



THIS exiled life

1 PETER 2-3

STUDY GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Whether you're using this Study Guide with your family, in a discipleship relationship, or as a Small Group, our hope is that it will help you dive deeper into 1 Peter in the context of community. This guide is designed to be a helpful tool in your study, meditation, and application of God's Word. You don't have to use every part and it's not meant to be a checklist document where you get each section finished for the sake of crossing it off—use what's helpful to you.

WEEKLY STUDY

The text. Each week we've put the text in the book so that you can mark it up with observations or notes. Spend time studying the text and making observations either prior to the sermon that week or at the beginning of your Small Group.

Application & Discussion Questions. These questions are meant to be a tool to help get into God's Word as well as to apply the sermon. Use the ones that fit best with your group's situation and needs.

Questions for Kids. For those with children in your life in some capacity, these questions are designed to help you talk about the sermon with younger children.

Response. Each week there are one or two possible next steps. Whether you use these or find other ways to respond, the key is to intentionally act on and obey what God's Word says.

EXTRAS

10 Things to Know about 1 Peter. As you start 1 Peter, this section helps introduce you to the author, recipients, historical context, and key ideas.

Resources. We've suggested a few books and articles for commentary on 1 Peter or to read more about how to live in exile.

Appendix 1: How to Make Observations. We encourage you to spend time making observations and studying the passage so this appendix provides a short primer on how to make good observations.

Appendix 2: Prayers & Praises. This blank page is a space for writing down prayer requests and praises either for yourself or for those in your community as you walk through 1 Peter.

Appendix 3: Actions, Promises, and Characteristics of God. This blank page offers a space to keep a list of where you see God in action, the promises of God we can cling to, or the attributes and characteristics of God in 1 Peter. This list can be used as a reminder of who God is and what He has done for us to fuel our thoughts and prayers.

10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT 1 PETER

- ▶ Peter, the Apostle, wrote the book and refers to it in his second letter (2 Peter 3:1).
- ▶ The letter was likely written while Peter was in Rome (“Babylon” in 5:13) around AD 62-63.
- ▶ At the time of Peter’s writing, the famous Emperor Nero was ruling Rome. Within a couple of years, he would have Peter killed.
- ▶ Although persecution at the time of writing was not yet widespread or officially sanctioned by the Empire, it was taking place on a local level.
- ▶ Peter wrote to believers scattered throughout Asia-Minor (1:1), now modern-day Turkey.
- ▶ Most likely, the audience primarily consisted of Gentiles (see 1:14, 18; 2:10) who seemed to have been instructed in the Old Testament after their conversion.
- ▶ The word “exile” and themes associated with exiles show up throughout the book. Whether the people were literal exiles or spiritual exiles experiencing hostility from the world, this major theme provides the backdrop to the book.
- ▶ The purpose of the letter is to encourage believers to both endure suffering and pursue holiness in an evil and hostile culture.
- ▶ Another primary theme of the letter is that while we don’t belong to this world we do belong to God, who has redeemed us to Himself (1:1-2, 18-19; 2:9-10, 25; 3:18).
- ▶ At the end of the letter we see that Peter was with John Mark. This is the same Mark who participated in ministry with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25; 13:5; Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11), whose mother hosted a church (Acts 12:12), and who most likely wrote the Gospel of Mark through the direction and influence of Peter.

WEEK ONE

LIKE NEWBORN BABIES

1 PETER 2:1-3

¹ 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 Pet. 2:1-3)

We encourage you to read the passage and make observations together. See Appendix 1 for help on how to make observations.

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. What two commands does Peter give to exiles in this passage? How do these commands relate to the emphasis of the verses right before? (See 1Pet. 1:22-25).
3. What are some ways you have seen malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, or slander stunt the spiritual growth of believers or of the church? How do these sins show up in your circles and in your own life?
4. Why does Peter liken us to newborn infants? In what ways does Peter want us to be like a newborn?
5. What is the spiritual milk we should be longing for? What context clues lead you to that answer? What does it mean to grow into salvation, and how does this spiritual milk help us do that?
6. What are some ways your group and you personally need to “grow up into salvation”? Think about setting some spiritual goals both for yourself and for your group this year so that you see the Lord's goodness through your study of His Word.
7. How does the Lord's goodness motivate us to put off the love of self and put on love for God and others? How have you tasted the goodness of the Lord in your life?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you with young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together.

1. How has the Lord shown Himself to be good to you and to your family?
2. How should you respond to the goodness God has shown to you?

RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

Write down 2017 personal spiritual goals as well as spiritual goals for your Small Group. Make sure to connect your goals with a corresponding Scripture and think about what to put off and what to put on from what you see in Eph. 4:22-25. Look back at these goals throughout the year, reminding yourself and one another of the love of Christ in your failures and in your growth.

Think about how to structure your week to make sure that you are feeding yourself with the spiritual food of the Word and with spiritual friendships. Do you crave what you should be craving? How can you cultivate your love for God's Word?

⁴As 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. 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 tumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. 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 Pet. 2:4-10)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. Read Eph. 2:19–22 aloud as a group. What comparisons do you see between Eph. 2:19–22 and 1 Pet. 2:4–8?
3. Peter uses priestly imagery to describe the ministry of believers. What does it mean to offer “*spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God*”? What other passages in Scripture use the imagery of “spiritual sacrifices”?
4. It says that Jesus was “*rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious.*” How does this reality encourage exiles? What are some ways that you can fight against the fear of rejection in this next week?
5. How would you explain the descriptions of God’s people in 2:9 (a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people for His own possession) to someone else? Consult other cross-references if needed. What are some implications of these descriptions? How should this inform your daily life?

6. What are some of the “excellencies” of God that you can praise or worship Him for? What are some things God has done or ways you have seen Him at work in your life? (Consider using these responses as prayers of thanksgiving and praise.)
 7. How important is it that we “proclaim” God’s glory, grace, and goodness in rescuing us and making us His treasured possessions? Where and when might you have opportunities to do this, even in small ways?
 8. This section emphasizes that God doesn’t just save us out of sin but that He saves us to Himself and into a people. What are some ideas for how you can live together in biblical community? How can our church help people belong, grow as disciples, and live out Christ’s mission together?
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you with young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together.

1. What is a priest? Why is a priest so important to God?
 2. What are some benefits of being part of a family? What are some benefits that God provides for us by being in His family (the church)?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

- | Look for ways to share the truth of this passage with unsaved family members, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.
- | Spend time praising God for the centrality of Christ in the plan of redemption.

WEEK THREE

KEEP YOUR CONDUCT HONORABLE

1 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 Pet. 2:11-12)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. As if to get his readers' attention, Peter begins his statement with the word "Beloved." He uses this word twice in his first letter and six times in his shorter second letter. Why do you think he begins this strong statement with such a tender word?
3. Read Rom. 12:1-2. What similarities do you see with 1 Pet. 2:11? How can we remind ourselves that we don't belong to this present culture?
4. Peter speaks of a war that wages war against our souls. Paul describes that war in Rom. 7:21-25. Read and discuss the particulars of the war. Who is the enemy? How do we fight? Where is our victory? Think back over the last week. Can you think of an instance when your soul was at war?
5. How would you explain "the passions of the flesh" (2:11)? How might you know if a desire, passion, or something you want is from the flesh or from the Spirit?
6. What's one "fleshly desire" you need help to fight against this week? Or what's something competing with God for your affection and allegiance right now? (Consider praying over these things together as a group.)
7. What are some intentional ways you can glorify God through loving others or being a light (i.e., keeping your conduct honorable) this week? Is there something your Small Group can do together to show love in your neighborhood or community?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you with young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together.

1. When was the last time you wanted to do something that you knew was wrong? What did you do? Did you ask for help?
2. What are some things you can do for your friends to show them that you love Jesus and that Jesus loves your friends, too?

RESPONSE

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Peter speaks of “good deeds” that are noticed by unbelievers. Read Matt. 5:16. How can you practically let your light shine before men? At work or school tomorrow? As you drive or commute? As you work in the marketplace? As you connect with neighbors?

¹³ Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor 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 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. (1 Pet. 2:13-20)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. Why is submitting (being "subject" to another) difficult?
3. According to these verses, whose name and reputation is at stake when it comes to how you submit? How does this reality raise the stakes when it comes to the subject of submission?
4. According to vv. 19-20, what is the motivation for enduring unjust suffering? Why is it a "gracious thing"? Can you think of any "good" from a biblical perspective that might result from suffering in such a situation?
5. Explain the paradox found in: "Those who are free are servants of God." In what sense are we "free," and in what sense are we "servants" of God?
6. How is it possible to use freedom in Christ to cover up an unsubmitive attitude toward authorities? How does the Gospel free us to submit to government? Are there any exceptions?

7. What are some practical ways you can live out 2:13-20? How can we live it out as a group?
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you with young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together.

1. Why is it hard to obey authorities?
 2. What are some ways you can show honor to, obey, or bless one of the authorities God has placed in your life this week?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

Honoring everyone is not always easy. Most people are not Christians; therefore most people will not act like Christians. Showing honor to those who are not like us is not just suggested, but commanded. What are some ways you can show honor to authorities in your life this week (parents, employers, government, etc.)?

As you consider the command to submit, what comes to mind? Instances when you have not submitted to authority? Specific individuals that you have not submitted to? How might you need to repent and begin to walk in obedience in these areas?

What is one way you can show honor to your employer this week? In addition to enduring any unjust suffering under them and submitting to their authority, how might you bless them with a kind word, an encouraging act, a thoughtful gift, or by working this week in a particular way? If you're a boss over employees, what can you do to honor your employees in similar ways? If you're currently not employed, who is an authority that you can bless in some way this week?

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. (1 Pet. 2:21-25)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. In our community, what sort of injustices do Christians face? What sort of injustices have you personally faced? What injustices might other Christians be facing that you've never had to deal with?
3. What is your usual reaction when you are mistreated, misunderstood, treated unfairly or unjustly, or face hardship?
4. How did Jesus respond to injustice? What are the parallels between this passage and Is. 53:7-9?
5. In verses 24-25, it shifts from Christ as an "example to follow" to Christ as a "unique redeemer." What reasons does Paul give for Christ bearing our sin? What relationship does this have to our suffering?
6. This passage might create a conflict between the idea of "doing nothing" in the face of adversity and actively standing against ungodly injustice in our society. How do you reconcile these two things in your mind? When, if ever, do you go from enduring to standing up? How should you live this out as an exile?
7. What truths about Christ give you strength in difficult situations? How do you apply Christ's example and His atoning work when you are mistreated?

8. What truths about Christ and His sufferings have made Him appear more glorious or beautiful?
 9. As a result of studying this text, what is one thing you can ask the Lord to help you change about the way you approach your work?
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you with young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together.

1. What does it mean that Christ died for your sins?
 2. If you are mistreated or bullied by others, how can you respond like Jesus did when mistreated? How do you ask God's help to do this? How do you forgive like Jesus did?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

Spend time this week studying the example of Jesus in suffering and in humbling Himself. Read passages such as Is. 53; Phil. 2:1-11; Matt. 11:29; Luke 6:27-36; Heb. 12:3; 1 Pet. 3:9. How does seeing the example of Jesus stir praise for His goodness, righteousness, strength in humility, and patience in your heart? What do you need to model during this season from His life? Ask the Spirit to make you like Jesus.

¹ 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. (1 Pet. 3:1-6)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God’s Word, but don’t feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. What are some of the struggles of the heart when it comes to submission? What idols might keep us from wanting to submit? How do we fight those struggles or idols?
3. How does the world define beauty and what’s worth admiring? How does the Bible define what is most beautiful and admirable? Which “vision” is more compelling? What is the standard for beauty in your life?
4. As both men and women, in what ways do we focus too much on the externals tied to clothing, possessions, looks, wealth, status, etc. rather than on following and looking like Christ? What problems do we encounter when we try to define ourselves—or when others see us in a certain way—primarily through externals rather than Christ-likeness?
5. In your own words, what does hope in God mean? How have you seen this lived out in others’ lives? How does a spouse hope in God in a marriage that isn’t perfect or when the other spouse isn’t pursuing God?
6. Read Eph. 5:22-24 and Col. 3:18. How would you describe biblical submission of a wife to her husband?

7. Refer to Col. 3:18-25 again. Why is it significant that the command for wives to “submit” in 3:18 is different than the command for children and employees to “obey” (3:20, 22)? How might the relationship between a husband and wife differ from the relationships of parent to child and employer to employee?
 8. Whether you’re a single, married, divorced, or widowed woman, how might you apply this text this week? How can you pray for and encourage one another in various circumstances and stages?
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you who are parents or have young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together. You can also use the “Kid’s notes” that will be available each Sunday as another tool to encourage our children in their growth and discipleship through the Word.

1. Why does God care more about “the hidden person of the heart” (3:4) than external things such as what we wear, own, or look like? How might we reflect God’s heart by looking more at other people’s hearts rather than their appearance?
 2. Boys, what characteristics should you look for in a wife? Girls, what are the characteristics you want to be true of you as a follower of Christ?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

This passage talks about the characteristics of a woman of God. For a woman who desires to follow God, hope in God, have a gentle and quiet spirit, be fearless, and submit to leadership, what do these characteristics look like in both marriage and singleness? What is one characteristic that you can grow in?

As a Small Group, encourage each other to be wives and husbands who hope in God. If you have singles in your group, encourage them not to settle for less than the standards God has given, and encourage them to continue to grow in these characteristics. Part of being a Small Group is encouraging—both in your gathering and during the week—one another to be faithful to God as husbands, wives, or singles.

¹ 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, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. (1 Pet. 3:1-2)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. How does this verse connect to the prior section (2:21-25)?
3. Read Eph. 5:22-24 and Col. 3:18, 23-24. What do you learn about a wife's submission to her husband? Discuss some of the following questions:
 - ▶ What does it look like to submit to your husband "as to the Lord" (Eph. 5:22; see 6:5, where this phrase applies to men and women)?
 - ▶ What are some reasons wives are to submit to the Christ-like leadership of a husband?
 - ▶ Who are some models of submission for the wife?
4. Refer to Col. 3:18 again, alongside 1 Pet. 3:1. Clearly, Christian wives should still submit to unbelieving husbands but at what point would it be wrong for a Christian wife to submit to her unbelieving husband? How does the wife of an unbeliever (or the employee of an unbeliever, the child of an unbeliever, or the citizen of an ungodly government) discern "the line" where submission to an earthly authority interferes with submission to Christ?
5. The influence and persuasiveness of conduct (how we act and live) is mentioned twice in verses 1-2. How might a wife's conduct display God's goodness, grace, and glory to a husband or others? What are ways others (including single women or men) might apply this verse in light of the importance of our conduct in winning others over (see also 3:15)?
6. What are some of the unique challenges faced by the spouse of an unbeliever? What are some challenges of being married to a person who claims to a believer but shows no evidence whatsoever that they want to follow Christ?

7. If you are married to an unbeliever, how can your Small Group come alongside you to encourage you, to keep you refreshed, to help you live out the calling of 1 Peter, to pray for you, and to pray for your spouse? How can they help you obey God and fulfill your role as a Christian spouse even if your spouse is not following the Lord?
 8. In light of this passage, how should single Christians approach the covenant of marriage? If women are called to submit to their husbands as unto the Lord, what might be the consequences of dating and then marrying a man or woman who is not a Christ-follower? How can your Small Group pray for you and support you as a single man/woman who is in a relationship or who desires to be in a relationship?
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

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1. How can your life of following Jesus and looking like Jesus be a good testimony to others around you (teachers, coaches, family members, etc.)?
 2. Why do you think God puts authorities into our lives? Will all of those authorities always reflect God’s heart and character?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

In line with question 7 above, this week do one thing to care for or serve a woman at our church who is married to an unbeliever. If no one comes to mind, ask an elder or staff member. Think through ways you might encourage them, serve them, or love them. Offer to regularly pray for them or with them. Ask how you or your family can come alongside them. Men, consider reaching out to the unbelieving husband to build a relationship with him.

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. (1 Pet. 3:7)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. Think of a time that you have seen a husband honor his wife or live with her in an understanding way. Share this example with the group.
3. Peter uses the word “likewise” in verses 1 and 7. What teaching is Peter trying to connect with this instruction to husbands? How is this context helpful in understanding the instructions in verse 7?
4. Peter gives two instructions to husbands in this verse: (1) live with your wives in an understanding way, and (2) show honor to her as a woman. How are these two instructions distinct from one another? In what ways are they connected?
5. Read Eph. 5:25-33 and Col. 3:19. How does a husband's leading, honoring, understanding, caring, and sacrificing for his wife display the Gospel message that Peter has been writing about? How might both good and bad examples of living out this verse affect the way we or others understand God?
6. Husbands, what is one area in which you could seek to better understand your wife? Wives, what is an area in which you would like your husband to seek better understanding of you? What is a way that you can encourage your husband's seeking to understand you?
7. Husbands, what keeps you from honoring your wife? How can you honor your wife? How can you better lead and care for your wife? Wives, what makes you feel honored by your husband? What is a way that you can encourage your husband's honoring of you?

8. For those of you who are not married, how might this passage apply to you personally? What are ways you can encourage friends and Small Group members who are husbands and wives?
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

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1. What are some things that you can do to understand someone better?
 2. What are ways that you can show honor to your friends and family?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

Write down the name of a person you want to better understand this week (husbands, this should be your wife!). Write down questions that might help you understand that person. Write down the name of a person that God wants you to honor this week (husbands, again—start with your wives!). Then, write down the God-imaging characteristics of that person that you enjoy. Finally, write down a plan of action for communicating this honor to them this week.

Husbands, pray together as men that God will grow each of you in understanding and honoring your wives. Wives, pray together as women that God will help you encourage your husbands and give you patience as they seek to live out this verse. If you are married, commit to praying together at least one (additional) time this week.

Singles, pray for your married friends and pray that God will shape you to be a godly man or woman who would be prepared to be a godly spouse, should God lead you to marriage.

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. (1 Pet. 3:8-12)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God’s Word, but don’t feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. In verse 8, how does Peter call Christians to live with one another? Why are these things imperative for healthy relationships?
3. How do the attitudes and attributes in verse 8 help us fulfill the command in verse 9? How does Jesus help us fulfill this difficult command? (See I Peter 2:22-25).
4. When are you tempted to return evil for evil? Why is it so tempting to “get even” with someone who wrongs you? What does it say about what we believe about God?
5. In verses 10-12, Peter is quoting from Ps. 34:12-16. How does the context and content of Ps. 34 help us understand Peter’s purpose for using it in our passage?
6. What does God promise in verse 10-12 that is greater than “getting even” by repaying evil for evil? Does this mean Christians on earth will have much blessing?
7. Of the things mentioned in verses 8-11, which righteous action or sinful action do you struggle with the most? Where do you see it in your life? How can you fight it this week?

8. In verse 3:7 and 3:12 Peter ties righteous living to how effective our prayers are. What keeps our prayers from being hindered? Is there anything in your life (conflict with others, bitterness, lack of care/gentleness) that might be hindering your prayers? Take some time to confess and repent of areas where you have not have walked as Jesus walked.
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you who are parents or have young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together.

1. When you are sinned against, how does Jesus want you to respond? How does Jesus respond when people sin against Him? (see I John 1:9, 1 Pet. 2:21-25, Rom. 5:8)
 2. Why is it so hard to see evil go unpunished? Why can we trust that Jesus will make all wrong things right and turn all right things into future blessings?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

What are some practical ways you can bless your enemies? Whether they are co-workers, family members, or neighbors who are hard to love, what can you do to show Christian humility, sympathy, and love to them in the coming weeks?

Are there any relationships in your life where you have not pursued peace but have instead further instigated the friction in the relationship? Take time to pray about how you might pursue peace in those relationships as far as it depends on you, for “blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God” (Matt. 5:9).

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. (1 Pet. 3:13-17)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. Think of a recent time at home or work when you were not prepared for something. Then, think of a recent time when you were prepared. What is the difference in your heart when you are prepared versus unprepared?
3. List all of the things in this passage that Peter tells us to do when we face suffering for righteousness' sake (example: "have no fear of them"). Which of these is difficult to do in your life?
4. What are the different manifestations of suffering that Peter mentions in this passage? Which of these have you experienced recently in your life? How does this suffering help us to remember Jesus and the Gospel?
5. How is Peter's teaching in verse 14 consistent with Jesus' teaching in the gospels? Look at Matt. 5: 10-12, Jn. 12: 24-26, and other related verses.
6. In verse 17, what is the difference between the two types of suffering mentioned by Peter? In your life, do you suffer more for doing good or for doing evil?
7. What do you think it might look like to be zealous for good? How do we cultivate a heart that is zealous for good?

8. Why are gentleness and respect so important to our defense of the faith?
Discuss how you can be gentle and respectful when giving a defense of your hope in Christ.
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you who are parents or have young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together.

1. Imagine a scenario where someone does not like your faith or the way you live the Christian life. Practice how you might respond to a person like this.
 2. How can you demonstrate gentleness and respect when talking to someone about Jesus?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

Peter calls us to be prepared to make a defense. Write out your defense of the hope you have in Christ below. Then, practice sharing this defense with others in your group with gentleness and respect. Pray that God will allow your life, love, and testimony to others around you to open up doors to share the gospel with them.

Make a list of people in your group who are currently suffering for righteousness' sake. Pray for those people each day this week.

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 now 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 power having been subjected to Him. (1 Pet. 3:18-22)

APPLICATION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Make sure you are looking into the Bible itself so that your observations, interpretations, and applications are from the text. The questions below are meant to be a tool to help you get into God's Word, but don't feel bound to them or make getting through all of them a concern.

1. What is one observation (not interpretation or application yet) that you make when reading this passage? For instance, do you notice any key words, repetition or parallels, vivid descriptions, connecting thoughts, mentions of God, or important themes?
2. This text has some ideas that can be difficult to understand. What are some of the difficult things in this passage? How do you wrestle biblically with difficult texts?
3. Read v.13-17. How is today's text informed by these verses? What do we need to keep in mind (from v. 13-17 or throughout 1 Peter) that will help us understand what Peter wants us to see in v. 18-22?
4. How are suffering and God's will or plan related in this text? (Think of Christ's suffering and how that informs our own suffering.) Why is this encouraging in suffering?
5. As a group, read 3:18, 22 with 1:18-22 and 2:22-25 and meditate on the work of Jesus for us. What are some of the reasons these texts give for Jesus' death? How do we avoid becoming desensitized to the gospel and instead personalize it, treasure it, and let it point us to trusting in and worshipping Jesus each day?

6. How does baptism reflect and demonstrate God's deliverance of us through judgment (like Noah's ark), our union with Jesus, new life, and our purity and cleansing? How does this text emphasize the importance of baptism for all followers of Jesus?
 7. Why do you think Peter brings up the resurrection in verse 22 and talks about it in the way he does? Why is Jesus' resurrection good news for sinners and sufferers?
 8. How does the Bible teach us that the *act* of baptism isn't what saves us but that what baptism is tied to and what it pictures does save us?
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QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

For those of you who are parents or have young children in your life, here are a couple of questions to ask them as you read the Bible together.

1. How does God show His patience toward you?
 2. Why do people get baptized? How does baptism show others that they have been made right with God?
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RESPONSE

It is important that we be doers of the Word and not hearers only, so whether you use these or not, please obey what God puts on your heart through the reading, preaching, and discussing of His Word.

This text does not come without some obvious difficulties: Jesus preached to spirits in prison? Baptism has a relationship with the action of salvation? The water of baptism and Noah's ark? In the midst of some of these concepts that are difficult to reconcile, take time to praise God for His magnificent work of salvation. God's salvation through Jesus Christ is awesome!

If you have not been baptized but have placed your trust in Jesus alone, now is a great time to take steps toward baptism. Contact a pastor, elder, or staff person at College Park, any of whom would be happy to explain baptism and the process for getting baptized.

RESOURCES

BOOKS & COMMENTARIES

1 Peter (Tyndale Commentary Series) by Wayne Grudem

1, 2 Peter, & Jude (New American Commentary Series) by Thomas Schreiner

1 Peter for You by Juan Sanchez

The Message of 1 Peter by Edmund Clowney

1 Peter: A Living Hope (Bible Study) by Jen Wilkin

Everyday Church by Tim Chester & Steve Timmis // A book on 1 Peter and the Christian Life

Onward! by Russell Moore

ARTICLES & MESSAGES

The Gospel Coalition 2016 Women's Conference, Plenary Sessions on 1 Peter
// Search on thegospelcoalition.org

Are We Exiles? // Search on russellmoore.com Christian Exiles // Search on ligonier.org

In Exile at Babylon U. // Search on theologyofwork.org the Church in a Politicized World // Search on ftc.co

If you have any questions about these resources or any additional resources contact Dustin Crowe at dcrowe@yourchurch.com.

APPENDIX 1: HOW TO MAKE OBSERVATIONS

When reading Scripture on your own or in a group it's natural to quickly jump to ways we can apply the passage to our lives. While this is not a bad instinct, in doing so we often miss the author's main purpose of the text. We need to take time to **observe** what literary devices and emphasis the biblical author has used to communicate to his audience.

Below are some helpful tips to help you and your group make helpful observations that lead to correct interpretation and application.our thoughts and prayers.


1. **Read the passage out loud.** Often times when we read the Bible silently, we can miss things. The Scriptures were actually meant to be read out loud, and if we only read the it silently we can miss some of the emotion and emphasis in the text.
2. **Read the passage both quickly and slowly.** There is good reason to read large amounts of Scripture for a season but there is also a good reason to slow down and spend weeks or months in one book. A healthy diet of both types of reading will help to see the grand theme of the Scriptures and to allow truth to ruminate in your soul.
3. **Keep track of the words or ideas that are repeated.** If you're reading a short passage you may not see much repeated but when you study a whole book it's easier to see repetition and ideas that the author continues to address.
4. **Highlight transition words/phrases.** The biblical writers often help us track their thought process by using words and phrases like: for, therefore, but, because, in order that, so then, likewise, etc. Especially in the New Testament letters, we are able to track to main points, purposes, results, and reasons by following these literary devices.
5. **Pay attention to the verbs.** Pay attention to see if the author is describing a former way of life (past tense), a present commendation or rebuke (present tense), or what promises are awaiting fulfillment (future tense). Also, look to see if the verb is describing something (indicative) or commanding something (imperative).
6. **Be aware of assuming understanding in familiar texts.** When we have read a passage many times before we often fail to see the glorious truths and surprising ways in which God reveals Himself to His people. Careful reading, prayer, and meditation on the text will help fight against the temptations of familiarity.
7. **Pray for illumination.** We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds and hearts to understand and love the texts that we are studying.

APPENDIX 2: PRAYERS AND PRAISES

APPENDIX 3: ACTIONS, PROMISES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD



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