Pre-Study: September 20th

1. Read 1 Peter all the way through (in one sitting if possible). If you have the time, read 1 Peter in different translations. Make notes as you read through the second or third time.

2. Think about the following questions as you read 1 Peter:

   Who was Peter?

   Who was Peter’s audience?

   What are Peter’s primary concerns?

   What words/topics occur 3 or more times?

   What does Peter draw from the Old Testament?

   What does Peter draw from the teachings of Christ?

   What is Peter’s concept of the gospel? What does he emphasize?

   What does Peter likely draw from his own experience?

3. Think about the following words/concepts and how they are defined in Scripture, as well as how they are connected to each other (feel free to add to the list). Note particularly how these appear in 1 Peter:

   Salvation

   Faith

   Hope

   Grace
Study Guide for 1 Peter

During Your Study

As you read, meditate, take notes, etc. each week on the given passage from 1 Peter there are specific questions and applications to consider in the study guide. However, there are also some general questions that may be useful to you as well. These questions could be used for any passage of Scripture to help you dig deeper and meditate more fully on the meaning of the text and ultimately how it applies to you personally. Below is a list of questions to aid you in your study. You may choose to answer them by writing out answers or by just keeping them in the back of your mind as you read. Also, these questions can be used during the discussion time to bring out points that were overlooked or not addressed as fully in the weekly guide.

Questions for Scripture Study

1. What questions do you have about the passage?

2. Does the author repeat certain words or phrases? Make a list. How do these words and/or phrases shape the overall passage or book?

3. What gospel elements are in this passage?

4. How does this passage expand or enrich your understanding of the gospel?

5. What other Scriptures support this gospel truth?

6. How does this gospel truth impact your own behavior?

7. What types of sentences are used in this passage (commands, promises, questions, etc.)? How does this influence your understanding and your application of the passage?

8. What do you learn about God, Jesus and/or the Holy Spirit in this passage? What about the church?

9. Who is being addressed and what situation are they in historically? How does this compare to you today?

10. Why did the author write this passage or book?

There are many resources available online that you may find useful in your study, especially for more technical questions. Check out some of these websites.

www.biblegateway.com

www.blueletterbible.org

www.desiringgod.org (John Piper’s website)

www.gty.org (John MacArthur’s website)
September 27th: 1 Peter 1:1-12

Study Guide Questions

1. To whom was Peter writing? If possible, look up the date and historical context surrounding this letter. How did this impact what Peter said in his letter?

2. In verse 2, Peter uses the phrase, “sprinkled with His blood” referring to Christ. What is the origin or background of this phrase, “sprinkled with blood” and what does it signify (especially for a first century Jew)? Scan Hebrews 9 and Leviticus 4 for more insight.

3. Verse 6 begins, “In this you greatly rejoice…” To what is Peter referring; what is the source of this joy?

4. Consider all of what is said in these verses about faith and salvation. How are they connected? How are they obtained? What is the outcome? What other verses bring insight concerning faith and salvation that are significant to you?

5. Choose a word or phrase from this passage that stood out to you and dig deeper by looking up other verses, using a commentary, a Bible dictionary, other translations, etc. Some words might be: blood, grace, glory, hope, inheritance, resurrection, faith, salvation, trial.

Personal Application Questions

1. What joy and/or reassurance do you find in 1:3-5?

2. Compare James 1:2-4 and 1 Peter 1:6-7. Both passages discuss suffering/trials and joy in close proximity. How do you have joy in the midst of suffering or trials? What would this look like for you in your life right now?

Making Connections

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12, Hebrews 1:1-4, and Luke 24:25-27. What do these passages say about Jesus? According to these verses, where can we look to learn more about Him? Why is this significant?
October 4th: 1 Peter 1:13-25

**Study Guide Questions**

1. What commands do you find in this passage? Which ones are most difficult for you?

2. In verse 17, what do you think Peter means when he tells us to “conduct yourselves in fear”? Consider what he says in other verses about conduct. What does verse 18 say about the motivation or background for this “fear”?

3. If God “judges according to each one’s work (1:17),” where does salvation by grace fit in? How do you reconcile these two?

4. According to 1:22-23 we are commanded to “love one another,” which is perhaps one of the most difficult commands to fulfill. What does this passage say is the reason for our love of one another?

5. Peter talks about that which is perishable and imperishable. What things fall into these two categories (1:4, 18, 23-25)? What could you add to these categories from other passages in Scripture?

**Personal Application Questions**

1. Loving others is a life-long challenge. Who is most difficult for you to love? Why? How does 1:22-23 help you gain perspective on loving difficult people (or anybody)?

2. 1 Peter 1:15-16 also poses a challenge. What does the word “holy” mean and in what contexts is it used in Scripture? From what passage is Peter quoting in verse 16? How do you think these commands apply to your life? Is it a reasonable command? Why or why not?

**Making Connections**

In what way does Peter connect the resurrection of Christ to you? How is the resurrection connected to the command to “be holy”? How is the resurrection connected to the command to “love one another”?
Study Guide Questions

1. How does a person “grow in respect to salvation” (2:2)? Isn’t salvation an all-or-nothing kind of thing? How does this concept of growing in salvation mesh with the idea of salvation already being accomplished?

2. What is the meaning or significance of saying that Christ is a cornerstone? Why would Peter refer to us as “living stones”? What event in Peter’s personal life could have inspired this metaphor?

3. How is Christ a “stumbling block” (1 Cor. 1:23) or a “rock of offense” (1 Peter 2:8)? What does this mean? How is this still relevant today?

4. How does 2:9-10 shape the identity of the believer? To what Old Testament passages is Peter referring?

5. What does 2:11 reveal about the issue of sin as a believer? Consider what is stated as well as what is implied or assumed by Peter.

Personal Application Questions

1. Read 1 Peter 2:1-3. What do you long for? What do you spend your time thinking about, waiting for, anticipating, seeking, etc? How do your longings shape your daily life? Why does Peter say to “long for the pure milk of the word”?

2. According to 2:9-12, what is the purpose of God choosing you? How is this fulfilled in your life? How do you want to see this purpose expanded?

Making Connections

Christ is called our high priest (Heb. 9-10), but He is also called the Lamb of God (John 1, Rev. 5). 1 Peter 2 calls believers priests (specifically, holy/royal priesthood). How do all of these truths fit together? How does the Old Testament help explain the connection? Include in your answer a discussion of Peter’s mention of a “spiritual house” and “spiritual sacrifices.” How is Christ at the center of all of this?
Study Guide Questions


2. What do you think Peter means in 2:16, “Act as free men…”? Free from what? How can Peter speak of freedom and then call us bondslaves of God? Why this contrast? What does freedom for Christians really mean?

3. 1 Peter 2:18 gives a difficult command. Why would God ask someone to submit themselves to a person who is unreasonable or unjust? Do you think there are exceptions or does this command apply in all such cases?

4. Peter emphasizes Christ’s suffering in 2:21-25. Why do you think Peter does this? What points about Christ’s suffering does Peter make?

5. 1 Peter 2:23 says that Christ kept entrusting Himself to God. Why was this necessary if Christ was also God? What was the relationship between Jesus and God at that time?

Personal Application Questions

1. Often commands to endure suffering with patience are difficult because we would rather be spared the suffering than endure through it. Why do you think God has allowed the suffering you have experienced in your life? How does it impact your relationship with Him?

2. How does your freedom in Christ play out in your life? Do you feel as though you live out this freedom or do you often feel the opposite? Why?

Making Connections

Read 1 Peter 2:24 as a summary of the gospel message. What contrasts does Peter bring out? Take each phrase separately: record your own thoughts, note how each phrase/truth is connected to the Old Testament, find cross references, etc.

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,

so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness;

for by His wounds you were healed.
October 25th: 1 Peter 3:1-12

Study Guide Questions

1. The chapter starts with the words, “In the same way…” What does Peter compare with wives submitting to husbands? Why is this significant?

2. Consider 1 Peter 3:3. How should Christian women apply this today?

3. From 3:1-7, what stands out to you regarding the husband/wife relationship? What commands does Peter give? How does it compare with what Paul says? (1 Cor. 7, Eph. 5:21-23)

4. Reflect on the attributes Peter lists in 3:8: Harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit. Define the attributes. How are these attributes important within a family, church, or other Christian group? Could a secular group/organization manifest these characteristics? Explain why or why not.

5. According to Peter, why should we pursue righteousness? (3:8-12)

Personal Application Questions

1. Why is submission an important issue in Christian marriages? If you are not married, to whom do you submit? Why is submission difficult for anyone?

2. What do you think Peter means by “a gentle and quiet spirit”? What does this look like to you? How do you foster this kind of spirit in your life? What aspects of your life (internal and external things) hinder you from having the gentle and quiet spirit?

Making Connections

There is no mention of Christ, salvation, redemption, the cross, or the resurrection in these 12 verses. However, Peter’s entire discussion in these verses rests on the person and work of Christ. In your own words, explain how this is so.
Study Guide Questions

1. In 3:14 Peter calls suffering a blessing. How can this be the case?

2. 1 Peter 3:15-16 contains several commands, namely to “sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.” How is this command central to the Christian life? Why do we need to be ready to make a defense?

3. What do you think is the meaning of 3:19? Who is the one proclaiming? What was being proclaimed? To whom was the proclamation directed?

4. What does Peter teach about baptism in 3:19-22? What is his point in bringing up Noah?


Personal Application Questions

1. Peter has discussed more than once the cause of suffering, whether for doing good or evil. In other words, sometimes we suffer because of evil we do and sometimes because of evil done to us. How are you able to tell the difference in your own life? How does your reaction differ in each case? How does God’s purpose differ?

2. How can you be ready to give a defense for the hope you have in Christ? What opportunities have you had to share? What fears do you have about sharing or giving a defense?

Making Connections

Again, Peter summarizes the gospel message in a single verse (3:18). Consider each part of this verse separately while keeping in mind the big picture.

For Christ also died once for all,

the just for the unjust,

so that He might bring us to God,

having been put to death in the flesh,

but made alive in the spirit.
November 8th: 1 Peter 4:1-11

Study Guide Questions

1. According to 4:1-6, what is the relationship between the Christian and the world?

2. In 4:7 Peter states, “The end of all things is near…” However, two thousand years later the world is still in existence. Was Peter mistaken in understanding the timing of the return of Christ? Why did Peter write this?

3. In church history, when some have believed the end was near, they used it as a reason to incur large debts, stop going to work, etc. How does Peter go against this type of thinking regarding “the end of all things”? (4:7-11)

4. What do you think it means to say “love covers a multitude of sins” regarding our relationships with one another (4:8)?

5. What does Peter teach about the gifts (4:10-11)? What is the purpose of the gifts? In 4:10 Peter refers to “the manifold grace of God.” The NIV reads, “God’s grace in its various forms.” What does this mean? (CR Eph. 3:10)

Personal Application Questions

1. Do you find that unbelievers are ever surprised by your words, actions, choices, etc? Do your unbelieving friends or acquaintances ever try to convince you to do things that you wouldn’t do as a Christian? How do you handle these situations? How do you maintain your relationships with unbelievers but abstain from certain things in which they take part? (4:3-4)

2. If you kept in your mind on a daily basis that “the end of all things is near,” how would this change your thoughts, actions, choices, priorities, etc?

Making Connections

How is Christ the ultimate example and fulfillment of 4:8?
November 15th: 1 Peter 4:12-19

**Study Guide Questions**

1. Given the context of what Peter is saying, what is significant about the fact that he starts with, “Beloved”? What does this say about Peter? About his audience?

2. The word in verse 12 translated as “fiery” or “painful” is from the Greek word *pyrosis* and literally means “burning.” What do you think Peter is trying to convey by using such a word to describe the trials the people are facing? (CR Deut. 9:3, Prov. 25:4, Isaiah 1:25, 6:6-7)

3. Read 1 Peter 4:13, Acts 5:17-42, and Acts 16:22-25. Peter gives a difficult command, but it is not without precedent. How were the people in Acts able to fulfill this command?

4. Once again, Peter points out that the cause for suffering must be for doing good and not evil. Why, then, should we choose to do good if suffering results either way? What argument does Paul give in Romans 6? What other arguments/reasons can you think of?

5. Why does Peter talk about judgment on the family of God (4:17) if Christ took the punishment for sins on our behalf?

**Personal Application Questions**

1. Are you always tempted to assume that any suffering means God is angry or distant? What evidence in Scripture shows that this is not the case for the believer? How can you apply these truths?

2. Peter tells us not to be ashamed if we suffer for the sake of Christ. When have you ever felt embarrassed or ashamed about your beliefs? What did you do at the time? How can you gain the courage to not feel that way next time?

**Making Connections**

Christ makes very specific promises regarding the Holy Spirit, which Peter references in 4:14. What does Christ promise (John 14:16-31)? Consider the event in Acts 2:1-4 also. How do these passages give insight into the Christian life?
Study Guide Questions

1. What does Peter say about himself in 5:1? How do you think Peter’s past experiences influenced what kind of elder/leader he was?

2. What does Peter say to the elders in 5:1-4? How are the elders supposed to lead? How does this “job description” differ from what many elders/pastors do today? Why is this the case?

3. In 5:5, what do you think it means to “clothe yourselves in humility”? Why does God oppose the proud and give grace to the humble? What’s so terrible about pride and so great about humility, especially in our relationship with God?

4. According to 5:6, whose job is it to exalt? Yet who often does the exalting (or at least attempts)? Fill in the blanks as best you can based on Scripture (CR Micah 6:8, Prov. 15:33, Phil. 2:3): Humility DOES mean ______________________. Humility DOES NOT mean ______________________. There is more than one way to complete the sentences!

5. What does 5:7 reveal about God? What is stated (and commanded) and what is implied about us? How are humility and peace (non-anxiousness) connected?

Personal Application Questions

1. How do you see pride impacting your relationship with God? With other people? How is pride connected to anger, bitterness, depression, envy, lust, and anxiety (or any other besetting sin)?

2. We often struggle with truly believing that God cares for us, yet the evidence is all around. What evidence of God’s care for you speaks the strongest to your heart and mind? What evidence of His love can you point out when doubts and fears creep in?

Making Connections

There is no greater example of humility than Christ. Reflect on this for a moment by contrasting who Christ was from eternity past to who He became at a certain time in human history. No analogy can completely capture His humiliation, but to what would you compare it? What could possibly be the reason for this kind of humiliation? How does this impact you?
Study Guide Questions

1. Notice in 5:8 that Peter calls the devil our adversary, not God’s adversary. Why do you think he does this? What does this imply about God, the devil, and us?

2. What weapons does the believer have against the attacks of the devil (5:9)?

3. Compare 1 Peter 5:10, Hebrews 12:1-2, and Philippians 1:6. What do these passages teach about the believer’s future? What is the journey about?

4. Who was Silvanus (1 Peter 5:12, 2 Cor. 1:19, 1&2 Thes. 1:1)? Many commentators think Silvanus and Silas are one in the same person. Read Acts 15-16. How is Silas/Silvanus connected to Peter and Paul? What did God accomplish through them in the early church?

5. Peter gives the command here to “stand firm” (5:12). Paul also uses this phrase several times. If possible, do a search to find other passages with this command. Why is it given? In what are we to stand firm? What things threaten to knock us down?

Personal Application Questions

1. In what ways do you resist the devil? Can you tell the difference between the devil’s attacks against you and other attacks (or is there a difference)? Which Scriptures help you to resist the devil and stand firm in your faith?

2. How does Peter comfort those who are suffering now (5:10)? When you are suffering, does this truth give you comfort? Why or why not?

Making Connections

Peter’s closing states, “Peace to you all who are in Christ” (5:14b). How are “peace” and “in Christ” connected? Why is peace such a sought-after thing but so rarely attained? Why is it that true peace is only in Christ?