



1st Peter

Bible Study Guide

First Bilingual Baptist Church

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INTRODUCTION

Whenever people are happy or upset, their tone of voice naturally changes to reflect how they feel. In writing, however, it is not as easy to detect how someone feels unless they make some adjustments. For example...

- they might use descriptive words
- they might repeat themselves
- they might be intentional about the order they say things
- they might use details, examples, or illustrations
- they might leave out information
- they might use figures of speech

The same is true for the writers of the Bible. It is possible to detect a writer's tone or emotion by paying attention to the adjustments they make. Every word of Scripture is important because it reveals God's message and heart.

Below is a list of words that describe various tones a person can use when he writes:

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|----------|---------------|
| happy | sad | angry | afraid |
| upset | encouraging | warning | comforting |
| correcting | compassionate | harsh | loving |
| kind | gentle | cheerful | authoritative |
| fatherly | condescending | patient | sympathetic |

Other: _____

Before beginning this Study Packet, read all of First Peter in one sitting (approx. 10-20 min). Reading aloud may be helpful. When you have finished reading, circle any words from the list above that describe the writer's tone. Use the blank line to add any words of your own.

As you work through each week's study guide, it may be helpful to return to this section in order to think about the various tones an author can use in each section.

To get the most out of your personal Bible study time:

- Always begin each section with prayer
- Read the "Summary of the Passage" before studying the "Bible Study Passage"
- Keep a pencil handy to write down any thoughts in your notebook or Bible
- Spend two minutes each day reviewing the weekly "Memory Verse"
- Work on the "Study Questions" a little each day before looking at the answers
- Share your answers to the "Discussion Questions" with someone
- Seek out opportunities to encourage others in their study

As you grow in your understanding and obedience to God's Word, look for the fruit that God will produce in and through your life.

WEEK 1

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

At the time of this letter, many Christians in the Roman Empire are experiencing persecution. After greeting the believers, Peter immediately begins to praise God. Those who have been born again can be certain about their future in heaven, and they can be joyful in the present trials. One day, they will see Jesus face-to-face. This salvation is the truth which all the past prophecies had been pointing to.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 1:1-12

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 1:3 (HCSB) – Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers *on page 31*)

1. What words does Peter use to describe the people he is writing to (1:1-2)?
2. What part does each member of the Trinity play in salvation (1:2)?
3. What are two things that make it possible for us to be born again (1:3)?
4. What is it that protects us in our salvation (1:5)?
5. What does Peter say is more valuable than gold (1:7)?
6. What will be the result of our genuine faith (1:7)?
7. Even though we have not seen Him, how do we respond to Jesus (1:8)?
8. What did the Old Testament writers know and predict about the Messiah (1:10-11)?

WEEK 2

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

After praising God for the salvation of His people, Peter commands believers to have their lifestyle match their calling as a Christian. He teaches believers (1) to have a fixed hope on heaven, (2) to live a life that reflects God's holiness, (3) to walk in the fear of the Lord, (4) to love one another from a pure heart, and (5) to have a hunger for God's Word.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 1:13–2:3

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 1:18–19 (HCSB) – For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 31)

1. What does Peter call his hearers to act like (1:14)?
2. What does it mean to be holy? Why should believers live holy lives (1:15–16)?
3. What type of attitude should believers have toward God their Father (1:17)?
4. What does it mean to redeem or ransom something (1:18)?
5. What is it that has redeemed believers (1:18–19)?
6. Since believers have been purified, what does Peter instruct them to do (1:22)?
7. What is the seed that has made Christians be born again (1:23)?
8. What kind of relationship does Peter tell believers to have with God's Word (2:1–3)?

WEEK 3

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Peter uses the analogy of a temple to describe God's people. Jesus Christ is like a stone that builders rejected, but God planned for Him to be the most important stone in the foundation. Christians are like "living stones" that build the rest of the church, but they have also been chosen to be priests who praise and announce the glory and mercy of God.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 2:4-10

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 2:9 (HCSB) – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 32)

1. During Jesus' time on earth, who were the ones who rejected Him (2:4)?
2. What metaphor does Peter use to describe Christians (2:5)?
3. What are the "spiritual sacrifices" that believers are supposed to give to God (2:5)?
4. Peter describes Jesus as the cornerstone. What is the cornerstone of a building (2:6-7)?
5. What does it mean for someone to "stumble" over Jesus (2:7-8)?
6. What four titles (or descriptions) does Peter give to believers in 2:9?
7. According to Peter, for what purpose did God choose people (2:9)?
8. How does Peter describe believers before coming to salvation in Christ (2:10)?

WEEK 4

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Since God has mercifully saved Christians, this world is not their true home. They are foreigners whose true identity, real home, and living Father are holy. Because of this, Christians must fight against the sin that remains inside them and the sin that is in the world. Even if it means enduring persecution, believers must stand out in a wicked world so that God is glorified. One of the ways that Christians can show their difference in the world is by submitting themselves to the government that God has allowed to be in power.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 2:11-17

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 2:11, 16 (HCSB) – Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and temporary residents to abstain from fleshly desires that war against you... As God’s slaves, live as free people, but don’t use your freedom as a way to conceal evil.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 33)

1. What does Peter say to stay away from (2:11)?
2. Why does Peter say Christians should live honorable lives (2:12)?
3. What is the “day of visitation” (2:12)?
4. To whom does Peter say believers must submit (2:13-14)?
5. What tasks has God given to human governments (2:14)?
6. What reason does Peter give for doing what is good (2:15)?
7. What titles (or names) does Peter give to Christians in this section (2:11, 17)?
8. How does Peter say that Christians should treat the king/emperor (2:13, 17)?

WEEK 5

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Christian slaves must submit to their masters—even those who are cruel, harsh, or unreasonable. God is pleased when His children trust Him by enduring when they suffer for doing the right thing. The greatest example of patience while being mistreated is Jesus Christ. Even though He was insulted and beaten, He never retaliated; He had perfect trust in the Father. He died on the cross to defeat sin and to give Christians the power to please God.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 2:18–25

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 2:22–23 (HCSB) – He did not commit sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth; when He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He was suffering, He did not threaten but entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 33)

1. What kind of attitude should a master have in order for a slave to obey (2:18)?
2. What does Peter say pleases God (2:19–20)?
3. What example does Peter give of endurance through suffering (2:21)?
4. What did Jesus *not* do when He suffered (2:22–23)?
5. What attitude or belief did Jesus have while He was suffering (2:23)?
6. What reasons does Peter give for Jesus dying on the cross (2:24)?
7. What does Peter say Christians were like before salvation (2:25)?
8. What titles (or names) does Peter use for God the Father (2:25)?

WEEK 6

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Just as Christian individuals glorify God by honoring government and masters, Christian couples glorify God by honoring one another. A wife who demonstrates submission, purity, gentleness, and courage is a beautiful treasure to God, and her life can be used to bring a rebellious husband to repentance. If a husband doesn't show compassion, understanding, and honor to his wife, his prayers will be hindered.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 3:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 3:1, 7 (HCSB) – In the same way, wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, even if some disobey the Christian message, they may be won over without a message by the way their wives live... Husbands, in the same way, live with your wives with an understanding of their weaker nature yet showing them honor as coheirs of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 34)

1. Why does Peter use the phrase "likewise" / "in the same way" (3:1, 7)?
2. What reason does Peter give a wife to submit to her husband (3:1)?
3. What character traits demonstrate a wife's true beauty (3:2-4)?
4. How does God view a wife who demonstrates true beauty (3:4)?
5. What attitudes/beliefs accompany a wife who submits to her husband (3:5-6)?
6. When talking to husbands, how does Peter describe wives (3:7)?
7. What reason does Peter give a husband to love and honor his wife (3:7)?

WEEK 7

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Peter has been describing the distinct identity and behavior that Christians have in this world. After some specific examples, he addresses the entire church again, telling them to be united and loving. When they are mistreated, they are to respond with blessing. By doing these things, they will receive a blessing from God, since He is against the evil but favorable to the righteous.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 3:8-12

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 3:8-9 (ESV) – Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 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.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 35)

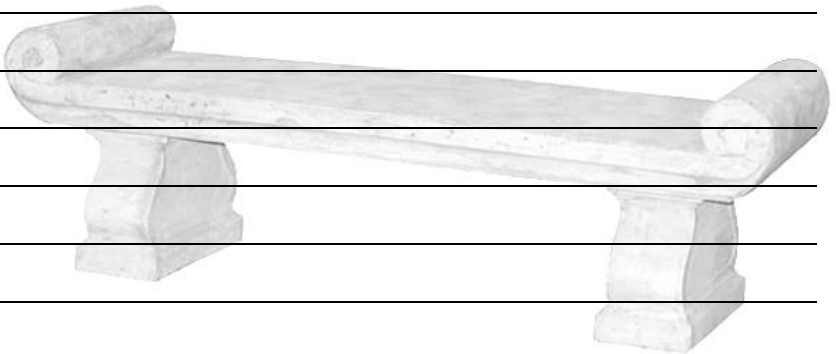
1. What characteristics does Peter say all Christians should have (3:8)?
2. How should Christians respond to being mistreated (3:9)?
3. Why should Christians respond righteously when they are mistreated (3:9)?
4. What is it that Peter knows his readers want (3:10)?
5. What psalm does Peter quote in this section (3:10-12)?
6. According to the psalm, what must someone do to receive God's blessing (3:10-11)?
7. How does the Lord respond to those who do righteousness (3:12)?
8. How does the Lord respond to those who do evil (3:12)?

CHECKPOINT

You are now past the halfway point of 1 Peter. Take some time to pause and reflect on the fruit God has produced in you and through you.

In what ways has your understanding of 1 Peter influenced your prayer life? What are some specific things you can pray for?

In what ways are you currently suffering for the sake of Christ? How are you responding to that suffering?



*In what ways has your understanding of 1 Peter influenced your worship?
Are there any songs that have been an encouragement to you?*

*What is one of your favorite verses that you have covered so far in 1 Peter?
Describe how it has helped you grow closer to Christ.*

*Before continuing, reread 1 Peter in one sitting. It will help remind you
about the big picture and let you review everything that has been covered
so far.*

WEEK 8

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Peter continues on the subject of suffering as a Christian, and he gives some specific ways that Christians should respond. First, he reassures his readers that they shouldn't be afraid; God is in control, and He will bless them. Believers also should live with hope and be prepared to respond to anybody who asks them about it. Their answer, however, should be respectful, and their lifestyle should remain pure so that nobody can legitimately slander them. Lastly, suffering Christians must remember the example of Christ, who suffered for their sins, rose from the grave, and is now sitting and ruling at God's right hand.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 3:13–22

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 3:15–16 (ESV) — 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.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 35)

1. What answer does Peter expect to his opening question (3:13)?
2. Even if Christians suffer for doing good, what should they expect from God (3:14)?
3. Instead of being afraid, what should Christians do when they suffer (3:14–15)?
4. When people see us suffer, what might they ask about (3:15)?
5. How should we answer people who ask us about our faith (3:15–16)?
6. What does Peter say about the sufferings of Jesus (3:18)?
7. How is the story of Noah's ark similar to the salvation of a believer (3:18)?
8. What happened to Jesus after He suffered (3:21–22)?

WEEK 9

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Since Christians live in this world as strangers, they must think like Christ and be prepared to suffer. When believers suffer bodily for their faith, they are strengthened against the power of sin. They are to live in obedience to God, rather than in their old, sinful way of life. Even though non-believers might pressure them toward sin, Christians need to recognize that those who rebel against Christ will one day receive judgment. On the other hand, anybody who has received Christ, even if they die in this life, will receive eternal life.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 4:1-6

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 4:1 (ESV) – Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 36)

1. What should believers have in common with Christ (4:1)?
2. What does Peter say about someone who has suffered bodily (4:1)?
3. What is the goal/purpose of a Christian's life (4:2)?
4. How does Peter describe the life of unbelievers (4:3)?
5. How do the unconverted people respond to the transformation of believers (4:4)?
6. How will unbelievers respond to God one day (4:5)?
7. How does Peter describe God in this section (4:5)?
8. What happens to someone who dies after receiving the gospel (4:6)?

WEEK 10

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Believers are called to live expecting the return of Christ. Because the completion of God's plan is near, Christians must stay focused on prayer and the pursuit of holiness. They must work hard to continue loving one another, which can be shown through hospitality, contentment, and service. When the right attitude of service is present, God is glorified through everything that Christians say and do.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 4:7-11

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 4:7-8 (HCSB) – Now the end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and disciplined for prayer. Above all, maintain an intense love for each other, since love covers a multitude of sins.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 37)

1. What does Peter say about "the end" (4:7)?
2. How should believers respond to their knowledge of "the end" (4:7)?
3. What is Peter's main command in this section (4:8)?
4. What does it mean to cover sin (4:8)?
5. What is one practical example Peter gives of how to demonstrate love (4:9)?
6. What should Christians do with the gifts they have received (4:10)?
7. What categories does Peter use for Christians' gifts (4:11)?
8. What is the goal of Christians using their gifts properly (4:11)?

WEEK 11

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

In this section, Peter continues on the topic of suffering. Christians shouldn't be surprised when it comes. Instead, they should be joyful that they are following Jesus' pattern of suffering and glory. Christians also shouldn't view their persecution as an excuse for sin, and they shouldn't be ashamed about suffering. Instead, they should glorify God, who is using the difficult times to purify and strengthen His church. Believers can be confident that any suffering they experience is under the control of a God who created them and faithfully cares for them.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 4:12-19

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 4:12-13 (ESV) – Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 38)

1. What is the first way Peter says Christians should not react to suffering (4:12)?
2. Why should Christians rejoice when they suffer (4:13)?
3. What special blessing is there for Christians who suffer (4:14)?
4. What are some wrong reasons for a Christian to suffer (4:15)?
5. What is another way Peter says Christians should not respond to suffering (4:16)?
6. How is suffering a type of judgment on God's family (4:17)?
7. Once he recognizes how God is treating his own children, what question does Peter bring up (4:17-18)?
8. What specific characteristics of God does Peter focus on so that believers will trust in Him through trials (4:19)?

WEEK 12

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

When Christians are under persecution, one of the most important things they need is strong leadership with the right attitude. Elders in the church are an extension of Christ's loving care for His people. So they must not shepherd God's flock with resentment, greed, or tyranny. Instead, they should serve the flock willingly, knowing that they are responsible to Jesus, the Chief Shepherd. The members in a church should respond by submitting themselves to the elders and humbling themselves before God, who cares for them and promises to exalt them.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 5:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 5:6-7 (ESV) – Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 38)

1. How does Peter describe himself to the elders (5:1)?
2. What are three wrong attitudes in shepherding a flock (5:2-3)?
3. What are three right attitudes in shepherding a flock (5:2-3)?
4. What will happen to elders when the chief Shepherd appears (5:4)?
5. What command does Peter give to the younger people in the church (5:5)?
6. Why does Peter say Christians must be humble toward one another (5:5-6)?
7. In what specific way can Christians humble themselves before God (5:7)?
8. Why should Christians cast their cares on God (5:7)?

WEEK 13

SUMMARY OF THE PASSAGE

Peter ends his letter with a final reminder about the present battle and the future reward. Christians who persevere through the difficulties of this life must stay alert to the enemy and stand firm against him. They can be confident that they are not alone in the fight. Many Christians around the world are going through the same thing, and God will one day rescue all His children. In the closing sentences, Peter mentions his coworker Silvanus (Silas), who has helped him write the letter, and sends greeting from the Christians in Rome. He then ends his letter by wishing his readers Christian love and peace.

BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE

1 Peter 5:8-14

MEMORY VERSE

1 Peter 5:10-11 (ESV) – And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

STUDY QUESTIONS (see answers on page 39)

1. How does Peter describe the enemy (5:8)?
2. Because of the enemy's plans, what attitude should Christians have (5:8)?
3. How should Christians respond to the enemy (5:9)?
4. What should a Christian know that would help him endure in suffering (5:9)?
5. After Christians suffer a little, what will God do (5:10-11)?
6. What reasons does Peter give for writing this letter (5:12)?
7. From whom does Peter send a greeting (5:13)?
8. What are Peter's final wishes for the church (5:14)?

ANSWERS TO STUDY QUESTIONS

WEEK 1

1 PETER 1:1-12

1. Peter describes his readers as exiles, scattered, and chosen. Calling them aliens (or foreigners) reminds them that they are only temporary residents of the earth; their real home is in heaven. Even though these Christians are scattered all over the Roman Empire, they can be comforted that God Himself has chosen them. *See also Php 3:20; Heb 11:13; 13:14.*
2. God the Father is the one who planned their salvation and relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit is the one who purifies believers' hearts so that they live more holy. Jesus Christ is the Lord (Master) whom all believers obey since they have been cleansed. *See also Eph 1:3-6; 2:10; 1 Thes 1:4-10; 2 Thes 2:13.*
3. First, our salvation is possible because of God's mercy. *See also Rom 9:16; 11:30-32; 15:9; Eph 2:4-7; 1 Pet 2:10.* Secondly, our salvation is possible because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. *See also John 11:25-26; 14:19; Rom 4:25; 1 Cor 15:17.*
4. Our salvation is protected by God's power, which produces and preserves our faith. *See also John 10:29; Rom 8:31-39; Eph 2:8.*
5. Knowing that our faith is genuine is more valuable than gold. God uses the trials that come into your life to show others and you that your faith is real. *See also Job 23:10; Psalm 66:10; Prov 17:3; Isaiah 48:10; James 1:2-4; 1 Pet 4:12.*
6. Amazingly, when we see Jesus, He will reward our genuine faith with praise, glory, and honor. *See also 1 Sam 2:30; Matt 25:21-23; John 5:44; 12:26; Rom 2:7; 1 Cor 4:5.*
7. Even though we have not seen Him, we still love Him. *See also John 8:42; 14:15, 21, 24; 1 Cor 16:22; Eph 6:24; 1 John 4:19.*
8. The writers of the Old Testament knew that salvation would be an act of God's grace and that the Messiah would suffer and then be glorified. *See also Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-15; 53:1-12; Zech 13:7; Luke 24:25-27, 44.*

WEEK 2

1 PETER 1:13-2:3

1. Peter calls his readers to act like obedient children. God is their Father, and instead of living like their rebellious old way, now they must obey His commands for their life. *See also Rom 6:4; 8:14; Eph 4:20-22; 5:1-2; Gal 3:26; Heb 12:7-11; 1 Pet 4:2-3.*
2. To be holy means that you are separate and different because of moral purity. We are called to live holy lives because God is holy. There is nothing as holy as God, and we must show the world what God is like. *See also Lev 19:2; Isa 6:2-5; Acts 5:13-14; 1 Pet 2:9; Heb 12:14; 1 John 4:12; Rev 4:8.*
3. Believers should have a heart that fears the Lord – to be humble and reverent before Him and to obey His commands. *See also Psalm 19:9; 33:8; 86:11; 103:17; Prov 1:7; 8:13; 28:14; Matt 10:28; Rom 11:20-22; 2 Cor 7:1; Php 2:12; Heb 12:28.*
4. To redeem or ransom something means to pay a price in order to set it free.

5. Believers have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus sacrificed His life on the cross in order to free us from the power of sin and from God's judgment against us. *See also Ex 12:1-13; Mark 10:45; Rom 3:24; Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; Titus 2:14; Heb 9:12, 15.*
6. Peter instructs believers to love one another fervently and deeply from the heart. *See also John 13:34-35; 15:12, 17; Rom 12:10; 13:8; 1 Thes 3:12; 4:9; Heb 10:24; 1 Pet 4:8; 1 John 4:7-12.*
7. Christians have been born again through the living word of God. God used His truth to make us alive in Christ. *See also John 6:63; Rom 10:17; Heb 4:12; James 1:18.*
8. Believers should have an intense desire for God's word, the way a newborn baby wants milk from its mother. The Bible is what gave us life in Christ, but it is also what God uses to nourish and mature our faith. Our hunger for God's word should also be connected with our hatred of our sin (1 Pet 2:1). *See also Psalm 19:10; John 17:17; James 1:21.*

WEEK 3 1 PETER 2:4-10

1. During Jesus' earthly ministry, He was mainly rejected by the Jewish religious leaders in Israel. *See also Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 53:3; Matt 21:42; Luke 19:12-14; John 1:10-11; 3:32; Acts 7:51-52; Rom 11:7-12.*
2. Peter describes Christians as living stones that are being used to build a spiritual house. The house is alive and growing, and all the pieces are being made to fit together. *See also 1 Cor 3:16; Eph 2:19-22; Heb 3:6.*
3. Unlike the Old Testament priests, Christians do not have to sacrifice animals. Instead, we offer spiritual sacrifices to God through our praises and good deeds. These sacrifices don't buy us salvation; they are an expression of thanks to God for saving us. *See also Psalm 50:23; John 4:22-24; Rom 12:1-2; Col 3:17; Titus 2:11-14; Heb 13:15-16.*
4. A cornerstone is the first stone put into place for a building. It determines how the rest of the stones are going to be placed, and it sets the position of the entire building. Jesus is the center of the Christian faith and everything else depends on Him. *See also Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16; Matt 21:42; Acts 4:11-12; Rom 9:33; Eph 2:20.*
5. To stumble over Jesus means not to believe in Him and to disobey Him. No matter how much someone wants to please God, they will always be "tripped up" if they do not obey God's command of believing in Jesus Christ as the risen Lord and God. God has declared that all who reject Jesus Christ will receive judgment. *See also Isaiah 8:14; John 3:36; 5:18; 10:30-31; Rom 9:32-33; 1 Cor 1:23; 1 John 3:23; Jude 1:4.*
6. Peter describes believers as (1) chosen people, (2) royal priests, (3) a holy nation, and (4) God's own possession. These descriptions are Old Testament phrases that describe God's special love and purpose for His people. *See also Exodus 19:5-6; Deut 4:20; 7:6; 10:15; 14:2; 26:18; Isaiah 61:6; Titus 2:14; Rev 1:6; 5:10; 20:6.*

7. God chose His people for the purpose of declaring and making known His goodness and mercy through them. *See also Isaiah 43:21; Matt 5:16; Eph 5:8–11; Php 2:15–16.*
8. Before being saved by Jesus, Christians were not God’s people. They were separated from Him and would have received judgment instead of mercy. *See also Hosea 1:6–10; 2:23; Rom 9:23–26; 11:30; 1 Tim 1:13.*

WEEK 4 **1 PETER 2:11–17**

1. Peter warns Christians to stay away from worldly passions that fight against our heavenly-aimed soul. *See also Luke 21:34; Rom 13:13–14; 2 Cor 7:1; Gal 5:16–21; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 John 2:15–17.*
2. Verse 12 says that Christians should live honorable lives so that even if they are falsely accused, their godliness will be evident to unbelievers and God will be glorified. *See also Matt 5:16; 2 Cor 1:12; Titus 2:7–8.*
3. The day of visitation is talking about the day when God comes near to unbelievers. It can either refer to the day when an unbeliever is converted, or to the day when God’s finally comes to rescue His people and judge the wicked. *See also Isaiah 10:3; Jer 27:22; Luke 1:68; 7:16; 19:44; Acts 13:48; Rom 15:7, 9; Rev 14:7; 19:7.*
4. We are to submit to every human authority. At that time, it would include the Emperor of Rome (most likely Nero), and local authorities (governors, Roman soldiers). In our culture, this verse applies to presidents, governors, mayors, police officers, etc. *See also Jer 29:7; Matt 22:21; Rom 13:1–2, 5–6; 1 Tim 2:1–2; Titus 3:1.*
5. God has put human government in place for punishing evil and rewarding good. *See also Rom 13:3–4.*
6. In verse 15, Peter says that Christians must do good because God’s plan (will/desire) is that we obey and put to rest any false accusations. *See also Psalm 107:42; 1 Thes 4:3; 5:18; Titus 2:8.*
7. Peter refers to his readers as beloved/dear (v. 11) and as slaves of God (v. 17). *See also Luke 17:10; Rom 6:16–20; 1 Cor 7:22–23; Eph 6:6; Col 3:24; 1 Pet 4:12.*
8. Christians are to treat the emperor/king with honor, esteem, and respect.

WEEK 5 **1 PETER 2:18–25**

1. Peter doesn’t give any attitude that a master must possess in order for a slave to obey. A slave is commanded to obey, even if his master is harsh, unfair, unkind, and unreasonable. *See also 1 Cor 7:21–23; Eph 6:5; Col 3:22.*
2. God is pleased when someone who is not treated fairly continues to trust God by doing good and enduring. *See also Matt 5:11; Luke 6:34–35.*
3. The greatest example of endurance through suffering is the Lord Jesus, who suffered persecution throughout His life and was finally murdered on a cross. *See also John 13:15; 1 Cor 11:1; Php 2:5; 1 John 2:6.*
4. When Jesus suffered, He didn’t sin, He didn’t give insults, and He didn’t threaten. *See also Isaiah 53:7, 9; Matt 26:47–68; 27:27–44; Luke 23:6–16; John 18:19–23; 1 Pet 3:9.*

5. While Jesus suffered, He kept trusting that God was completely in control. He knew that God would eventually bring justice (either through the cross or through His final judgment). *See also Psalm 7:11; 31:5; 37:5; 96:13; Rom 12:19; 2 Tim 1:12; 4:8.*
6. Jesus died on the cross in order to forgive our sin, free us from the power of sin, and empower us to live for righteousness. *See also Isaiah 53:4–6; John 1:29; Rom 6:1–11; Gal 3:13; 1 John 2:29.*
7. Before being saved, Christians were like sheep that were straying from the flock and from the shepherd into danger. They had no hope of ever returning on their own. *See also Psalm 119:176; Isaiah 53:6; Matt 9:36.*
8. Peter refers to God the Father as the Shepherd and Guardian (Overseer) of our souls. He is the One who cares for us, watches over us, and protects us. *See also Psalm 23:1–3; 80:1; Isaiah 40:11; Ezek 34:11–16; John 10:11–16; Heb 13:20.*

WEEK 6 1 PETER 3:1–7

1. Peter uses “likewise” (or “in the same way”) because he is continuing on the subject of pleasing God through difficult situations. He has just finished talking to slaves, and now he talks to husbands and wives.
2. One reason a wife should submit to her husband is because her behavior can bring about a change in a disobedient husband. It can accomplish even more than her words can. *See also Prov 11:30; 1 Cor 7:16; Col 4:5.*
3. A wife’s true beauty is found in her holiness, respect, gentleness, and peacefulness. *See also Psalm 51:6; 149:4; Isaiah 57:15; Matt 5:5; Eph 5:33; 1 Tim 2:9–10; Titus 2:3–5.*
4. In God’s eyes, a godly wife is beautiful and precious. True beauty, unlike physical beauty, never goes away. The word “precious” means that something is expensive and valuable. *See also 1 Sam 16:7; Psalm 147:10–11; Luke 16:15.*
5. A wife who submits to her husband demonstrates that she hopes/trusts in God, that she desires to do what is right, and that she has great courage. Despite the fears that come with submitting to a husband, she is willing to do what pleases God. Exceptions to this submission include any sin forbidden by Scripture and anything that brings physical harm. *See also Dan 3:16–18; Luke 2:37; Acts 4:18–20; 5:28–29; 1 Tim 2:15; 5:5; Titus 1:6; Heb 11:11.*
6. A man must understand that his wife is physically weaker, so he is responsible for provision, protection, leadership, and love. But even though she is physically weaker, she is spiritually equal and receives an equal blessing. Therefore he must nurture the friendship they share. *See also Gen 1:27; Eccl 9:9; Prov 5:15–19; Gal 3:28–29; Col 3:19; Eph 5:25–33.*
7. If a man fails to love and honor his wife, his prayers will be hindered. He would probably pray much less for her, and God would not do what a man wants when the man is not doing what God wants. *See also Psalm 66:18; Matt 5:23–24; John 14:13–14; 16:23–26; 1 John 5:14–15.*

WEEK 7**1 PETER 3:8-12**

1. All Christians are to demonstrate unity, sympathy, love, kindness, and humility. Instead of competing or fighting against one another, everyone should submit to the needs one another. *See also Acts 4:32; Rom 12:9-18; 1 Cor 1:10; Php 2:2-4; Col 3:12; James 3:17; 1 John 3:18.*
2. When Christians are mistreated, they should not respond by retaliation or revenge. Instead, they should give a blessing in return. *See also Lev 19:18; Prov 20:22; Matt 5:39, 44; Luke 6:27-29; Rom 12:14-21; 1 Cor 4:12; 1 Thes 5:15.*
3. Christians should respond in love when they are mistreated because God has promised a blessing for doing so. *See also Isaiah 66:5; Matt 5:11; Rom 8:28-30; 1 Pet 2:21; 4:14.*
4. Peter knows that his readers want to have a life they love; they want “good days.” This is part of the blessing that is promised in the previous verse. *See also Prov 3:1-2; Mark 8:35.*
5. Peter is quoting from Psalm 34, specifically verses 12-16.
6. To receive the blessing from God, Psalm 34:12-16 says that you must keep away from deceitful speech, turn away from evil acts, do good, and pursue peace. *See also Job 1:1; Psalm 34:14; 37:27; Matt 5:9; Rom 12:18; 14:19; Heb 12:14; James 3:2-10; Rev 14:5.*
7. God gives special attention, care, and blessing to those who are righteous. He answers their prayers for grace and strength. *See also 2 Chron 7:14-15; 16:9; Prov 15:3, 29; John 9:31; James 5:16.*
8. The Lord is opposed to those who do evil. They are horrible in His sight, and He turns His face away from them. *See also Lev 26:17; Psalm 34:21; Jer 21:10; Ezek 15:7; Heb 12:4-11.*

WEEK 8**1 PETER 3:13-22**

1. Peter starts this section by asking the question, “If you are eager to do good, who will harm you?” The answer he expects is, “Nobody!” It is unlikely that a wicked world would want to harm someone who is doing so much good. *See also Prov 16:7; Matt 10:28-32; Rom 8:28, 31; 13:3.*
2. Even if there is persecution for believers, they should expect God to fulfill His promise of blessing. Rather than be afraid, they should expect God to sustain them by His grace and to manifest Himself in a special way. *See also Isaiah 41:10-14; 51:12; Matt 5:10-12; John 14:21; 16:33; 2 Cor 12:10; James 1:12.*
3. Instead of being afraid, Christians who are suffering should honor Christ as Lord by living in loving obedience to Him. They must demonstrate the hope of salvation, and be ready to respond to anyone who asks about our faith. *See also Isaiah 8:12-13; 26:3-4.*
4. Peter says that when people see us suffer in a God-honoring way, they will specifically ask about the hope that we have. If we are not demonstrating hope when we suffer, they won’t see any difference in our lives that prompts a question. *See also 1 Pet 1:3-4; Col 1:5.*

6. One day, unbelievers will have to give an account to God the Judge for everything they have done. They will spend eternity paying God back for their sins. *See also Matt 12:36; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom 3:19; 14:11–12; Heb 4:13; James 5:9; Jude 1:14–15.*
7. In this section, Peter describes God as the great Judge of all who disbelieve, whether they are currently alive or dead. *See also Psalm 1:6; Eccl 12:14; Ezek 18:30; Matt 25:31; John 5:22–29; Rev 20:11–15.*
8. Anyone who believes the gospel, and then dies, will continue to live in heaven with God, waiting to receive a glorified body when Christ returns. *See also 2 Cor 5:5–8; Heb 12:23; Rev 20:4–6.*

WEEK 10

1 PETER 4:7–11

1. The end of everything is coming soon. Christ could return at any moment to complete God's plan. *See also Rom 13:12; 1 Thes 1:10; Heb 10:25; James 5:7–9; 2 Peter 3:9–11; Rev 22:20.*
2. Since the end could come at any moment, Christians should live self-controlled and disciplined lives so that they can stay focused on praying for the advancement of God's kingdom. *See also Matt 24:13; 25:13; 26:41; Rom 12:12; Eph 6:18; Col 4:2; 1 Thes 5:6–8; 1 Pet 1:13.*
3. Peter's main command in this section is that believers stay enthusiastic in their love for one another. *See also 1 Cor 13:1–8; Col 3:14; 1 Thes 3:12; 4:9; 1 Pet 1:22; Heb 13:1.*
4. To cover sin is the same thing as forgiving sin. True love is ready to forgive offenses. *See also Psalm 32:1; 85:2; Matt 5:23–24; Luke 17:3; 23:34; Rom 4:7; Gal 6:1–2; Eph 4:1–3; James 5:20.*
5. One practical expression of Christian love is hospitality. Christians can express love by cheerfully opening up their homes to church members, strangers, travelling missionaries, or for church events. *See also Ex 22:21; Deut 14:28–29; Rom 12:13; 1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8; Philemon 1:2; Heb 13:1–2, 16.*
6. Since God has given gifts to Christians, we are to use them to serve one another. When we do this, we reflect the wonderful aspects of God's grace. *See also Matt 20:28; 25:15–23; Rom 12:6–8; 1 Cor 12:4–11; Eph 4:11–13; Heb 6:10.*
7. Peter divides spiritual gifts into two categories: (1) Speaking Gifts and (2) Serving Gifts. We demonstrate God's grace to the world through what we say and through what we do. Most people find that they are specially gifted in one of these categories more than the other. Those with a speaking gift must be careful not to share their own ideas instead of God's. Those with a serving gift must be careful not to depend on their own strength. *See also Eph 4:29; Col 4:6; James 3:1;*
8. The supreme goal of all spiritual gifts is that God would be glorified through Jesus Christ. When we use our spiritual gifts, our main concern should be pleasing God and being faithful to Him. *See also Rom 11:33–36; 1 Cor 6:20; 10:31; Eph 3:20–21; Php 2:11; 2 Tim 4:18; 2 Pet 3:18; Rev 1:6.*

1. Christians should not be surprised or startled when suffering comes. They should expect difficult times to come when they honor Christ. *See also Matt 5:10-12; John 15:18-19; 16:33; 1 Cor 10:13; 1 Thes 3:2-4; 2 Tim 3:12; James 1:2-4; 1 John 3:13.*
2. Christians should rejoice in suffering because one day Christ will return in His full glory and reward His followers. A believer's present joy is the beginning of an eternal joy. *See also Isaiah 25:9; Matt 5:12; 20:20-23; 24:30; 25:31; Luke 17:30; Acts 5:41; Rom 5:3; 8:17; 2 Cor 4:17; 2 Tim 2:12; 1 Pet 1:6.*
3. Suffering Christians receive the special blessing of the glorious Holy Spirit resting upon them to sustain and strengthen them. *See also Isaiah 11:2; Matt 3:16; Acts 6:8-10; 7:51-60; 2 Cor 12:7-10.*
4. Verse 15 says that Christians should never suffer because of sins like murder, stealing, wickedness, or interfering with the business of others. Also, suffering is not an excuse to engage in these things. *See also 1 Thes 4:11; 2 Thes 3:11; 1 Tim 2:1-3; 5:13; 1 Pet 2:13-16; 2:20.*
5. Verse 16 says that believers shouldn't respond to suffering by being ashamed. Being known to the world as a "Christian" should cause us to glorify God and be joyful. *See also Isaiah 50:7; 54:4; Acts 5:41; 11:26; Rom 5:2-5; Php 1:29; 2 Tim 1:12.*
6. God's "judgment" on Christians is not a punishment for wrongdoing. The difficult times are used to "judge" between who is a genuine believer and who is not. God also uses suffering to purify the church and move believers toward holiness. *See also Ezek 9:1-6; Mal 3:1-5; Matt 10:22; 13:21; 24:13; Mark 13:13; 1 Cor 11:19; 1 Pet 1:6-7; 1 John 2:19.*
7. Peter asks the question: "If God is willing to judge His own church so severely, how bad is the wrathful judgment going to be on unbelievers?" *See also Prov 11:31; Matt 11:20-24; Luke 23:31; John 3:36; 2 Thes 1:8; Heb 12:25; 2 Pet 4:3-5.*
8. Peter ends this section by pointing out that God is sovereign, faithful, and the Creator of all. Everything that happens is according to His plan. He will never abandon His children. And He has full power and authority over all creation. There is no one greater to trust with the safety of our souls. *See also Dan 3:17-18; Psalm 31:5; 37:5; 138:8; 146:5-6; Isaiah 51:12-13; 54:17; Acts 7:59; 2 Tim 1:12.*

1. Peter describes himself to the elders in the church (1) as a fellow-elder, (2) as an eyewitness of Christ's suffering, and (3) as someone who has tasted the glory of Christ. At one level, he identifies with the elders of the church, but at another level, he points out that he is an apostle who has seen Christ's glory. *See also Matt 17:1-8; Luke 24:48; Acts 1:21-22; 2:32; Rom 8:17-18; Col 3:3-4; 1 Pet 1:1; 2 Pet 1:16.*

2. A shepherd of the flock must never lead the people because he feels forced into the position. He must not be motivated by greed. And he must not lead by intimidation. *See also Isaiah 56:11; Jer 6:13; 8:10; Ezek 34:2-4; Mic 3:11; Zech 11:17; Mark 10:42-45; Acts 20:33; 1 Tim 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7, 11; 3 John 1:9-10.*
3. A righteous shepherd in a church must lead because he wants to. He must lead with enthusiasm. And he must lead by example. *See also Isaiah 6:8; Matt 20:25-26; John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28-34; 1 Cor 9:16-17; 2 Cor 1:24; 12:14-15.*
4. When Jesus (the Chief Shepherd) appears, elders who have been faithful will receive eternal glory from Him. It will be a mark of their victory. *See also Isaiah 40:11; Ezek 34:23; Dan 12:3; John 10:11-12; 1 Cor 3:9-15; 9:24-25; 1 Thes 2:19; 2 Tim 4:8; Heb 13:17, 20-21; James 1:12; Rev 2:10; 3:11.*
5. Peter commands the younger people in the church to submit to the elders and to clothe themselves with humility. Every member of the church should do this, but is especially important for young people since they are more likely to resist leadership. *See also Lev 19:32; Col 3:12; 1 Thes 5:12-14; Titus 3:1-2; Heb 13:7, 17.*
6. Christians must be humble toward one another because God is against the proud, but favorable to the humble. God will one day exalt the humble. *See also Job 22:29; Prov 3:34; 8:13; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2; James 4:6.*
7. One way we can humble ourselves before God is by casting our worries on Him. We must entrust to God everything that is beyond our ability and outside our personal responsibility. Worry is a form of pride. *See also 1 Sam 1:10-18; 30:6; Psalm 27:13-14; Psalm 55:22; 56:3-4; Matt 6:25, 34; Php 4:6.*
8. Christians should cast their cares on God because He is the one who cares for us. *See also Psalm 34:15; 142:5; Matt 6:8; Mark 4:37-40.*

WEEK 13

1 PETER 5:8-14

1. Peter describes our enemy as a hungry lion, looking for someone who will become his prey. Especially in times of difficulty, the devil is trying to cause believers to lose hope or fall into sin. *See also Job 1:6-12; 2:2; Zech 3:1; Matt 4:1; Luke 22:3, 31; John 8:44; 2 Cor 4:3-4; 12:7; Eph 6:11; James 4:7; Rev 12:4, 10.*
2. Because of the enemy, Christians should be awake and alert. *See also Matt 24:48-50; Luke 21:34-36; Rom 13:11-13; 1 Thes 5:6-8; Titus 2:11-12; 1 Pet 1:3; 4:7.*
3. Christians must stand firm against the enemy by remaining strong in their faith. *See also Matt 4:10-11; 2 Cor 10:3-5; Eph 4:27; 6:12-18; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7; James 4:7.*
4. During difficulties, one thing that can help is the knowledge that Christians all around the world are experiencing similar troubles. No one is ever alone in their suffering. *See also John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 1 Cor 10:13; 2 Tim 3:12; 1 Pet 2:21; Rev 6:11.*
5. After a time of suffering, God promises that He will strengthen and restore us. One day, He will bring all His children into eternal joy, fellowship, glory, and praise. *See also Rom 8:17, 28-39; 1 Cor 1:9; 2 Cor 1:3-7; 4:17; 2 Thes 3:3; James 4:14; 1 Pet 1:5-6; 2 Peter 3:8; 1 John 2:25; Jude 1:24-25;*

6. Silvanus (or Silas) was a companion of Paul (Acts 15–18; 2 Cor 1:19; 1 Thes 1:1; 2 Thes 1:1). He may have been the one who wrote the letter as Peter dictated. He may also have been the one who first delivered the letter. Peter wrote this letter in order to encourage and remind his readers concerning God's grace to His children. No matter how bad the situation looks, Christians can be certain that God has called them and will strengthen them to endure. *See also Rom 5:2; 2 Pet 1:12.*
7. Peter sends a greeting from a woman in Babylon and from Mark, his "son." The name "Babylon" is from the Old Testament, but is used in the New Testament to refer to a city known for its corruption, idolatry, and hatred of Christianity. The woman in Babylon is probably referring to a church in Rome, since churches are typically referred to as feminine. *See also 2 John 1:1; Rev 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21.* Mark was a young man who had gone on a missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas. The early church used to meet in the home of Mark's mother. *See also Acts 12:12, 25; 13:5, 13; 15:36–39; Col 4:10; 2 Tim 4:11; Phm 1:24.*
8. As Peter concludes his letter, his final wishes for the church are that they would greet one another with a loving kiss and that God would grant them peace in Christ. As an apostle, Peter desired that the church be characterized by affection, holiness, and peace. *See also John 14:27; Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; Eph 6:23; 1 Thess 5:26; 1 Pet 1:2.*

