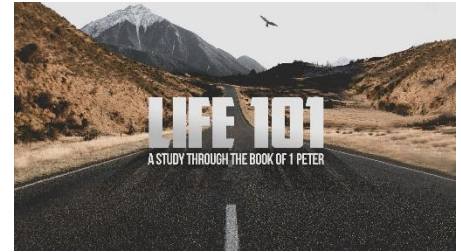


Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **LIFE 101**

Part 1

January 15, 2017



Connect (15min)

* What is 1 thing we don't know about you yet?

Check-In (10min)

PRAY FIRST Update

Share highlights from your *PRAY FIRST* (prayer & fasting) journey this past week.

* What has Jesus been teaching you? * How has He challenged, surprised or blessed you through it this week?

Sunday Message Feedback (35min)

* We begin a **NEW** message & discussion series called [LIFE 101-A Study Through the Book of 1 Peter](#).

This series will take us up to Easter (with a couple breaks in that time for stand-alone messages).

We encourage you to read/study/pray-through 1 Peter a number of times through this season and personally apply what Jesus teaches you through it.

1. If you could choose to spend a day with any of the 12 disciples who would you choose and why?

[Simon Peter, Andrew, James (the son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot or Judas Iscariot]

What would you want to know? What questions would you ask them?

2. Introduction to 1 Peter

In order to give your group a quick understanding of the book of 1 Peter use one of following options:

* **Watch** this animated Introduction to the Book of 1 Peter – [Read Scripture: 1 Peter](#) (8min)

(from [The Bible Project](#) on YouTube)

* **Read** the following overview of the book so they get the context it was being written in.

OVERVIEW of 1 Peter

1 Peter was written by the Apostle Peter and was written to a group of Christians scattered throughout northern areas of Asia minor where Peter probably had preached the Gospel. His readers would have included both Jews and Gentiles. However, he addresses them as “*Gods chosen people*” (1:1) indicating he was speaking to Christians who would have been living their lives standing out as different from the culture they lived in. Peter wrote to a church that was being persecuted under the reign of the evil Roman Emperor Nero and encouraged them to endure to the end.

1 Peter has a clear focus on how to live for Jesus in the face of suffering and persecution. He had personally walked with Jesus for just over three years and learned from Jesus Himself on how to live a holy life in an unholy world. Thus, Peter points his readers to Jesus as our perfect example on how to live with hope.

The message of 1 Peter can be summed up in 1 Peter 3:14-18 where it says:

¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. ¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.-Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. ¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! ¹⁸ Christ suffered*for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.*

Peter helps his readers make Jesus their focal point for ordering and living their lives in the midst of suffering and struggles. By rooting their perseverance in the person and work of Jesus – Christ followers get a clear view of their hope in the midst of suffering.

Therefore, 1 Peter is a book full of Life Lessons for Christ followers to learn and apply in their lives in order to overcome the struggles that we all will face. It is a call to endure through the trials that come our way by walking in holiness, hope and faith recognizing that they are temporary because this world is not our home.

3. What impacted you from Sunday's message by Pastor Shawn?

: What challenged or encouraged you, and why? : What can you apply to your faith & life this week? How?

4. Transformed Life - Shawn quickly walked through the time Peter spent following Jesus showing how his life was transformed during that period. When you look at your life over the time you have been following Jesus what is one thing He has done in your life that has made you more like Him? Share.

5. Read [1 Peter 3:14-18](#)

How do you tend to deal with struggle and hardship in your life?

Who or What do you tend to run to or lean on to help you...? Discuss.

6. When we say the word "HOPE" – what comes to your mind? How would you define the word "HOPE?"

7. The book of 1 Peter is a book about Hope! Peter writes it during a great time of persecution and struggle and gives us principles and truths on how to survive the storms of life. The Christian life is a call to be a messenger of hope. Following Peter's example, what guidance do the following Scriptures give to continue bringing people the message of hope? Read and discuss.

a. [Romans 8:18](#)

b. [Isaiah 40:30-31](#)

c. [Psalm 31:23-24](#)

Application (10min)

1. **Embrace Change** - As we start a brand new year there's an opportunity to refocus, recalibrate, and proactively think about what we want to strive for moving forward. As you read the following verses, take 5min to think about what (if any) changes you'd like to make in 2017. Write them down...

>> *During Prayer* - Share what the Lord shows you with your group and use it as a point of prayer.

Renovate - [Ephesians 4:22-24](#)

Refocus - [Philippians 3:13-14](#)

Represent - [Colossians 3:15, 17](#)

2. **Read through the book of 1 Peter** in one sitting (its only 5 chapters). Then read one chapter for five days familiarizing yourself with the book as we walk through it over the next few months.

Prayer (10-15min)

* **Break into groups of 3-4 or Men & Women.**

Share your response from the *Embrace Change* application question.

* **Give Thanks & PRAY** for the person on your left.

Resources

***Scripture:** [1 Peter](#) (BibleGateway.com)

***Commentary:** [Commentary – 1 Peter](#) (www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries)

***Animated Introduction to the Book of 1 Peter** – [Read Scripture: 1 Peter](#) (8min)

(from [The Bible Project](#) on YouTube)

Announcements

ALPHA Course. **Thursdays.** January 19-March 30. 7pm-8:30pm. Main Street Chapel.

www.mainstreetchurch.ca/alpha www.alphacanada.org

PRAYER SUMMIT

Sun. January 26. 6pm-7:30pm. Main Street Auditorium.

PARTNERSHIP CLASS

Sun. February 19. 6pm-8pm. Main Street Chapel. Register online: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/partnership

BAPTISM Celebration

Sun. March 5. 6pm. Main Street Auditorium. Info & Application: www.mainstreetchurch.ca/baptism