

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Beloved Pilgrims

A STUDY THROUGH 1 PETER

DIGGING DEEPER



Schedule

October 9 Week 1 | Peter 1:1-12

October 16..... Week 2 | Peter 1:13-2:3

October 23..... Week 3 | Peter 2:4-12

October 30..... Week 4 | Peter 2:13-3:7

November 6..... Week 5 | Peter 3:8-22

November 13..... Week 6 | Peter 4:1-19

November 20..... Week 7 | Peter 5:1-14



Dear sweet friend,

I am SO excited to grow through 1 Peter with you! First Peter is one of my favorite books of the Bible. (Do I say that every time?) This book impacts our whole life, from salvation, to holiness, to heaven! God, through Peter, takes the concept of heaven and makes it a reality to live for and give us hope. We have so much to look forward to! Peter warns us of our lion-like enemy, and encourages us to stay near to Jesus so that our lives will reflect Him. He reminds us that we are only sojourners passing through this life, and that we have an inheritance waiting for us that is much more real and glorious than anything we could ever experience in this life. God exhorts us to rest our hope fully in Him because He alone can fill us with joy inexpressible. God created us, redeemed us, called us, and breathed upon us, so that we can live for Him with all that we are in Him. Let's give our diligence to the study of this book so that we can be filled with all God has for us in this season and beyond!

Love,

Christy

Digging Deeper

Going deeper, in this case, will mean taking a closer look at a couple of themes in each lesson. You may want to do that first, and then answer the questions for the groups as a whole. Perhaps something in the themes will capture your interest and take you even further in search of information. Feel free to use paper or online concordances, Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and of course related scriptures that we don't have room to include.

This exercise is meant to help each segment of I Peter come alive in new ways for you. Know that you are being prayed for, even as the lessons are written. The Lord knows the cry of each of our hearts and minds, which sometimes we don't even know. Step into the mind of God as he speaks his thoughts to you in His word.



INDUCTIVE STUDY HELP

This year our homework format will be similar to what we did through the study of Mark and Deuteronomy. My heart in going through First Peter in this more inductive manner is that we would grow together in an ability to simply sit down, read the word of God, understand what He is saying, and then walk it out in the power of the Holy Spirit. I know that this type may be a challenge to some, so I wanted to give you some tools that may be helpful to you as we begin our journey through First Peter together! Listed below is just a few different ways to study a passage. I find these helpful as I prepare a Bible study, so I hope that as we dig into these chapters together that you will find them helpful too!

Let's read this through, pray this in, and walk it out together as journey together through the book of First Peter. Make it your life's goal "that in all things God may be glorified." | Peter 4:11

Love, Christy

Saturation | Investigation | Explanation | Application

Saturation:

1. Read the passage through several times
2. Read before and after passage to keep context
3. Write down any thoughts or questions you may have

Investigation:

1. Who is speaking, who is the author?
2. To whom is he speaking?



3. What is the reason or purpose for writing?
4. What is the background?
5. List facts.
6. Identify any contrasts.
7. Are there any repeated words or phrases?
8. Identify any metaphors or analogies.
9. List key words or phrases. Look them up in a dictionary, or even on Google.
10. Ask who, what, where, why, when, and how.
11. Is there a list of anything? (i.e. Galatians 5- Fruit of the Spirit)
12. Is there a description given?
13. Is there a quotation used? If so, where is it taken from and what is it referring to?
14. Is there a progression or digression?
15. What does this passage tell me about God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit?
16. Identify the main point of the passage.
17. What does the author want to communicate?

Meditation:

1. Think on the passage.
2. Pray about the passage.
3. Keep place for notes as you think about it. (phone, iPad, sticky notes, etc.)

Application:

1. Is there a command to obey?
2. Is there a promise to claim?
3. Is there a warning to heed?
4. Is there an example to follow or avoid?
5. What does this passage mean to me?
6. Is there an action or attitude I need to change or take? (Do I need to forgive someone, etc.)
7. What lessons or applications can be drawn from this passage?



GREAT TOOLS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org

www.biblegateway.com

Logos Software

Be Hopeful by: Warren Wiersbe

Halley's Bible Handbook by: Henry Halley

Jon Courson's Application Bible Commentary



Week 1 // 1 Peter 1:1-12
"More Precious Than Gold"

Dear sweet friend,

The first chapter declares our faith as being more valuable than gold.

Peter's comparing it in value. The trials in all of our lives will become valuable because through the trials our faith will be tested and become greater, more pure, more precious. Hebrews describes the way our faith works - it's powerful since it has substance and that we can experience.

Peter is writing to God's elect, strangers in the world and scattered abroad.

Don't you know they needed to be encouraged by this letter telling them of their living hope through the resurrection of Jesus and their inheritance that can never perish. Our faith becomes precious as it's tested by trials.

Has the trial of your faith become precious to you yet? If not, it will if you keep your eyes on Jesus.

Love,

Carolyn Haynes



Week 1 // 1 Peter 1:1-12

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin.
Then read this week's verses twice in two different translations if possible.

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4. What verse in this section is one you would really 'chew' on and meditate upon? Take each word and think in depth what each word means so that you get the full impact of the verse. Write it out and then go back over each word.

5. What do you notice about God in this chapter, and from which verses?
(i.e., about His character, His attributes, His ways)

6. What do you notice about life from this chapter, and from which verses? (i.e., its tendencies, progressions, temptations, outcomes)

7. What application do you think the Holy Spirit desires to bring into your life from this chapter? Take a few minutes to pray this in.

8. Are there any questions you have about this chapter or any verses in it? Pray over them, asking God to show you answers. Feel free also to ask your group leader during group time.

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Website Suggestions:

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- Bible hub
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- Blue Letter Bible

Digging Deeper

1 Peter 1:1-12 has several important themes. To dig deeper into this passage, let's focus on just two: sanctification and suffering.

SANCTIFICATION:

Sanctification has always been part of God's work in His people. Consider the following as you ponder what "sanctification of the Spirit" in 1 Peter 2 means or what questions it raises. (Be sure to read each verse in its broader context).

Exodus 31:13

Isaiah 29:23

John 17:17, 19

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Hebrews 2:10-12, 9:13, 13:12

Q. In light of what you learn in these verses, what do you understand 'sanctification' to mean? How does Peter use it in 1:2?

SUFFERING:

So often, Christians are bewildered by suffering, thinking that in Christ we should be exempt from it. Intellectually, we know that suffering can and does happen to Christians. But it can be difficult to trust that it has purpose and that God can bring good from it.

Q. How do these passages prepare us to value suffering when it's happening?

1 Peter 1:6-7

Romans 8:18-29

2Tim 1:8-13

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Hebrews 12:10



Week 2 // 1 Peter 1:13-2:3
"Gird Up Your Mind"

Dear sweet friend,

During the time Peter wrote this, he and the other men, wore long robes. When they were ready to work they would pull it up to make it shorter, and tie it around their waist so it wouldn't get in their way of working. This is what Peter is telling us we need to do with our mind. Get rid of anything that hinders us getting closer to the Lord.

Before we were Christians, our focus was on what gave us pleasure, on what we wanted to do. Now our focus should be on what the Lord wants us to do. "Be ye holy; for I am holy" 1 Peter 1:16. This is only possible by keeping our eyes on the Lord and spending time with Him. "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:1-2

Love,
Pat Apple



Week 2 // 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

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Digging Deeper

This week, we will focus on Peter's admonition to holiness in 1 Peter 1:15: "... as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" (See also Leviticus 11:44-45). Our faith and hope are in a holy God who wants us to live a life conformed to His image (Genesis 1:26, Ephesians 4:24).

Where do we start? The Bible is replete with comments and teaching about holiness. In creation, God made the 7th day holy (Genesis 2:3); the garments made for Aaron, the high priest, were holy (Exodus 28:2, 29); Aaron's crown was holy as was the place in which he ministered. Everything that was associated with a holy God was "holy." In the gospels, Jesus is called "the holy one of God" even by the demons (Mark 1:24), and John the Baptist is called a "righteous and holy man" (Mark 6:20), suggesting those two terms don't mean the same thing. In Luke, Jesus' mother Mary is told that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and she will bear a holy child (Luke 1:35). Believers are filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:38). And the scriptures are holy (Romans 1:2).

The Holman Bible Dictionary says the term 'holy' has primarily to do with God's separating from the world that which He chooses to devote to Himself. Address that idea as you read the following scriptures. How do they instruct you in understanding holiness? What questions do they raise? Remember to read in context with the broader section.

Psalm 93:5

Isaiah 35:8

Luke 1:75

I Thessalonians 3:11-13; 4:7

Romans 7:12, 11:16; 12:1

I Corinthians 3:17

Ephesians 1:4

As another consideration in this lesson, focus on the subordinate clause that introduces verse 1:22 – “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...”

Q. Who does the action of ‘purifying’ here? How?

Q. How is obedience related to holiness? List 3 ways in which you have experienced holiness as you have been obedient to Jesus rather than to your ignorant former passions (1 Peter 1:14).



Week 3 // 1 Peter 2:4-12
"Living Stones"

Dear sweet friend,

Have you ever wondered a living stone is? When the Israelites came into the Promised Land, God commanded them to build altars of stones to signify His faithfulness. They were a testimony for those who entered and a reminder to His people that He had done what He had promised. Now WE are living, walking, breathing stones of testimony that our God is faithful! He builds us who love Him into His living house, with Christ as the Cornerstone and us as living altars. We are the reminder, to ourselves and to the world, that our God cares for His people and is worthy of honor. So as you read this section, remember that we are each a precious testimony to the world of who our God is!

Love,
Lyndi Ruzicka



Week 3 // I Peter 2:4-12

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin.
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Digging Deeper

In last week's lesson, Peter told us to lay aside all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and evil speaking, and as newborn babes, to desire the pure milk of the word. In lesson 3 we go from growing up into holiness to fulfilling one of its purposes, our becoming the temple of God (1 Peter 2:5).

Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-16 and comment on how you are doing at being God's "holy" temple.

Digging deeper, let's look at what the author of Hebrews tells us in chapter 7 about the ancient temple wherein Jews were under the covenant of Law and in chapter 8 where he describes the role of Jesus as high priest of the better covenant. Take the time to read both chapters (actually begin in 6:19 and read through chapter 8).

In Hebrews 7:1-2 we see a foreshadowing of the High Priest we have in Jesus (note Hebrews 6:19-20). Describe that individual and what about him was like Christ.

From Hebrews 7:11-28: Why was there a need for a new priesthood in Christ?
Why is He our “better hope?”

From Hebrews 8:1-13, what are the benefits of the new covenant in Christ and our new high priest, Jesus?

In Christ, we are the temple of the living God. Jesus says in John 14:10, “I am in the Father and the Father is in me.” What does He add in John 14:20, 21 and 23?

We are not in the temple alone!

Read Ephesians 1:3-14. List the ways we are blessed in the new Covenant, with Christ as our High priest.

Q. How many times is the phrase "in Him," or "in Christ," or "in the beloved," etc. used?



Week 4 // 1 Peter 2:13-3:7
"Places Everyone!"

Dear sweet friend,

Peter said that we are to trust God in the trials of our faith, looking to the example of His Son, who endured to the end in the midst of suffering. That is how Peter leads up to this week's passage about trusting and finding favor with our Shepherd as we submit to human ordinances, whether harsh or gentle, so that our good works will glorify God as well as silence the ignorance of the foolish. This also is the context of chapter 3's admonition for wives to be submissive to their own husbands "so that if any do not obey the Word, they may be won without a word" as they observe our chaste, respectful behavior, the incorruptible quality of a meek, gentle, quiet spirit, which is of great value, precious in God's sight. Precious to You, WOW! Love that thought, Father:

Grace, peace, and love,

Gale Futterman



Week 4 // I Peter 2:13-3:7

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin.
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Digging Deeper

As a people being “built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood,” an honored people for God’s own possession (chapter 2), Peter wants us to understand that we must live an orderly and respectful life before the world.

Q. How do you see order being lived out in the world today? Order in the home? Order in the streets? Order among those who have rejected the cornerstone of God’s temple and often us?

Submission: the word we love to hate! Yet it is critical for life in the body of Christ. Read the passage in 1 Peter 2:13-3:7. To what or whom do you have trouble submitting?

Submission to human authority represented by government is the foundation of Peter's remarks in 1 Peter 2:13-3:7. In Romans 13:1, Paul says, "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."

Q. Why do you think Peter starts his discussion of submission with it being to the governing authorities?

"Doing good": Peter says in v. 2:15 that the will of God is that we submit, and that "by doing good" we may "put to silence the ignorance of foolish people." Paul tells us that we have been "created for good works" (see Ephesians 2:10). To what good works have you been created? Do you think good works are related to spiritual gifts? Is submission "doing good"?

We are indeed called to do good, but sometimes our efforts go amiss (see I Peter 2:20-23). What are we to do in those times? Give an example – right or wrong – from your own life, and how it worked out.

Q. Ask God what you can do in the world today that is good. Be still before Him and listen. What comes to mind?

Q. To whom are you in the role of a “servant” in your life? Sometimes even the good and gentle can be harsh, unjust, even cruel. How can you “do good” to them when they are unkind?

Read I Peter 3:1-7.

Using what you gleaned above, how would you begin to “do good” in submitting as a wife to your husband, especially if he is unsaved? How does Titus 2:3-5 inform “good works” in the home? Does it require being married? List some practical actions you can take as a woman submitted to Christ in the world and at home.

Read Matthew 11:29.

Q. How can you employ this offer as you live out submission and doing good?



Week 5 // 1 Peter 3:8-22

"So Great a Salvation"

Dear sweet friend,

Do you enjoy eye contact and the full attention of a friend? Do you long to be heard and really known by someone? Here in 1 Peter, we learn that we can be heard by the King of kings—to have the eyes of Jesus directly and attentively on us! 1 Peter 3:11 says that to attain sweet quality time with Jesus we must “turn from evil and do good: seek peace and pursue it.” So first, we swerve out of the way of evil. Next, do all the good we can do, in any and every way. Lastly, we search for and follow after peace, like a hidden treasure! The promise for living righteously is this: “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer!” We’ve got this, ladies—let’s choose righteousness and let the Lord shower us with His Presence all this week!

Love,
Missy



Week 5 // I Peter 3:8-22

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin.
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Digging Deeper

In the body of Christ, we are called to bless one another. Here's how Peter wants us to do that: be "of one mind," "tender hearted," and "courteous" to our fellow believers. Jesus was of one mind with His Father; he was tender hearted toward all, and courteous to sinners (that would be everyone). Don't write an answer, just think about it: among the Christians you know, how many consistently model this behavior? Do you? If not, where do you fall short? This is an important way in which we are to bless one another in the body.

Compare each verse in 1 Peter 3:8-12 (below) to what you see in Ephesians 4:11-31. Really dig into both passages, letting God instruct you in body life. Notice how Peter contrasts good and evil. What contrasts does Paul make in the Ephesians 4 passage?

3:8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, and a humble mind.

3:9 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.

3:10 For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit;

3:11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.

3:12 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."

Read Philippians 2:1-10. What does it add to your findings above? What attribute stands out (hint – it is specifically mentioned 2 times).

Our behavior in the body of Christ is of paramount importance, according to Peter in 3:12. Describe how damage could be done to us personally and to our church were we not to live according to Peter's admonition in 3:8-10.



Week 6 // I Peter 4:1-19

"Living Like Jesus"

Dear sweet friend,

Suffering...this is not a word we like to hear if it concerns us, we will do anything to avoid pain, but tough times are coming. "Therefore arm yourselves with the same mind", Peter wrote. Jesus suffered and we, too, must be prepared to suffer for His name's sake. It's time for us Christians to stop living for self and become serious about living for God! We can commit ourselves to God, trusting Him to lead us to do what is right in good times and bad times, through sunny or dark days, through peaks and valleys. Peter's words of encouragement to us are, "So if you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right, and trust yourself to the God who made you, for He will never fail you!" I Peter 4:19 (NLT)

Love,

Sue Martin



Week 6 // I Peter 4:1-19

Spend a few minutes in prayer before you begin.
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Digging Deeper

Peter opened his letter pointing to a “living hope,” an inheritance “reserved in heaven” for us who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in “the last time” (1 Peter 1:3-5). In 1 Peter 1:20 Peter speaks of Jesus being foreordained to provide the atonement for our sin and our salvation “in these last times.” And here in 4:7 he warns, “The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers” (ESV), and in the NKJV, “therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.”

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:29 NKJV that the “time is short”; the ESV specifies, “the appointed time is short.” In 1 Corinthians 10:11 Paul advises that warnings about sin in scripture are for admonition to those “upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

So let’s agree, we probably qualify at least as candidates for living in the last times. That in mind, let’s ponder some of Jesus’ warnings about his return. Take the time to read Matthew 24-25. Jesus is sitting on the Mount of Olives speaking privately to his disciples (Matthew 1:3). Underline what God touches to your heart or mind as you read, and answer the following questions:

Q. Why do you think Jesus addressed his (probably male) disciples with a parable about himself as a bridegroom, and them (probably) as wise and foolish virgins?

Q. How does Jesus speak to you, a woman, as a bridegroom? See Revelation 19:6-8. In prayer, ask the Lord to help you make yourself ready. What comes to mind as you do that?

Q. Is your response to the readings excitement or fear? What concerns does the reading pose for you? Do you fit better into the group of wise or of foolish virgins? If the latter, how can you be getting ready for your precious bridegroom?

Q. In 1 Peter 4:7 (noted above), what does the admonition about prayer mean to you given both possibilities? This is a serious and sober-minded subject. Write down how 1 Peter 1:13 comforts and encourages us. What does Romans 8:1-11 instruct as we live out at least our own 'last days' in the little blip of time in which our lives take place?



Week 7 // 1 Peter 5:1-14

"The Crown of Glory"

Dear sweet friend,

Whether it is in athletics, academics, at work, or even in our own homes, we are surrounded by competition. It is tempting to want position and recognition. As Christians we are called to resist that temptation. In this chapter Peter turns our attention to the inner-workings of the church, calling us to love and humility. Peter leads by example as he begins by referring to himself simply as "a fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed". Peter, the one to whom Jesus said, "on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18) did not consider himself above anyone else. Lord, give us strength to follow that example so people would see how different your church is from the world, and your name would be praised!

Love,

Laura Thomas



Week 7 // 1 Peter 5:1-14

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3. Ask God in prayer which verse He would like you to memorize from this section. Write it out below and commit it to memory. It would also be a good idea to write it out on an index card to carry with you throughout the week.

4. What verse in this section is one you would really 'chew' on and meditate upon? Take each word and think in depth what each word means so that you get the full impact of the verse. Write it out and then go back over each word.

5. What do you notice about God in this chapter, and from which verses?
(i.e., about His character, His attributes, His ways)

6. What do you notice about life from this chapter, and from which verses? (i.e., its tendencies, progressions, temptations, outcomes)

7. What application do you think the Holy Spirit desires to bring into your life from this chapter? Take a few minutes to pray this in.

8. Are there any questions you have about this chapter or any verses in it? Pray over them, asking God to show you answers. Feel free also to ask your group leader during group time.

Other resources you consulted:

Commentary Suggestions:

- Warren Wiersbe's 'Be Hopeful' commentary on I Peter
- Halley's Bible Handbook
- Jon Courson application Bible commentary

Website Suggestions:

- Precept Austin
- Bible hub
- Bible Gateway
- Blue Letter Bible

Digging Deeper

Peter begins 5:7 with "Therefore" in the NKJV. Other versions might say, "so" or "thus." The point is, Peter is referring back to what he just wrote.

Q. What is he pointing to?

Peter continues in 1:5:7 -- "Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, casting all your anxieties on him (or all your care), because he cares for you." Humility has been a significant theme in Peter's letter.

Q. How is it important in verse 7?

Do you think it is possible that our cares and anxieties can produce the opposite of "humility," that only as we cast them on Him are we able to be humble?

Q. What are some words that are the opposite of humility? (You can look up antonyms online.)

Q. Which of them can be caused by anxieties and cares (worries and fears)?

Consider the following two psalms:

(1) Psalm 55:22

Q. What besides our casting our burdens on God is the implied condition for God's care in this psalm? See also Romans 10:4 and I Corinthians 1:30.

(2) Psalm 37:5

Q. What besides committing our way to Him is required for God to take care of our "issues"?

The Old Testament speaks abundantly of trusting God. See the following examples:

Proverbs 3:5

Psalm 33:21, 62:8

Isaiah 26:4

Q. How many verses on trusting God can you find in the New Testament (use a concordance)? How do you think the New Testament as a whole speaks to us of trusting God?

What are Peter's last words to you in this letter?

