

A Message for Our Times

An Introduction to 1st Peter

Our Author Peter

- An Apostle and eyewitness
- A fellow elder and believer, living in hope

His Audience: Sojourners and Exiles

- The people of God living outside their native land
- Called to remain as pilgrims and foreigners

The Main Themes

- Faith: Being established in believing
- Obedience: Being directed in doing
- Hope: Being strengthened in suffering

Peter's Purpose in Writing

- This is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

For Life Group Discussion

An Introduction to 1st Peter

1. Do you feel unsettled about the rapid decline of Christian influence in our culture, and the increasing hostility toward Christians? Why or why not? Can the Gospel speak into this situation? How?
2. What do you already know about Peter? About his background, qualifications, and experience? Do any of those things incentivize you to listen carefully when he speaks? Explain.
3. The original readers of this letter were characterized as God's chosen people, exiles, sojourners, those called out of darkness but remaining in a pagan land. Do you relate to any of those things?
4. Read 1st Peter 1:3-5. How important is "right believing" to Peter, and in what way does it serve as the foundation for everything else? Can you find other examples in this letter?
5. Read 1st Peter 1:13-17. How many commands can you identify? How many other commands can you find in this letter? Is the order of believing then obeying important? How?
6. Read 1st Peter 4:12-14. What are some of the assumptions in that passage regarding suffering? How is hope applied to that experience? In what ways is hope intended to contribute to faithful endurance?