

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

STRANGER PEOPLE

A STUDY OF 1 PETER

STRANGERS IN EXILE
1 PETER 1:1 - 12

JANUARY 04, 2026

WELCOME

We're Glad You're Here!

We know visiting a church for the first time can feel intimidating. **Our goal** is to help you feel at home and **point you to Jesus**. Here's **what to expect** in our worship today:

We sing acappella (voices only), take the Lord's Supper, offer prayers, and listen to a message from the Bible. **You are welcome to participate** with us as much as you are comfortable.

After worship concludes, we offer **Bible classes for all ages**. You're welcome to stay and join whichever class fits you best.



Before the sermon, **children ages 2–7** are invited to a special time called **Wee Worship**, where they can enjoy Bible stories, songs, and age-appropriate activities in a safe, welcoming environment.

January 04: We Honor God
Lesson Text: Matthew 22:15-22

For those 8 years old and above, complete the **fill in blanks** in this handout and show the preacher or one of the elders for a special treat or TWO Bible Bucks to spend at Central Park.

ORDER OF SERVICE

JANUARY 04, 2026

Call to Worship	Shane Robinson
I Love You Lord	David Byerly
Hear O Israel	David Byerly
Prayer	Tim Nelsen
On Bended Knee	John Cox

Prepare For Communion

I Gave My Life For Thee	John Cox
Communion Prayers	Ross Jordan
Rejoice In The Lord Always	Aidan Smith
Children's Chat	Josh & Aidan
Scripture Reading - 1 Peter 1:3-12	Danny Smith
When We All Get To Heaven	Ross Jordan
Sermon	Shane Robinson
Just As I Am, I Come Broken	Ross Jordan
Shepherd's Moment	Bob Lee

GREETERS

James Dick, Leigh Ellen Griggs, Terry & Connie Shepherd

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Jane Cherry & Sylvia Sane

WEE WORSHIP

Patrick, Mendy, Madelyn, & Carter Goble

SERVE COMMUNION IN JANUARY

Mel Sane, Jeff Brown, Jim Brown, Greg Tilley, Tony Stanley,
Tyson Russell, Patrick Goble, Carter Goble

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:3-12, NKJV

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. 10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

STRANGERS IN EXILE

1 PETER 1:1 - 12

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS

To whom did Peter address his letter? (1:1)

What has God “begotten us again” to (1:3)?

We are begotten again “to an inheritance” described by what three phrases (1:4)?

Believers are grieved “for” how long (1:6)?

Believers are grieved “if” what (1:6)?

Whom have believers not seen, yet love (1:8)?

The “Spirit of Christ who was in them” testified beforehand of what two things (1:11)?

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

Why do you think Peter calls Christians “pilgrims” or “strangers”?

What does this passage teach us about hope during hard times?

How can remembering your inheritance in heaven help you when you feel sad or discouraged?

STRANGER PEOPLE

STRANGERS IN EXILE

1 PETER 1:1 - 12

UNDERSTANDING EXILE

TEMPORARY RESIDENTS, NOT CITIZENS.

- Peter writes to people who have a _____ relationship with God (1:1-2).
- These Christians experienced physical and social _____ as they wandered in the world (1:1, 6; 2:11).
- Jesus' victory over death provides reasons to _____ even in difficult situations (1:3-5).

REFRAMING EXILE

THROUGH LENS OF HOPE, NOT HARDSHIP.

- Peter does not deny their situation; he just looks at it through a _____ lens (1:3, 6, 11).
- Christians have a _____ secured at a place that will never be destroyed, polluted, or lose its beauty (1:4).
- Despite never personally meeting Jesus, we will receive the _____ of His salvation (1:7-9; 4:13; 5:1).

EMBRACING EXILE

BOTTOM LINE: LIVE FAITHFULLY
WHEREVER GOD PLACES YOU.

- **I live here but do not belong here.** Our goals, desires, and priorities are shaped by _____ homeland (1:4; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:13-14).
- **I will live faithfully wherever God places me.** Rather than escaping exile, Christians are called to live faithfully _____ it (1:6-7; Jer. 29:5-7; Dan. 1:8, 17).
- **My life is part of God's story.** The prophets longed to see and angels desire to understand what we _____ today (1:10-12; Ps. 22; Isa. 53).

THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME (LIFE APPLICATION STUDY BIBLE)

Peter used two terms for how we are to live in this present society: 1. We are resident aliens (1:1; 2:11). 2. We are tourists (1:17; 2:11).

Both terms emphasize separation of our goals and desires from those of our contemporaries in our culture (Phil. 3:20).

We should regard the pursuits of this world as foreign, belonging to someone else. We should be polite to those intrigued by possessions, achievements, and sinful pleasure, but say, "No thanks, I'm just passing through." We must not be so attached to this world that we are unprepared for Christ's return. We should not be so preoccupied with worldly gain that we neglect service for Christ.

LANIE JONES MEMORIAL

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 @ 3 PM

Lanie Jones passed away on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. She was a dear member of our church family and will be deeply missed. A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 3:00 pm at Central Church of Christ, with visitation beginning at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Central Church of Christ.

Assembly Times

AM Worship

Sundays @ 9:30 AM

Wed Night Meal

Wednesdays @ 5:45 PM

Sun Bible Classes

Immediately After Worship

Wed Bible Classes

Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM

Reoccurring Events

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesday @ 10:30 AM

Food & Clothing

Tues & Thurs 10 AM-12 PM
(Go to office area)

LIFE Groups

Various times & locations



515 N Tibbs Rd · Dalton, GA 30720

Call or text (706) 278-8051

ccocdalton.org · centralcoc@ccocdalton.org

facebook.com/centralcocdalton