing did Peter give? 1 Peter 1:2b

Where would an abundance of that make a difference in your life?

Memory Verse: "Grace and peace be yours in abundance." *1 Peter 1: 2b*

Prayer Guide: Lord, provide Your grace and peace.

## LESSON TWO: 1 PETER 1:1-12

**OPENING QUESTION:** *Has hope ever played a key role in helping you through a difficult time?*

1. How did Peter describe salvation?

How can a person experience salvation?

2. Describe the spiritual inheritance awaiting the believers in Jesus Christ. Why is it of so much more value than an earthly inheritance?

3. How important is faith?

What do you think it means to be “shielded by God’s power” because of faith?

4. What are common reactions to suffering? How do you react to suffering?

5. Why might a commitment to Christ lead to suffering?

6. What benefits can result from suffering?

1 Peter 1:6-7

Romans 5:3-5

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

James 1:2-4

7. Has there been a time of suffering in your life that has strengthened you?

8. How is it possible to love Christ without seeing Him? vv.8-9  
(see also John 20:29, 2 Corinthians 5:7)

What are God's promises to those who love Him without seeing Him?

9. What did the recipients of Peter's letter enjoy that the prophets only anticipated? vv. 8-12

How did Christ validate the prophets' predictions? (Luke 24:13-27)

10. How do the opening words of this letter equip you to live in a world where faith in Christ often conflicts with the culture?

Memory Verse: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." *1 Peter 1:3*

Prayer Guide: Lord, you are my living hope.

## LESSON THREE: 1PETER 1:13-25

**OPENING QUESTION:** *Is there any part of your life that you have left behind?*

Note: To be *holy* is to be set apart from sin and impurity for God. (NIV)

1. Why do you think it is important to “prepare your mind for action”? How do you do this? (see also Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:8-9, Colossians 3: 1-3)

2. Describe God’s holiness and the response it requires from His people.

Exodus 3:1-10

Exodus 15:11-18

Isaiah 6:1-8

1 Peter 1:14-15

Ephesians 5:1

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

3. What is your response to God’s call for holiness?

4. What is “reverent fear”? What role is it to play in a relationship with God?

Proverbs 9:10

Romans 8:14-16

2 Corinthians 7:1

Hebrews 12:28

5. What practices were to guard God's children as they lived in an unbelieving society?

1 Peter 1:13

1 Peter 1:14, 2:1

1 Peter 1:17

1 Peter 1:22

1 Peter 2:2

6. How did the Word of God equip them to live their new life in an unbelieving society?  
vv.22-25

How does it equip you?

7. As you examine your current lifestyle with God's standards in mind, what needs to change?

Memory Verse: "The Word of God stands forever." *1 Peter 1:25*

Prayer Guide: Speak Lord and help me obey.

## LESSON FOUR: 1 PETER 2:1-12

**OPENING QUESTION:** *Has a change in nourishment ever significantly impacted your physical health?*

1. Why are people to desire the Word of God which Peter calls “pure spiritual milk”? (v.1-3)  
What are its benefits?

Deuteronomy 8:3

Psalm 119:9-11

Psalm 119:129-133

Matthew 4:4

Hebrews 4:12

2 Timothy 3:14-16

Note: There is no passage in the New Testament that more explicitly associates the Old Testament terms for Israel with the New Testament church than this one. (The NIV Application Commentary)

Note: The *cornerstone* is the first stone laid that forms the angles and foundations of the structure. The *capstone* is the last stone into a building, which becomes its climactic stone. NIV Application Commentary)

2. What does Peter say about Christ with his various metaphors of “stone”? vv.4-8
3. Why do people stumble over Christ? (John 1:10-13, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

4. What is the spiritual identity of those who have experienced Christ's salvation and have become part of His church?

1 Peter 2:4-5

1 Peter 2:9-10

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

5. How does this challenge a purely individualistic experience with God?

6. What is the purpose of Christ's church? vv.9-10

7. What practices are necessary for spiritually healthy people and churches?

1 Peter 2:1

1 Peter 2:2

1 Peter 2:5, Psalm 51:16-17, Hebrews 13:15-16

1 Peter 2:12

Which of these are you most needy of?

8. What steps might you take to improve your spiritual health and that of the church?

Memory Verse: "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." *1 Peter 2:9*

Prayer Guide: Lord, bring me into Your wonderful light.

## LESSON FIVE: 1 PETER 2:1-25

**OPENING QUESTION:** *Has reluctant submission ever benefitted you in a surprising way?*

Note: When Peter told his readers to submit to civil authorities he was speaking to people who lived in the Roman Empire under Nero, a notoriously cruel tyrant.

Note: Roman and Greek worlds anchored their entire economic system in the institution of slavery. Some have estimated that a third of the population in urban areas was a slave population. The slaves Peter referred to in this passage were household servants. (NIV Application Commentary)

1. What were you raised to believe about submission to authority?

2. What did a submissive way of life involve for a Christian?

1 Peter 2:12

1 Peter 2:15

1 Peter 2:16

1 Peter 2:17

1 Peter 2:18-19

3. Why do you think it was important for aliens and strangers to live in submission?  
(see also Jeremiah 29:1-11)

4. How do you think submission can build character in people today? Are there times when it can destroy character?

5. What is the Christian's responsibility to government authority?

vv. 13-15

Romans 13:1-7

1 Timothy 2:1-3

6. How are Christians to respond to government authority when they think it is wrong?  
Acts 5:28-29

7. Why is retaliation so dangerous?

8. What are you tempted to do when you are mistreated or unfairly accused?

9. How was Christ mistreated? Vv. 21-25 (see also Isaiah 53)

What example does He provide for you with His response to mistreatment?

10. Read Acts 16:16-40. Where did Paul and Silas submit and where did they resist when they were unfairly treated?

11. How was Christ's prayer in John 17:13-19 answered for Paul and Silas?

How would you like it answered for you?

Memory Verse: "When they hurled their insults at Him He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats, instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly."  
*1 Peter 2:23*

Prayer Guide: Lord, release me from the temptation to retaliate.

## LESSON SIX: 1 PETER 3:1-22

**OPENING QUESTION:** *Have you ever seen a person's care for an enemy resolve a conflict?*

Note: *Submission* is foundational for all Christians. Submission to another's authority means to cooperate voluntarily out of love and respect for God and that person.

Note: When Peter speaks of women as the *weaker partner* he does not imply moral or intellectual superiority but is recognizing their physical limitations. Women in his day, if unprotected by men, were vulnerable to attack, abuse and financial disaster.

Note: *Baptism* is an outward symbol of what has already occurred in the heart and life of the one trusting Christ as Savior.

1. Why were wives to submit to their husbands?

1 Peter 2:13

1 Peter 3:1-2

1 Peter 3:5-6

2. How important is physical beauty to you?
3. Contrast Peter's descriptions of internal and external beauty. What did he encourage women to cultivate and why?
4. What might Peter have warned women of this generation against? What might he have promoted?
5. What makes a person beautiful in God's eyes?  
(1. Samuel 16:7, Psalm 34:5, Proverbs 31:30-31)

In a physical beauty-obsessed world how does God's perspective encourage you?

6. How were husbands to treat their wives?
  
7. How can healthy marriages promote a shared prayer life and troubled marriages endanger it?
  
8. What role has prayer had in your marriage? What role would you like it to have?
  
9. What five characteristics promote peaceful relationships? v.8
  
  
10. How are Christians to respond to those hostile to them?  
1 Peter 3:9  
  
1 Peter 3:10  
  
1 Peter 3:11  
  
1 Peter 3:14  
  
Matthew 5:9-12
  
11. What is the "hope" in your life?  
How would those who know you best describe that hope?
  
  
12. Write a short paragraph that shares the reason for your hope.

Memory Verse: "Finally. All of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble." 1Peter 3:8

Prayer Guide: Lord, make me a peacemaker.

## LESSON SEVEN: 1 PETER 4:1-19

**OPENING QUESTION:** *Have you ever watched someone's transformation separate them from old friends?*

Note: Being "done with sin" does not mean being sinless. Identifying with Christ and sharing in His suffering frees one from slavery to sin and promotes a wholesome pattern of life.

1. Why do you think it is important to be prepared for suffering?

2. How are lives transformed?

vv. 1-2

Romans 6:11-14

Ephesians 2:4-5

Ephesians 2:6-24

Colossians 1:13-14

How has your life been transformed?

3. When is it important to "forget the past" and when is it helpful to remember it?  
(v.2-3, see also Psalm 18:16-17)

4. Why is abuse sometimes heaped on people whose lives have been transformed through Christ?

vv, 1-5

John 15:12-21

5. What reason is offered for rejoicing in suffering for Christ?

v.13

Matthew 5:11-12

Romans 5:1-5

Philippians 3:7-11

1Peter 1:6-7

6. What specific responses equip people to endure suffering? (vv.12-19)
  
7. How have you seen God strengthen your faith or the faith of another through suffering?  
Have you seen faith falter at such times?

Note: Peter, along with all New Testament writers, anticipated the imminent return of Christ. They encouraged the Church, as the people of God, to live lives of love, integrity and holiness, as they awaited Christ's return.

8. How are believers to live in anticipation of Christ's imminent return?

v.7

v.8

v.9

v.10

v.11a

v.11b

9. What personal temptations must be overcome to put these into practice?

In what specific situation might you practice one of these this week?

10. Who do you see God to be in this passage that leads you to praise Him?

Memory Verse: "So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." *1Peter 4:19*

Prayer Guide: Faithful Creator sustain me.

## LESSON EIGHT: 1 PETER 5:1-14

**OPENING QUESTION:** *What quality in a leader makes you eager to follow them?*

1. How did Peter identify himself with the church leaders? v.1
2. What motivated Peter to lead faithfully?
3. Describe the leadership to be exercised by God's shepherds?  
(vv.2-4, see also Ezekiel 34:11-16)
4. What temptations are God's shepherds to avoid? (see also Ezekiel 34:1-6)
5. What leadership example did Christ provide? (John 10:10-15)
6. How might such leadership have benefitted the church then? How might it benefit the church now?
7. Why is humility an important character trait?  
(vv.5-6, see also Proverbs 11:2, Philippians 2:1-5)

8. What is the role of humility in combatting anxiety?

v.7

Psalm 94: 18-19

Proverbs 3:5-6

Philippians 4:4-7

What anxiety can you entrust to the Lord today?

9. Describe the devil. (v. 8, see also Genesis 3:1-5, John 8:44)

10. How do you withstand the devil? (vv.8-9, see also Ephesians 6:10-18, James 4:7-10)

11. What concluding words of hope does Peter leave with his suffering readers?  
(vv.10-14, see also 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

What hope do they provide for you?

Note: "Babylon" is probably Rome where Peter had gone shortly before his death to minister to the suffering churches. (Warren Wiersbe)

Memory Verse: "The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." *1Peter 5:10*

Prayer Guide: Lord, help me stand fast in Your grace.

## LESSON NINE: 2 PETER 1:1-11

**OPENING QUESTION:** *When has knowing something important helped you escape harm?*

Note: This second letter was written near the end of Peter's life. It was written to the same readers as his first one.

1. Who is Peter writing to?
2. What allows you to enjoy abundant grace and peace?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. How does God ask His people to live?

4. What does God provide in order to live a godly life?

2 Peter 1:3

2 Peter 1:4

For which of these blessings are you most grateful and why?

5. List the qualities God wants you to add to your faith in increasing measure and define each.

Which of these do you most need to increase in your life?

6. Why does God want to produce these qualities in His followers?

Genesis 1:26

Romans 12:1-2

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 4:22-24

2Peter 1:8-11

7. What is the danger for those who do not commit themselves to spiritual growth? (v.9)

8. Why do you think knowledge is so important?

9. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-7. What makes it possible to have “true knowledge” of God?

10. Describe the welcome that awaits the genuine followers of Christ. (v.11)

Memory Verse: “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.  
*2 Peter 1:3*

Prayer Guide: Lord, transform me.

**LESSON TEN: 2 PETER 1:12-21**

**OPENING QUESTION:** *When has a reminder prompted you to change direction?*

1. Why are reminders of significant truth important?
2. Why is it especially important to be reminded of the truth of the gospel?

Philippians 3:1

1 John 2:24-25

3. Why did Peter express such urgency in his writing?  
What did he reveal about his attitude toward life and death? vv.13-15
4. Why is Peter's testimony about Jesus trustworthy? vv.16-18
5. Why are the writings of the Old Testament prophets trustworthy? v.21
6. Read Mark 9:2-8. Describe Peter's encounter with Christ?

7. What is important to understand about Old Testament prophecy?  
vv.19-21 (see also Revelation 22:7)
  
8. Read Luke 4:14-21. How did Jesus fulfill Old Testament prophecy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How does Scripture bring light into your life?

Psalm 18:28

Psalm 119:105

Psalm 119:130

John 8:12

2 Peter 1:19

When have you seen the light of Scripture shine into a dark place of your heart and life?

Memory Verse: “And we have the word of prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” *2 Peter 1:19*

Prayer Guide: Lord of light, dispel my darkness.

## LESSON ELEVEN: 2 PETER 2:1-22

**OPENING QUESTION:** *If you have been deceived in the past by someone, what was it that drew you into their deception?*

1. What do false teachers do to distort truth?

v. 1

v. 2

v. 3

v. 18

v. 19

2. Why are their false teachings so dangerous?

3. Describe the character of false teachers.

4. How did Jesus describe false teachers? Matthew 7:15-20

5. Why are false teachers sometimes not recognized as being false?  
In what way do their promises of freedom lead to slavery?

6. Read Psalm 119:1-16. What protects you from their influence and teaching?

7. Describe godly teachers and the results of their work.

2 Corinthians 4:1-5

2 Thessalonians 1:13

8. What end is promised for false teachers?

Note: False teachers were guilty of blasphemy like the fallen angels or Balaam.

9. What examples from the past showed God's judgment for the ungodly?

10. How were the godly rescued?

11. What comfort is there in knowing that evil will be destroyed and godliness rescued?

12. Read John 17:15-19. What was Christ's prayer of protection for you?

Memory Verse: "Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth." John 17:17

Prayer Guide: God of truth, guard my mind and heart.

**LESSON TWELVE: 2 PETER 3:1-18**

**OPENING QUESTION:** *What have you grown weary waiting for?*

1. What stimulates you to wholesome thinking?
2. How did Peter hope to stimulate wholesome thinking in his readers? vv.1-2
3. Who will the scoffers be in the last days?

vv. 3-7

Jude 1:18-19

4. What will the scoffers say?

Do you ever ask their questions?

5. Read Luke 21:25-28. What did Jesus say about the end times and His return?

How are His followers to respond?

6. What destruction of the earth is foretold?

7. What future awaits the godly?

vv.12-13

Revelation 21:1-5

8. How is God's perspective of time different from the human perspective?  
vv. 8-9 (see also Psalm 90:4-6)

9. Why is God's patience such a gift?

10. How are you to live in readiness for Christ's return?

vv. 11-18

Jude 1:17-23

11. How can you be more ready?

12. What assurance of God's help can you carry with you?  
Jude 1:24

13. What important truth does Peter have for you in his closing words?  
vv. 17-18

Memory Verse: "To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen" *Jude 24*

Prayer Guide: Savior, keep me from falling.

## REVIEW LESSON

1. What verses from the study have been most significant?
2. What insight into persecution and suffering have you gained?
3. What have you learned about living as a stranger and alien? How has this challenged you personally?
4. What assurances have increased your hope?
5. What practices has this study encouraged you to adopt?
6. How has your understanding of God's future for the followers of Christ been enlarged?
7. What do you give thanks for?