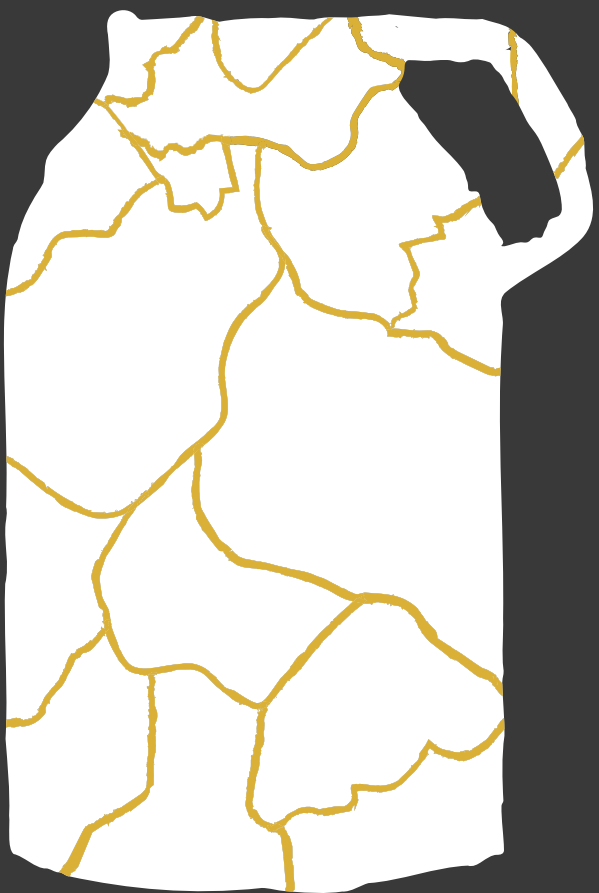


1 P E T E R





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1 P E T E R



Kintsugi— which means “to join with gold” — is the Japanese art of mending broken pottery. A mixture of lacquer and gold is used to carefully piece fractured shards together again. Through this process, the artist creates beauty out of brokenness by mending the old and creating something new. Often the renewed piece is even more valuable than the original.

Kintsugi can be a beautiful metaphor for God’s work in our lives and in His world. In Christ, God fully entered into the world’s brokenness. Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, He began the work of New Creation to rescue, reconcile, and restore all things to Himself (2 Cor 5:17-19).

As we encounter suffering and hardship in this life, we follow the way of Jesus, fully entrusting ourselves to God.

“For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps” (1 Peter 2:21)

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WHY STUDY THE BIBLE?

The Bible is an ancient literary masterpiece. Written in multiple languages over hundreds of years, its human authors were inspired by God's Spirit to record His authoritative and life-giving Word to us. While we often think of it as one book, the Bible is actually a library of writings that tell the unified story of who God is and who we are in relation to Him. **This story ultimately leads us to Jesus.**

Jesus' life and teaching was saturated in Hebrew Scripture. Once, when asked which was the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus responded by quoting Israel's central prayer, the Shema.

"Jesus answered, The most important is: 'Listen, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Mark 12:29-31 NET).

Jesus affirmed the foundational priority for God's people - to listen to the voice of God and to respond by loving Him entirely and by loving people sacrificially.

By reading, meditating on, and studying the Bible, followers of Jesus learn to listen and respond to the Spirit as He reshapes our imaginations, affections, and behaviors through His Word. Our goal as we study the Bible is not to master its content or to simply acquire information about God. Rather, it is **to be formed into Christlike people of love** (Galatians 4:19).

This Bible study will guide you to:

CONNECT in authentic community as you and your group share the joys and struggles of life and follow Jesus together.

GROW in knowledge of the truth by personally studying Scripture and actively applying its truth to your life. We know it can be all too easy to rely on what others say about God. This study encourages everyone to learn to "feed themselves" directly from God's Word, meeting Him on every page.

ENGAGE in helping people find and follow Jesus by practicing simple disciple-making tools that tune your heart toward those who are near to you but may be far from God.

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

1 PERSONAL STUDY + PRAYER

In each lesson, you will practice a basic three-step Bible study method:

Read It (Observation): What do I see?

Think it Through (Interpretation): What does it mean?

Live It (Application): What will I do now?

A full description of this method can be found in the Appendix on page 104.

Suggested Study Schedule:

Day 1 (20-30 min)

- Read the passage.
- Complete the Observation section to get familiar with the ideas and themes.

Day 2 (30-45 min)

- Read the passage.
- Answer the Interpretation questions to explore the meaning of the passage.

Note: These are simply suggested questions. Feel free to ask and answer questions that occur to you.

Day 3 (20-30 min)

- Read the passage.
- Reflect on its Application in your life, seeking God's specific invitation to you.

Short On Time? Simply read the passage 2-3 times during the week. This will help you to participate more fully in the group discussion.

Prayer - Jesus promised that the Spirit would guide us into truth (John 16:13). Pray continually as you read and study. Ask for eyes to see and ears to hear the Holy Spirit and all that He has planned to reveal to you.

2 GROUP DISCUSSION + PRAYER

Group Discussion - At the end of every lesson, there is a Group Discussion Guide that provides an outline for your group's time together. Use this guide to discuss and to synthesize the truths God's Spirit taught you this week. Note: Avoid starting on the first page of the lesson and trying to work through every question together. Instead, divide your time around a balance of connecting, growing and engaging as the guide suggests.

Prayer - The final page of the lesson has room for recording prayer needs. Establish the practice of praying together and depending on the Spirit to lead, teach, challenge and guide your group.

Lord, inspire us to read your Scriptures
and to meditate upon them day and night.
We beg you to give us real understanding
of what we need, that we in turn
may put its precepts into practice.

Yet we know that understanding
and good intentions are worthless,
unless rooted in your graceful love.

So we ask that the words of Scripture
may also be not just signs on a page,
but channels of grace into our hearts.

Every Moment Holy, Vol. 3

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

Begin to memorize and meditate on these important verses.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. **1 Peter 1:3**

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; **1 Peter 1:14-15**

But you are a CHOSEN PEOPLE, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, a HOLY NATION, a PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **1 Peter 2:9**

For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps. **1 Peter 2:21**

To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing. **1 Peter 3:8-9**

For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; **1 Peter 3:17-18**

The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. **1 Peter 4:7-8**

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. So resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. **1 Peter 5:8-9**

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The Gospel is the good news of how we can be reconciled to God through Jesus.

GOD'S DESIGN

Out of God's great love, He created a world that was good. He made people to enjoy a deeply connected relationship with Him and to represent Him through our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28, 31) As a loving Father, He communicated boundaries to protect us and to allow us to fully enjoy our relationships with Him and with other people (Genesis 2:15-17).

BROKENNESS

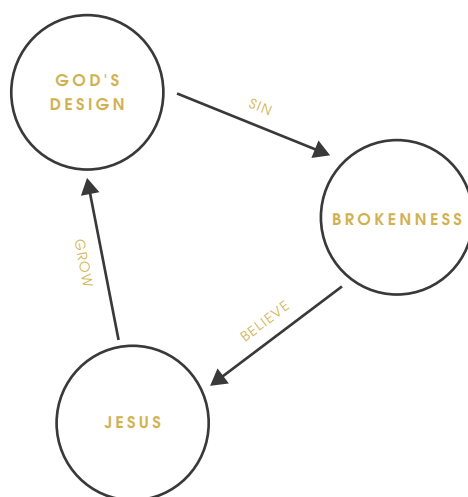
Yet, when we look around our world, brokenness and evil are evident everywhere - war, famine, disease, corruption. If we are honest, we also see brokenness and evil inside ourselves - deceit, hatred, greed, lust.

This is because we have rejected God's design and chosen to follow our own way.

Our rejection of God and His ways is what the Bible calls sin. (Romans 3:23)

Our sin results in separation from God which the Bible calls death. (Romans 6:23a)

Unless our sin is forgiven, we will remain separated from God forever.



JESUS

God does not want to leave us in our sin and brokenness!

God graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and to freely give us eternal life - a life connected to God both now and forever. (Romans 6:23b; John 17:3)

God's only Son Jesus died in our place. He took upon Himself the penalty that we deserve because of our sin. Then, Jesus rose from the dead, and forever defeated the power of sin and death. (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

BELIEVE

We respond to Jesus by believing in Him for the forgiveness of our sin.

To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God's approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and rescue. Instead, you accept God's free gift of eternal life. Belief or faith is simply being convinced or persuaded that something or someone is trustworthy. (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Everyone who believes in Jesus is forgiven of their sin and receives eternal life. We can now know God personally and experience the life we were designed to live. (John 3:16-17)

Which circle or arrow best represents your life right now?

Have you put your trust (believed) in Jesus alone to be reconciled to God?



SURVEY

LIFE OF PETER

Of all the disciples mentioned in the Gospels, Simon Peter's name appears most. He and his brother Andrew were commercial fishermen from a small town before a traveling miracle-worker named Jesus called them to leave everything they knew and follow him.

Peter's name means "rock," yet his personality was not steady for much of his younger years. He was passionate and rash, humble yet prideful, but also a natural leader. He followed Jesus with devotion, until, in a moment of fear, he denied even knowing the Savior he loved. But Jesus restored him, and Peter went down in history as one of the great leaders of the early church. Peter's life is a beautiful example of God's grace and redemption.

Jesus heals
Peter's
mother-in-law.
Matt. 8:14–15

Just before the Passover meal, Jesus washes Peter's feet as an example of servanthood that Jesus's disciples should imitate.

John 13:1-17

While Jesus is on trial, Peter, waiting outside, protests three times that he does not know Jesus. Then he weeps bitterly. **Mark 14:66–72; Luke 22:54–62**

Early in Jesus's ministry, Peter sees Jesus walking on the water. Peter also walks on water—until fear overtakes him.

Matt. 14:22–33

CONFESSION

CALLED BY JESUS

TRANSFIGURATION

When Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive, Jesus answers with the parable of the unmerciful servant.
Matt. 18:21–35

Jesus predicts that Peter will deny him three times before the rooster crows, which Peter adamantly disputes.

Matt. 26:31–35

Peter cuts off the ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant, in an attempt to stop him from arresting Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane.

John 18:1-11

The resurrected Christ appears to Peter and the other disciples at the Sea of Galilee. Like his first encounter with Peter, Jesus performs a miraculous catch of fish.

John 21:1-14

The Sunday after Jesus's death and burial, Peter is one of the first disciples to see Christ's empty tomb. **John 20:3-10**

RESTORATION

Peter confronts a sorcerer named Simon, heals a paralyzed man, and raises Tabitha from the dead.
Acts 8:9–25; 9:32–43

Peter heals a lame man in the name of Jesus Christ.
Acts 3:1–10

When Peter and John are brought before the Sanhedrin, despite the threat of imprisonment, they refuse to stop preaching.

Acts 4:1-22

PENTECOST

GOSPEL FOR THE GENTILES

Peter writes two letters to Christians in Asia Minor facing persecution.
1 and 2 Peter

Peter is imprisoned, but an angel appears to him and strikes the chains from his wrists, freeing him.

Acts 12:1-18

MARTYRDOM

SURVEY

Surveying a book like 1 Peter allows you to grasp the big picture and the overall flow of the book before getting caught up in the details. The survey provides a helpful road map to guide your study during the coming weeks.

Read the whole book. Begin this crucial first step by taking the time to read straight through 1 Peter without stopping.

Now answer the questions below.

1. How would you describe Peter's audience? Are they believers or unbelievers? Are they spiritually mature or immature? What issues are they facing?

2. What are the major themes or big ideas in this book? (Hint: Look for repeated words and ideas.)

3. Now that you have read through the entire book, what are Peter's purposes in writing it? Be as specific as you can.

4. What specific ways does Peter call these people to live distinctly from their culture? In addition, how does Peter provide Christ as an example for such a lifestyle throughout the book?

BACKGROUND

Once you have completed the introductory questions on the previous page, read this background article on the book of 1 Peter (portions have been compiled primarily from *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*).

AUTHOR

The author identifies himself as “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1) who was a “witness of Christ’s suffering” (5:1). Peter’s given name was Simon, but Jesus gave him a new name to reflect the boldness and strength he would eventually have – “Cephas” in Aramaic (or “Petros” in Greek) which means “rock.” From the earliest days of the church 1 Peter was recognized as the authentic work of the apostle Peter and was often quoted by key church fathers. Despite the claim of some modern scholars that the sophisticated Greek of the letter and the situation of the recipients do not fit Peter, the contents and the character of the epistle clearly support his authorship. The letter reflects the history and terminology of the gospels and Acts (particularly Peter’s speeches in Acts 2, 4, and 10) and its themes fit Peter’s experiences and challenges.

DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING

Peter wrote this epistle apparently just before or shortly after the beginning of Nero’s persecution of the church in A.D. 64. The letter suggests that repressive laws had not yet been enacted specifically against Christians. It was still possible for Peter’s readers to “honor the king” (2:17). The persecution and suffering that Peter did refer to was primarily social and religious rather than legal. A hostile pagan society would slander, ridicule, discriminate against, and even inflict physical abuse on those whose lifestyles had radically changed because of their faith in Christ. However, Peter seemed to indicate that greater persecution was imminent. He assured his readers that they could rejoice though they “may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.” So perhaps Nero’s severe persecution had already begun in Rome and was spreading to the provinces to which Peter was writing. This would place the date of the letter in late A.D. 64 or early 65.

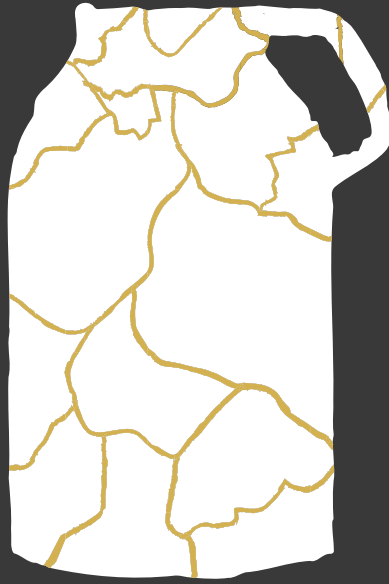
In 5:13 Peter says that he writes from Babylon. While this could refer literally to the ancient Mesopotamian capital, it seems unlikely that Peter would be visiting what was during his time a sparsely inhabited ruin of the once great city (though there was a small but flourishing Jewish community present there in Peter’s day). Other possible referents of “Babylon” include (1) an Egyptian military post called Babylon, (2) the city of Jerusalem, or (3) the city of Rome. Many commentators prefer the final option because Peter was in Rome during the last decade of his life (he was martyred in Rome about A.D. 67). If this is true, then he probably referred to Rome figuratively as “Babylon” as a security precaution to disguise the church’s location from a hostile Roman government.

RECIPIENTS


1 Peter is addressed to Christians scattered throughout five Roman provinces of the peninsula of Asia Minor (1:1), modern day northern Turkey. The churches in those provinces were made up of both Jews and Gentiles. This epistle is rich in references to and quotations from the Old Testament. Jewish Christians would have found special significance in the term diasporas, translated “scattered,” used in the salutation (1:1). Jews who lived outside of Jerusalem were referred to as living in the diaspora. Gentile readers would have noted Peter’s exhortation to holy living in light of their background of complete ignorance of God’s Word (1:14). Gentile Christians also would have been greatly encouraged by the fact that though they were in ignorance, they were now considered “the people of God” (2:10). Clearly Peter carefully included both Jewish and Gentile Christians in his letter of encouragement to the churches of Asia Minor.

PURPOSE

This epistle could be understood as a handbook written for ambassadors to a hostile foreign land. The author, knowing persecution would arise, carefully prescribed conduct designed to bring honor to the One they represented. The purpose then of 1 Peter was to encourage Christians to face persecution so that the true grace of Jesus Christ would be evidenced in them (5:12). This epistle gives a theology of practical exhortation and comfort for believers’ daily needs. Peter concretely linked doctrine with practice. The new birth gives a living hope to those in the midst of persecution. New conduct is prescribed because Christ endured unjust suffering. New behavior is required to demonstrate the grace of God to an unbelieving and hostile world. And new responsibilities are placed on the leaders and members of the body of Christ since they should stand together as living stones against the onrushing tide of persecution.



LESSON 1



Blessed be the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who according
to His great mercy has
caused us to be born again
to a living hope through
the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead.

1 P E T E R 1 : 3

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

READ IT

OBSERVATION - WHAT DO I SEE?

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is “What do I see?” This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of your study. Simply read the passage and write one or two observations for each verse. Your observations might identify people, places, and events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences. The first few observations have been done for you as an example.

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage below.

1 PETER 1:1-12

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as strangers, scattered

Peter represents Jesus

throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen

Letter readers are dispersed across a region

2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the

Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be

multiplied to you.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great

mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus

Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled,

and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power

of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this

you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been

distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than

gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS:

1. List any big ideas you see in these verses.
2. Summarize the activity of each member of the Trinity as described in this passage.

Father:

Son:

Spirit:

3. List all the ways you see the power of the Spirit at work in this passage.

THINK IT THROUGH

INTERPRETATION- WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Why does Peter refer to his audience as “aliens” (see 2:11; Psalm 39:12; Hebrews 11:13)?
How does this fit with the purposes and situation of the letter?

2. What does it mean to be “chosen” or “elect” in 1:1-2 (see 2:9-10; Romans 8:28-30, 9:10-11; Ephesians 1:3-5)?

3. Why does Peter in verse 4 describe the believer's "hope" and "inheritance" as "imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away?" How would this truth have been uniquely encouraging to these believers in their light of their present situation?

4. In what ways is the testing of our faith in trials similar to the testing of gold in fire (see James 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:13)? What does the testing prove in the believer's life?

5. Why does Peter refer back to Old Testament prophets in verses 10-12? How does it specifically reinforce the encouragement within this passage?

LIVE IT

APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

The goal of application is to put God's life-giving love and truth into practice in our everyday lives. Jesus taught that those who love Him will "keep" or "observe" all that He commanded (John 14:15). This means that we will pay careful attention to His Word and to respond with the intention to do what He says.

- Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you. Answer the reflection questions designed to demonstrate how each passage relates to our lives.
- Next, step back and look at the passage as a whole and begin to list things God has shown you including ideas, images, biblical truths and principles. A principle is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is relevant to our lives. A principle is not specific to a particular person or time.
- Finally, prayerfully decide on specific action steps that you will begin to take right away to live out biblical truth in your daily life.

3 STEPS TO APPLY → REFLECT, LIST PRINCIPLES, RESPOND

1. If someone asked you to describe yourself, what would you say? In other words, what is your primary identity and on what is it based? Vocation, achievements, roles and responsibilities, relationships?

How would your identity be different if you saw yourself as primarily chosen by God and a "stranger" in this world?

2. Is it possible to have hope regardless of circumstances? Is it reasonable? How can you maintain hope even in the dark times?

Is there a time in your life when you have personally chosen to find hope in difficult trials? What do you learn from that season of life?

3. List some of the biblical truths, principles, ideas, or images God has revealed to you from this passage. A few questions to consider are:

Is there a promise for me to claim?

Is there a truth for me to believe?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is God showing me a picture or image of what He desires?

How does this passage connect to what God has been saying to me lately in prayer, in conversations with fellow believers and through His word?

4. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

5. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play?

ENGAGE TOOL

EVERY NEIGHBOR MAP

Jesus noticed and cared for the people around Him. He taught His disciples to do the same. As His followers, we are also called to love our neighbors, the people with whom we live, learn, work and play

Turn to page 115 and prayerfully fill in your Every Neighbor Map. Be ready to share it with your group next week.

For more insight, watch the Every Neighbor Map video at grace-bible.org/disciplemaker.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share something you are celebrating or something that disappointed you during the last week.
2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.

WHY ARE WE HERE?

Spend a few minutes discussing your group's purpose. Of all the things we could be doing, why are we here? Why is this time important to be present for and to prioritize?

Pray for your time together.

GROW

DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

1. How do we observe scripture? What are we looking for and what questions are we asking?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. Share some of your observations.
3. What are some ways that you saw the Trinity described?
4. What are some things you saw regarding believers' future?

DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss 2-3 questions.

Sum It Up - ask the group to summarize the main ideas of this passage in a sentence or two.

ENGAGE

DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

1. Why is it important to personally apply biblical truth to your life?
2. Choose at least one of the reflection questions to discuss as a transition to application.
3. What did God reveal to you this week and how do you plan to apply it?

ENGAGE TOOL Every Neighbor Map (p. 115)

Share your maps with your group or fill them out together now.

Spend some time praying for these friends. Ask God for opportunities to deepen friendships and to practically bless them with His Love. Ask God to reveal Himself to them and to open their eyes to His grace.

GROUP RESPONSE

What will our group do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

PRAY

Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend time praying for each other and for specific friends on your Every Neighbor Maps.





LESSON 2

As obedient children, do not
be conformed to the former
lusts *which were yours* in your
ignorance, but like the Holy
One who called you, be holy
yourselves also in all your
behavior;

1 P E T E R 1 : 1 4 - 1 5

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

READ IT

OBSERVATION - WHAT DO I SEE?

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage below.

1PETER1:13-25

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober *in spirit*, set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; 16 because it is written: “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ. 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

22 Since you have purified your souls in obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brothers *and* sisters, fervently love one another from the heart, 23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, *that is*,

through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For,

“ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS,

AND ALL ITS GLORY IS LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS.

THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.”

And this is the word which was preached to you.

OBSERVATION SKILL: INTERPRETIVE QUESTIONS

Like last week, read the passage and write down your observations.

This week, we will begin to write our own questions as well. Simply record the questions that naturally come to mind as you try to understand the passage. If you need help getting started, you can use these examples:

WHO IS...	WHAT IS THE...	WHY DID THE AUTHOR...	HOW...
the author talking about? accomplishing the action? benefiting from the action?	meaning of this word? significance of this phrase? implication of this statement? relationship between these phrases?	choose this word? include this phrase, statement, or command? not say _____ ?	was this action accomplished? will this situation occur?

1. List your interpretive questions.
2. List any primary themes or big ideas you see in this passage.
3. Highlight any commands describing the life we are called to live.

THINK IT THROUGH

INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: STUDY CROSS REFERENCES

Cross references are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. (See appendix page 108 for more information)

1. What is the significance of “therefore” in v13? How does this passage relate to the previous passage?

2. How would you define “holiness” (see Leviticus 11:44-47; Isaiah 6:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:20-21). What other terms or descriptions help us to define “holy?”

3. What is the role of “fear” in our lives (see 1:17; Exodus 20:18-20; Proverbs 1:7; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Revelations 14:7)? How does Peter referring to us as “children” and God as “Father” further inform our understanding of “fear”?

4. Answer the following questions after reading Matthew 20:28, Romans 3:23-26, and Ephesians 1:7:

What does Peter mean in verse 18 that we were “redeemed”?

From what were we delivered?

What was the payment by which we were delivered?

For what purpose were we delivered?

5. How do verses 22-25 act as a transition in Peter’s exhortations to his audience?

LIVE IT

APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

Remember, the goal of application is to put God's life-giving love and truth into practice in our everyday lives.

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. Why is it so important for a believer to imitate God's holiness in his or her conduct within the world?

2. In what areas of your life are you still struggling to walk in holiness? Are there any circumstances that make this struggle particularly difficult?

3. Is your love for others characterized by sincerity and sacrifice?

4. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

5. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play?

ENGAGE TOOL

Continue to add names to your map on page 117. Pray for opportunities to love, serve, and engage with your friends this week.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

1. How was your week? Did you see God working in any specific ways?
2. Gratitude: read a Psalm, make a list of what your group is thankful for, offer short praise prayers.
3. Response: What was it like to put God's Word into practice this week?
4. Were you able to connect with any friends from your Every Neighbor Map?

Pray for your time together.

GROW

DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

1. Read 1 Peter 1:13-25. Share some of your observations.
2. What primary themes or big ideas did you notice in this passage?
3. How does asking questions like who, what, when, where and how help us understand scripture? What were some of your own interpretive questions?

DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

What is the significance of looking up cross references when studying the Bible?

Discuss 2-3 questions.

Sum It Up - ask the group to summarize the main ideas of this passage in a sentence or two.

ENGAGE

DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

1. Choose at least one of the reflection questions to discuss as a transition to application.
2. What truth did God reveal to you this week and how do you plan to apply it?

ENGAGE TOOL Every Neighbor Map (p. 117)

Continue to share your maps with your group and discuss any opportunities to practically bless and share God's love with these friends.

GROUP RESPONSE

What will our group do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?


PRAY

Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend time praying for each other and for specific friends on your Every Neighbor Maps.





LESSON 3



But you are a CHOSEN
PEOPLE, a royal PRIESTHOOD,
a HOLY NATION, a people for
GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so
that you may proclaim the
excellencies of Him who has
called you out of darkness
into His marvelous light;

1 P E T E R 2 : 9

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

LOOK IT OVER

OBSERVATION - WHAT DO I SEE?

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage below.

I PETER 2:1-10

1 Therefore, rid *yourselves* of all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 and like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. 4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For *this* is contained in Scripture:

“BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE,
AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”

7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for unbelievers,

“A STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED,
THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE,”

8 and,

“A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.

9 But you are a CHOSEN PEOPLE, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, a HOLY NATION, a PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Continue to write down your observations and interpretive questions. Continue to mark the passage using the skills you have learned.

1. List all figurative imagery in this passage.
2. List all the specific references for Old Testament quotes in this section.

THINK IT THROUGH

INTERPRETATION- WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: LOOK UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

Background information can be found by visiting the online reference netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that “NET2” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for “Notes” on the right side of the screen. Now, anytime you select one of the numbered annotations above particular words or verses, you can immediately see the relevant Biblical or historical context for that term or passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

1. Create and answer any of your own interpretation questions from this passage.
2. How does the “therefore” connect 2:1-3 to 1:22-25?
3. According to verses 1-3, what is necessary for us to “grow in respect to salvation” (see Colossians 3:8-10; James 1:21; 2 Peter 1:5-8)?

ARCHITECTURE

Israelite Iron Age architectural design made increasing use of cut-stone masonry over the rough boulders and rubble construction of earlier periods. In order to provide stability and to bind two adjoining walls together, a finely shaped block of stone was inserted that became the cornerstone. It would have been a larger stone than those normally used, and its insertion often required special effort or rituals. Its large, smooth surface was a natural place for inscribing religious slogans, the name of the architect or king responsible and the date of construction. It is possible that the cornerstone could also serve as the foundation stone.*

4. Based on the background paragraph above, what is the significance of Peter's description of Jesus in verse 4 as a "living stone" and in verse 7 as the "cornerstone" (see Ephesians 2:19-20)?

5. How does Peter's reference to us as "living stones ... being built up as a spiritual house" in verses 4-5 provide unique encouragement to endure suffering (see 1:6, 4:12-14; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 3:15)?

6. What is the significance of Peter linking the church's unique identity in verses 9-10 to God's special relationship with Israel in the Old Testament (see Exodus 19:5-6)?

LIVE IT

APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. Why can it be challenging in your relationship with God to be like a newborn who is desperately dependent on Him?

2. How can the community of God's people provide one another the security to endure through trials and proclaim God's goodness? Have you experienced this?

3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play?

ENGAGE TOOL

Simply talking about Jesus as part of your everyday conversations is a great way to bring His light into the spiritual darkness all around us. Be sure your conversations include asking lots of questions and listening! Most people are open to talking about spiritual things IF they feel heard and respected.

Turn to page 118 and to learn how to turn conversations toward spiritual things.

Also, watch the video on Starting a Spiritual Conversation at grace-bible.org/disciplemaker.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

1. Spend a few minutes catching up with each other. Share high or low from the week.
2. Ask 1-2 people to take 5 minutes and share how they found Jesus and began to follow Him.
3. Ask someone to share why they prioritize biblical community in their life.
4. Response: how did you see God working as you applied His truth to your life this week?

Pray for your time together.

GROW

DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

1. Read 1 Peter 2:1-10. Share some of your observations.
2. What figurative imagery did you see?
3. What were some of the Old Testament references in this section?

DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss the skill of looking up background information. How is it helpful in studying the Bible?

Discuss 2-3 questions.

Sum It Up - ask the group to summarize the main ideas of this passage in a sentence or two.

ENGAGE

DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

1. Choose at least one of the reflection questions to discuss as a transition to application.
2. What truth did God reveal to you this week and how do you plan to apply it?

ENGAGE TOOL **Starting a Spiritual Conversation (p. 118)**

Read over and discuss how to start a spiritual conversation. What has been your experience talking about your faith with friends? Is there a friend or neighbor you could have a spiritual conversation with this week? Pray for opportunities!

GROUP RESPONSE

What will our group do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?


PRAY

Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend time praying for each other and for specific friends on your Every Neighbor Maps.





LESSON 4



For you have been
called for this
purpose, because
Christ also suffered
for you, leaving you
an example, so that
you would follow in
His steps.

1 P E T E R 2 : 2 1

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

LOOK IT OVER

OBSERVATION - WHAT DO I SEE?

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage below.

1 PETER 2:11-25

11 Beloved, I urge *you* as foreigners and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. 12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God on the day of visitation. 13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God, that by doing right you silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 *Act* as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bond-servants of God. 17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king. 18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person endures grief when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure

it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for *it* you patiently endure it, this *finds* favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps, 22 HE WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; 23 and while being abusively insulted, He did not insult in return; while suffering, He did not threaten, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; 24 and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed. 25 For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

OBSERVATION SKILL: CIRCLE KEY WORDS OR PHRASES

This week continue to write down your observations and list primary themes. Then begin to circle key words or phrases. These are words or short phrases that are important theologically or thematically (they set the theme or main idea for the passage). Include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates.

1. What key words did you circle in this passage?
2. List any themes or big ideas you see in this passage.
3. Circle every individual or group that Peter references in this passage.

THINK IT THROUGH

INTERPRETATION- WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: LOOK UP KEY WORDS

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek provides deeper understanding and is surprisingly easy, thanks to online tools such as net.bible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that “NET2” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for “Greek” on the right side of the screen. Now hovering over any word in English will highlight the corresponding Greek term and reveal its Strong’s definition in the opposite window. For even further study, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, then choose to run a “Word Search,” “Strong’s Search,” or “Word Study.” The first will provide all Biblical references that use the English term. The second will provide all Biblical references that use the Greek term. And the third will provide the full definition and derivatives of the Greek term. What used to take multiple books and many hours now takes one internet browser and a few seconds!

1. Why does Peter connect their conduct in this section to their identity as “aliens and strangers” in 2:11 (see also 1:1)? In this sense, how has Peter’s focus shifted in 2:11-25 from his focus in 2:1-10?

2. Use the interpretive skill above to determine the meaning of Peter’s command for the believer to “submit” to a human authority (see 2:13, 18).

HOUSEHOLD CODES

“Many ancient household codes were set in the context of discussion of city management and included instructions on how to behave toward the state (as well as toward parents, elders, friends, members of one’s household, etc.). According to contemporary aristocratic ideals, the household mirrored the government of a city-state, so public obligations and obligations within the household (2:18-3:7) were commonly treated together.”

3. How do Peter’s exhortations in verses 13-17 demonstrate the tension between various authorities that believers must navigate within the world (see Romans 13:1-7; Titus 2:9-10)?

4. What are the different outcomes believers can expect when they willingly submit in all circumstances (see 2:12, 15, 19-20)? Why are these outcomes so motivating in the midst of difficulty and suffering?

5. How does the example of Christ in verses 21-25 further Peter’s exhortation?

LIVE IT

APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. How do you respond to authorities in your life who appear unjust, incompetent, or insensitive?

2. Review this week's memory verse 2:21. How can Christ's example be a model for you as you engage with the circumstances of your life this week?

3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play?

ENGAGE TOOL

STARTING A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Continue to pray for opportunities to turn everyday conversations toward spiritual things.

Turn to page 118 to review this tool.

Also, watch the video on Starting a Spiritual Conversation at grace-bible.org/disciplemaker.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

1. How was your week? Share a highlight or struggle you experienced.
2. Response: What was it like to put God's Word into practice this week?
3. Did you have any chances to talk about your faith journey with friends?

Pray for your time together.

GROW

DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

1. Read 1 Peter 2:11-25. Share some of your observations.
2. Who are some of the people and groups that Peter references in this section?

DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Talk about the skill of looking up key words. Have someone demonstrate how to use the net.bible.org tools.

Discuss 2-3 questions.

Sum It Up - ask the group to summarize the main ideas of this passage in a sentence or two.

ENGAGE

DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

1. Choose at least one of the reflection questions to discuss as a transition to application.
2. What truth did God reveal to you this week and how do you plan to apply it?

ENGAGE TOOL *Starting a Spiritual Conversation* (p. 118)

Continue to discuss and pray for opportunities to turn everyday conversations toward spiritual things.

GROUP RESPONSE

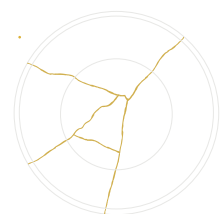
What will our group do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

PRAY

Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend time praying for each other and for specific friends on your Every Neighbor Maps.




A large grid of yellow dots arranged in 20 rows and 30 columns, intended for writing names of friends to pray for.





LESSON 5



To sum up, all of
you be harmonious,
sympathetic, loving,
compassionate,
and humble; not
returning evil for
evil or insult for
insult, but giving a
blessing instead; for
you were called for
the very purpose that
you would inherit a
blessing.

1 PETER 3 : 8 - 9

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

READ IT

OBSERVATION - WHAT DO I SEE?

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage below.

1 PETER 3:1-12

1 In the same way, you wives, be subject to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won over without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your pure and respectful behavior. 3 Your adornment must not be merely the external—braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or putting on apparel; 4 but it should be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this way the holy women of former times, who hoped in God, also used to adorn themselves, being subject to their own husbands, 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord; and you have proved to be her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. 8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, loving, compassionate, and humble; 9 not

returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you would inherit a blessing. 10 For, “THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. 11 HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. 12 FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST EVILDOERS.”

Continue to write down your observations and interpretive questions. Continue to mark the passage using the skills you have learned.

OBSERVATION SKILL: BOX CONNECTING WORDS

These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses.

COMPARISON: either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include: *and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so.*

CONTRAST: points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include *but, rather, yet, however.*

PURPOSE: indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words include *that, so that, in order that.*

RESULT: very similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words include *that, so that, as a result, with the result that.*

1. Box all connecting words in this passage especially focusing on those that show result or purpose.

2. What themes or ideas from earlier in the book do you see repeated here?

THINK IT THROUGH

INTERPRETATION: COMPARE MULTIPLE TRANSLATIONS

This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and thus often easier to read. Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at netbible.org. You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at www.biblestudytools.com.

1. How does this passage relate to the previous (notice that it starts with “in the same way” or “likewise”)?

2. Read 3:1-7 in at least one other translation. New International Version (NIV) is an especially helpful comparison. What are some different word usages that could aid in interpreting this passage?

3. Understanding the cultural context of 1st century Greco-Roman society is key to interpreting this passage since submission to the authority within the Roman household was not optional for slaves, children and wives. In contrast to the household codes of Greco-Roman culture, New Testament writers instruct members of the “households of faith” to live their lives based on allegiance to a different ultimate authority. Read this background article before answering the following questions.

“Like Judaism and other non-Roman religions, Christianity spread faster among wives than husbands; husbands had more to lose socially from conversion to an unpopular religion. But wives were expected to obey their husbands in Greco-Roman antiquity, and this obedience included allegiance to their husband’s religions. ... Jewish or Christian women who refused to worship these [pagan] gods could be charged with atheism. Thus by his advice Peter seeks to reduce marital tensions and causes of hostility toward Christianity and Christians.”*

What was the primary motivation or goal for the wife’s submission to her husband in this section?

How does Christ's example in 2:21-25 further motivate and also model submission (see Philippians 2:3-11)?

Are there boundaries on this exhortation for a wife to submit? In other words, is this always true (see also Exodus 1:15-2:2; Acts 4:18-20)? Why or why not?

4. From verses 3-6, what "adornment" is valued by God (see 1 Samuel 16:7; Proverbs 31:30; 1 Timothy 2:9-10)?

Why does Peter draw upon the Old Testament character Sarah as an example for these wives (see her story in Genesis 12-23; Hebrews 11:11)?

5. What was the primary motivation or goal for Peter's instructions to the husband in verse 7?

What are the possible options for what Peter means when he declares that a wife is "weaker" according to the overall context of this passage?

How should the wife's status as a "fellow heir of the grace of life" impact the husband's view and treatment of her? What is at stake? (see also Genesis 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 7:4; Galatians 3:26-29).

6. In verses 8-12, how does Peter summarize his instructions on submission that began in 2:11 (Hint: look for recurring patterns and principles in 3:8-12)?

LIVE IT

APPLICATION- WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. Does the concept of "submission" irritate or even repel you? Why or why not?
2. What could you do this week to imitate Jesus' posture of humility? What are some ways you can live with greater harmony and sympathy for others in your community this week?
3. What are ways we overvalue external appearances over inner character qualities? How can this tendency impact the way you consider yourself or others?

4. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

5. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play?

ENGAGE TOOL

SHARE YOUR STORY

One of the most powerful ways to help people find Jesus is to share with them your own story of meeting and trusting in Him.

Turn to page 119 and write a simple draft of your faith story. For more insight, watch the Share Your Story video at grace-bible.org/disciplemaker.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

1. How was your week? Share something you are celebrating or that disappointed you during the last week.
2. Response: What was it like to put God's Word into practice this week?
3. Did you have any chances to talk to friends about spiritual things?

Pray for your time together.

GROW

DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

Note: Texts regarding men and women can feel really personal to some people. Please extend grace to yourself and others as you interact with these passages, praying for the Spirit's illumination.

1. Read 1 Peter 3:1-12. Share some of your observations.
2. What were some of the connecting words you saw in this passage? How did seeing the connecting words help to grasp the flow of the passage?

DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

What are the benefits of reading a passage in another translation?

Discuss 2-3 questions.

Sum It Up - ask the group to summarize the main ideas of this passage in a sentence or two.

ENGAGE

DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

1. Choose at least one of the reflection questions to discuss as a transition to application.
2. What truth did God reveal to you this week and how do you plan to apply it?

ENGAGE TOOL *Sharing Your Story* (p. 119)

Read over and discuss how to share your story. In pairs, practice sharing a story of what God has done for you. To whom could you share your story of finding and following Jesus this week?

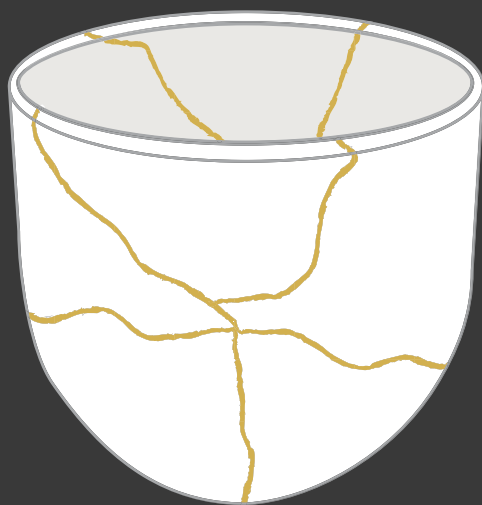
GROUP RESPONSE

What will our group do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?


PRAY

Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend time praying for each other and for specific friends on your Every Neighbor Maps.





LESSON 6



For it is better, if God
should will it so, that
you suffer for doing
what is right rather
than for doing what
is wrong. For Christ
also suffered for sins
once for all time, the
just for the unjust, so
that He might bring
us to God, having
been put to death in
the flesh, but made
alive in the spirit;

1 P E T E R 3 : 1 7 - 1 8

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

READ IT

OBSERVATION - WHAT DO I SEE?

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage below.

1 PETER 3:13-22

13 And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be in dread, 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, but with gentleness and respect; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. 18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all time, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19 in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who once were disobedient when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during

the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. 21 Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

Continue to write down your observations and interpretive questions. Continue to mark the passage using the skills you have learned.

1. What themes or ideas from earlier in the book do you see repeated here?

2. List everything you see in this section regarding the death of Jesus.

THINK IT THROUGH

INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

INTERPRETATION SKILL: TACKLE TOUGH QUESTIONS STEP-BY-STEP

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four-step process: (1) List all the options (2) List pros and cons for each option (3) Choose the most likely option (4) Decide on your level of certainty. For more explanation on this skill, see page 111

1. How do verses 13-14 relate to Peter's continued discussion on submission and suffering?

2. How does Peter's command in verse 15 to "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts" contrast with the commands in the Old Testament quote in verse 14? How does this mindset shape the believer's perspective in the midst of suffering?

Furthermore, how does Peter describe the actions and attitude of believers as they "give an account" for their hope?

3. Verse 18 is one of the New Testament's most succinct and yet profound descriptions of Christ's atoning death. How does it uniquely describe the believer's hope today?

4. Read the following background article to further aid your understanding of verses 19-20.

While there are many views on this verse, the three main ones are (1) that between his death and resurrection, Jesus preached to the unrighteous dead in Hades, perhaps specifically to those who lived before the flood of Noah (the view of many church fathers); (2) that in line with Peter's description of Noah as a "preacher of righteousness" in 2 Pet 2:5, Christ preached through Noah to disobedient people in Noah's day (the view of many Reformers); (3) that before or after his resurrection, Jesus proclaimed triumph over the fallen angels referred to in 2 Peter 2:4-5 where Peter equates them with "the sons of God" from Genesis 6:1-2 (the view of most scholars today). This third view is supported by the direct mention of angelic beings in v22 and by the fact that in early Christian literature, "spirits" nearly always refers to angelic spirits rather than human spirits, except when explicit statements are made to the contrary.*

After identifying the pros and cons for each interpretive option, who is the most likely option for the identity of the "spirits in prison"? And what is your certainty level?

5. Verse 21 is one of the most complicated verses to interpret in the entire book. Nonetheless, how is the historical account of Noah (and the ark) similar to the current experience of Peter's audience (and baptism)?

In light of those similarities, what does Peter mean in verse 21 by "corresponding to that, baptism now saves you"?

LIVE IT

APPLICATION- WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. How do you typically respond to being mistreated, slandered, or insulted?

2. How does this week's passage encourage you to entrust yourself to Christ in those situations?

3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play?

ENGAGE TOOL

SHARE YOUR STORY

Continue to work on a simple draft of your faith story.

Turn to page 119 for more insight and also watch the Share Your Story video at grace-bible.org/disciplemaker.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

1. How was your week? Share a high or a low from the last week.
2. Response: What was it like to put God's Word into practice this week?
3. Were you able to practice sharing your story of coming to follow Jesus with anyone this week?

Pray for your time together.

GROW

DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

1. Read 1 Peter 3:12-22. Share some of your observations.
2. What key ideas from earlier in the book are repeated here?
3. What did you see regarding the death of Jesus?

DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Why is it important to tackle hard-to-interpret passages of the Bible?

Discuss 2-3 questions.

Sum It Up - ask the group to summarize the main ideas of this passage in a sentence or two.

ENGAGE

DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

1. Choose at least one of the reflection questions to discuss as a transition to application.
2. What truth did God reveal to you this week and how do you plan to apply it?

ENGAGE TOOL **Sharing Your Story** (p. 119)

Continue to practice sharing your story of coming to faith in Jesus.

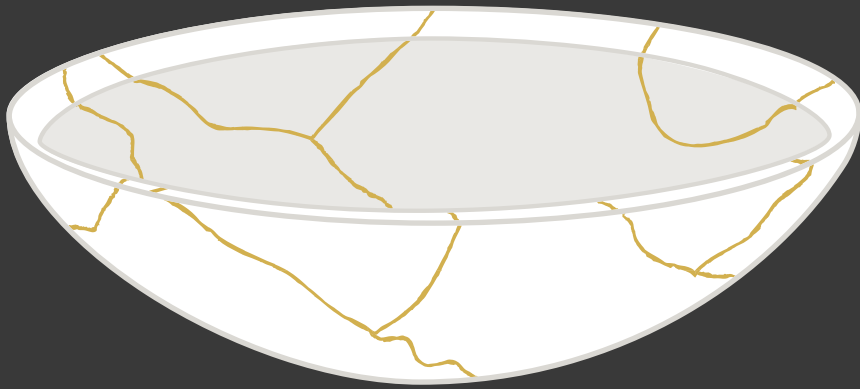
GROUP RESPONSE

What will our group do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?


PRAY

Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend time praying for each other and for specific friends on your Every Neighbor Maps.





LESSON 7



The end of all things
is near; therefore, be
of sound judgment
and sober spirit
for the purpose of
prayer. Above all,
keep fervent in your
love for one another,
because love covers a
multitude of sins.

1 PETER 4 : 7 - 8

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

READ IT

OBSERVATION - WHAT DO I SEE?

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage below.

1 PETER 4:1-19

1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because the one who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human lusts, but for the will of God. 3 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of indecent behavior, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties, and wanton idolatries. 4 In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them in the same excesses of debauchery, and they slander you; 5 but they will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as people, they may live in the spirit according to the will of God.

7 The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the multifaceted grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking actual words of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon

you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory, and of God, rests upon you. 15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? 19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God are to entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Continue to write down your observations and interpretive questions. Continue to mark the passage using the skills you have learned.

1. What big ideas do you see?

2. Highlight any repeated words occurring in chapters 3 and 4.

THINK IT THROUGH

INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. How does Peter motivate these scattered believers towards a life characterized by sobriety and purity according to 3:21-4:7?

2. In what sense is it possible that a believer could have “ceased from sin” according to 4:2 (see also Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 6:4-7; 1 John 1:8-9; 3:9)? How do Peter’s instructions in verses 2-5 further support your answer?

3. How do each of Peter’s commands in verses 7-11 relate to the end of all things being near?

In addition, do you see any recurring themes in these commands?

What is the significance of verses 10-11 in Peter’s exhortation on godly living within a hostile culture (see also 1 Corinthians 12:4-7)?

4. 1 Peter 4:12-19 presents one of the most powerful and concise presentations regarding suffering in the Christian life. As a result, answer the following questions which look at the passage as a whole.

What is God's perspective on suffering (see also 1 Peter 2:20, 3:17, 4:12, 14, 16)?

What are often some of man's natural responses to suffering?

How should a Christian respond appropriately in the midst of suffering?

5. What "judgment" is Peter referring to in verse 17? In what sense has it begun with us already according to 3:16, 4:6 and 4:14?

How do verses 18-19 clarify the future reality for both the believer and unbeliever?

LIVE IT

APPLICATION- WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. When was the last time you were surprised by a trial in your life? How did you respond at the time?

In light of this passage, how could you have responded more from God's perspective?

2. Peter declares that each one of us has received a spiritual gift. Do you know what gift(s) the Lord has given you to serve Him? If so, what are they? If not, we have provided you with an assessment tool on our website at [Spiritual Gifts Survey Questionnaire](#).

3. How have you seen love cover a multitude of sins in your own life?

4. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

5. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play?

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

CARE/SHARE (choose from these)

1. How was your week? Share something you are celebrating or that disappointed you during the last week.
2. Response: What was it like to put God's Word into practice this week?

Pray for your time together.

GROW

DISCUSS OBSERVATION (choose from these)

1. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11. Share some of your observations.
2. What were some of the repeated words you saw in both chapter 3 and 4?

DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss 2-3 questions.

Sum It Up - ask the group to summarize the main ideas of this passage in a sentence or two.

ENGAGE

DISCUSS APPLICATION (choose from these)

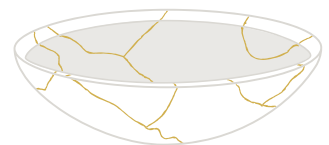
1. Choose at least one of the reflection questions to discuss as a transition to application.
2. Ask if your group members know and use their spiritual gifts. Remind them of the online assessment tool at [Spiritual Gifts Survey Questionnaire](#). Discuss their experience using their gifts in the body of Christ.
3. What truth did God reveal to you this week and how do you plan to apply it?

GROUP RESPONSE

What will our group do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?


PRAY

Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend time praying for each other and for specific friends on your Every Neighbor Maps.





LESSON 8



Be of sober spirit,
be on the alert.
Your adversary, the
devil, prowls around
like a roaring lion,
seeking someone to
devour. So resist him,
firm in your faith,
knowing that the
same experiences of
suffering are being
accomplished by your
brothers and sisters
who are in the world.

1 PETER 5 : 8 - 9

Meditate on and begin to memorize this verse.
Pray for God to teach you more about Himself through His word.

READ IT

OBSERVATION - WHAT DO I SEE?

Record your observations in the margin as you read the passage below.

1 PETER 5:1-14

1 Therefore, I urge elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, *and* one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but voluntarily, according to *the will* of God; and not with greed but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you. 8 Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 So resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being

accomplished by your brothers and sisters who are in the world. 10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, *and* establish *you*. 11 To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Through Silvanus, our faithful brother (for so I regard *him*), I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it! 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace be to you all who are in Christ.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

Continue to write down your observations and interpretive questions. Continue to mark the passage using the skills you have learned.

1. What themes do you notice in this passage?
2. List any figurative language you see in these verses. For more information on figurative language see page 109.
3. Highlight the different contrasts you see within this section.

THINK IT THROUGH

INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Answer any of your own interpretation questions from this passage.
2. What principles for church leadership do you find in verses 1-4? What motivations for leadership are to be carefully avoided? In what ways are leaders to be “examples” (see also Ezekiel 34:1-6; 1 Timothy 3:1-7)?
3. How does the call to humility position believers within the church for the variety of commands given in verses 5-9?

4. What is significant about the figurative imagery Peter uses to describe Satan in verses 8-9? How exactly are we to resist the devil's attacks and methods (see also Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:10-20; James 4:7-10)?

5. How does Peter's encouragement that "Christ will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you" in verse 10 reinforce previous figurative descriptions of the church in this book?

Furthermore, how do verses 10-12 provide a fitting final exhortation to a community of believers experiencing suffering at present?

LIVE IT

APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO NOW?

Begin in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal what He is saying specifically to you.

1. Peter stresses the necessity of a posture of humility in all circumstances. Is this a cultural value today? Why or why not?

2. Satan deploys a variety of methods to destroy us. Which of these do you struggle with the most? How can you better resist him this week?

3. Continuing in prayer, write down the main biblical truth, principle, idea, or image that God revealed to you during your study.

4. What is God's invitation to you this week as you seek to apply what you've learned? What specific steps will you take? How could this impact relationships where you live, work, and play?

ENGAGE TOOL

SHARE THE GOSPEL - 3 CIRCLES

As we pray, ask questions and listen to people with a heart of compassion, the Holy Spirit may lead us into sharing with someone how they can turn from trusting in themselves to trusting in Jesus. This simple tool using a diagram of three circles is really helpful to share the good news of the gospel with people.

Turn to page 122 and practice sharing the gospel this week. Pray for opportunities to share with non-believing friends. See a demonstration video atgrace-bible.org/disciplemaker.

GROUP DISCUSSION

CONNECT

CARE/SHARE (**choose from these**)

1. How was your week? Share a high or a low from the last week.
2. Response: What was it like to put God's Word into practice this week?

Pray for your time together.

GROW

DISCUSS OBSERVATION (**choose from these**)

1. Read 1 Peter 5:1-14. Share some of your observations.
2. What figurative language did you see?
3. What are some of the contrasts in this section?

DISCUSS INTERPRETATION

Discuss 2-3 questions.

Sum It Up - ask the group to summarize the main ideas of this passage in a sentence or two.

ENGAGE

DISCUSS APPLICATION (**choose from these**)

1. Choose at least one of the reflection questions to discuss as a transition to application.
2. What truth did God reveal to you this week and how do you plan to apply it?

ENGAGE TOOL **Share The Gospel: 3 Circles**(p. 122)

Practice sharing the gospel in groups of 2-3.

GROUP RESPONSE

What will our group do differently this week in light of all that we have learned and discussed?

PRAY

Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend time praying for each other and for specific friends on your Every Neighbor Maps.





PUT IT BACK TOGETHER

MEMORIZE

Review your memory verses for each of the previous lessons.

1 Peter 1:3

1 Peter 1:14-15

1 Peter 2:9

1 Peter 2:21

1 Peter 3:8-9

1 Peter 3:17-18

1 Peter 4:7-8

1 Peter 5:8-9

Before we get to the synthesis, one word of encouragement ... please realize how much you have grown as a student of God's Word through your study of 1 Peter! Each week, you've learned how to better observe, interpret, and apply the stories of Scripture. Those same three steps will serve you well as you continue to study God's story throughout the Bible. Continue to practice and refine these skills so that you become, "a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15)

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Looking back at the wise counsel of 1 Peter, answer the following questions.

1. Summarize what 1 Peter teaches us about the example of Jesus for the lives of His followers?
2. What did you learn about the connection between holy living and hope in 1 Peter?
3. How did the exhortations in 1 Peter change your view of suffering?
4. What did you learn about your identity as a Christ follower through this study?

Now it is time to draw our detailed study to a useful conclusion, a process known as synthesis. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of 1 Peter that we can quickly review any time in the future to remind us of the flow and content of the book.

OUTLINE THE BOOK

The first step of the synthesis is to create your own outline of the book. Review the work you completed each week. Then, create your own brief outline on the next page. Feel free to use any outlining style, but here is an example of how you might start:

1. Greeting (1:1-2)
2. Our Salvation (1:3-2:10)
 - a. Its praise (1:3-12)
 - b. Its products (1:13-25)
 - c. Its purposes (2:1-10)

MY 1 PETER OUTLINE

As an example of a theological truth, you might write “I was taught that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus.”

THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS I'VE LEARNED

1. Both applications should relate to areas of your life where you are currently in need of growth. Do not choose “be kind to others” if this is already something you do very well.
2. Both applications should be specific with a clear plan for growth and the name of someone who will hold you accountable. “Study the Word more” is not specific enough. Instead, develop a specific plan, such as, “I will read through Romans this month and write down my observations, interpretive questions, and applications in a journal. Steve will hold me accountable on a weekly basis.”

APPLICATION #1

Principle from 1 Peter:

Verses where it's discussed:

Plan of Action: I will ...

APPLICATION #2

Principle from 1 Peter:

Verses where it's discussed:

Plan of Action: I will ...

An abstract architectural illustration of a room corner. On the left, a white line drawing shows a window frame and a ledge. The rest of the image is a dark gray background with faint, darker gray lines forming a perspective grid, suggesting a floor and walls receding into the distance. The word 'APPENDIX' is centered in a large, yellow, serif font.

APPENDIX

LEADER HELPS 106

STUDY TOOLS 108

CHRONOLOGY 114

ENGAGE TOOLS 116

ADDITIONAL STUDY
RESOURCES 126



LEADER HELPS

WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION

The best preparation for leading a Bible study is following Jesus closely yourself.

- Spend time with God daily to keep your relationship with Him fresh and growing! Healthy leadership is ultimately an overflow of your personal relationship with God.
- Spend time in the passage throughout the week.
- Pray regularly with your co-leader for each person in your group.
- Prepare ahead of time and make a plan (see below) for your group time. Discuss with your co-leader.
- As a facilitator of discussion rather than a teacher, you are encouraged to be a co-learner with your group. Your job is not to know “everything.” It is acceptable to leave some questions partially answered or unresolved, trusting for clarity at a later time. Reach out to ministry leaders and pastors at your church for clarification as needed.
- Lead and walk by faith in the Holy Spirit’s work in your life and in the lives of your group members.

LEADING WELL

- Set a regular meeting place and time. Consistency helps avoid obstacles that will keep people from being there and a plan helps people know what to expect.
- Create a welcoming environment! Learn people’s names and make sure everyone is introduced to each other. Possibly have a snack each week, alternating between healthy and “less healthy.” Everyone likes a snack!
- Regularly remind people of the group’s purpose to:
CONNECT Relationally
GROW Biblically
ENGAGE Missionally
- Regularly break up into smaller groups of 2-3, starting from the very first meeting. Smaller groups help people feel known. Keep the groups no bigger than three. This will pay off in the long run.
- Stress confidentiality about what is shared in the group.
- Try reaching out to different people each week to grab lunch or coffee outside of group time as your schedule allows.

MAKE A PLAN EACH WEEK

Utilize the Group Discussion Guide (located at the end of each lesson). Divide your time into three relatively equal thirds that focus on **CONNECT**, **GROW**, **ENGAGE**. For example, if your group meets for one hour, try intentionally focusing about 20 minutes on Connect, 20 minutes on Grow, and 20 minutes on Engage. Each one of us can easily drift towards overemphasizing one category and neglecting another, which is why making a plan is an important step. Here are some leading tips for connecting, growing, and engaging.

1 / 3

CONNECT

Build group community by using the connect suggestions in the Group Discussion Guide. Depending on your group size, try getting into groups of 2-3 for an icebreaker question, to catch up on application from last week, and for prayer. The question could vary from more fun or more serious. For example: “What was a highlight and lowlight of your week?” or “How did you apply last week’s lesson?”

Then pray in the small groups. (Prayer at the beginning is a good way to help make it an emphasis.) Suggest something for them to pray for as a group, that is bigger than themselves and the group. Some ideas: For neighbors, family members, friends, or classmates who they would like to point to Jesus; for a missionary or a people group in need of the gospel.

2 / 3

GROW

Gather back as one group and have one person pray for your time in God’s Word. Discuss the passage using the Grow suggestions in the Group Discussion Guide. Summarize or read aloud the passage together.

3 / 3

ENGAGE

Read and discuss the tool or spiritual practice in the lesson. Give time to try out sharing the tool or spiritual practice as a group. Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week. Create a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in small groups (of 2-3) again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

STUDY TOOLS

OBSERVE

Every time we study the Bible, the first thing to ask is, “What do I see?” This is the crucial skill of observation, which lays the groundwork for the rest of our study. Here are four tasks involved in observation which should be performed in the order below. All examples are taken from the book of Galatians.

OBSERVATION TASK 1

Mark up the passage by visually identifying the following specific elements:

Underline all verbs. A verb is a word or group of words used to indicate either that an action is taking place (“we will reign with Him”) or that a state or condition exists (“we are faithless”). Verbs are often the most significant indicators of the author’s flow of thought.

Circle key words or phrases. These are words or short phrases that are important theologically (like “gospel” in 1:6) or thematically (they set the theme or main idea for the passage) such as “approved” and “works of the law” in 3:2,5,10.

Highlight repeated words or phrases. Also, include words and phrases that are closely related even if not exact duplicates (such as “suffer hardship” and “endure suffering”). You’ll also want to highlight things that are repeated from previous passages (such as “son” in 4:23 and 4:30)

Box connecting words. These important words indicate the logical connection between words, phrases, and clauses. Here are eight types of common connecting words to look for:

1. **Comparison** either points out similarities between two or more related ideas or simply joins like ideas. Comparison words include *and, like, as, just as, also, so also, even so* (e.g., “like the Gentiles” in 2:14).
2. **Contrast** points out dissimilarities between ideas. Contrast words include *but, rather, yet, however* (e.g., “No longer I... but Christ” in 2:20).
3. **Purpose** indicates the intended goal of an idea or action, whether or not it was realized. Purpose words and phrases include *that, so that, in order that* (e.g., “Christ redeemed us... in order that in Christ Jesus...” in 3:13-14).
4. **Result** is similar to “purpose,” but indicates the actual consequence, whether or not it was intended. Result words and phrases include *that, so that, as a result, with the result that* (e.g., “The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.” in 2:13).
5. **Cause** expresses the basis or cause of an action. Cause words include *because, since, and sometimes for* (e.g., “Why the Law then? It was added on account of the violations,” in 3:19)
6. **Explanation** is what follows further explains the previous idea, giving reasons why it is true, why it occurred, or simply adding additional information. Look for the key word *for* (e.g., “For prior to the coming of some men from James,” in 2:12).
7. **Inference** provides a logical consequence, conclusion, or summary to the previous discussion. Inference words and phrases include *therefore and for this reason*. (e.g., “Therefore, recognize that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.” in 3:7)
8. **Condition** presents a condition that must occur before a certain action or conclusion can occur. The statement may or may not reflect reality (i.e., it could be

hypothetical). Key word is *if*. (e.g., “For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise...” in 3:18)

OBSERVATION TASK 2

List 2-3 primary themes you see in the passage each week.
A primary theme is the big idea, the central truth, or command that the passage focuses on, such as “humility” in 5:16-26. After reading the passage, write your themes as single words or short phrases. Identifying these themes at the beginning of your study will help you develop a good overall grasp of the passage.

OBSERVATION TASK 3

Write two or more observations per verse.
Our observations might identify people, places, or events, point out repeated words or key terms, record important connections between words and sentences, or even point out something missing that we expected to see.

OBSERVATION TASK 4

Ask your own interpretive questions.
Here are a few examples:

WHO IS...	WHAT IS THE...	WHY DID THE AUTHOR...	HOW...
the author talking about? accomplishing the action? benefiting from the action?	meaning of this word? significance of this phrase? implication of this statement? relationship between these phrases?	choose this word? include this phrase, statement, or command? not say _____ ?	was this action accomplished? will this situation occur?

OBSERVATION TASK 5 **Figurative Language**

As every writer knows, one of the most powerful ways to emotionally engage an audience with your words is to use figurative language. FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE uses words and phrases in an unexpected way to create a vivid image in the mind of a listener. This image adds color to the author’s message, holds the listener’s attention, forces the listener to slow down and reflect on the idea being communicated, makes the abstract more concrete, and aids in retention of the author’s point. While there are many types of figurative language, here are the eight major types you should be looking for as you study the Bible:

- 1) Simile: compares two things by using the explicit formula *like* or *as*. “He will be like a tree planted by streams of water,” Psalm 1:3
- 2) Metaphor: compares two things but omits *like* or *as* and instead simply equates them (A is B) “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;” Matthew 5:14
- 3) Metonymy: one word is substituted for another word closely associated with it, such as referring to military officers as “brass.” A biblical example would be James’ use of “tongue” to refer to one’s speech (e.g. James 3:5).
- 4) Hyperbole: conscious exaggeration for the sake of effect or emphasis “I robbed other churches by taking wages from them to serve you;” 2 Corinthians 11:8
- 5) Personification: treating something non-human (and frequently inanimate) as though it

were a human. Example: "And their tongue parades through the earth." Psalm 73:9 "Then the moon will be ashamed and the sun be put to shame," Isaiah 24:23

6) Anthropomorphism: attributing human characteristics, even body parts, to God.

Example: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear." Isaiah 59:1

7) Apostrophe: addressing a thing as if it were a person or an imaginary person as if he were present. Example: "WHERE, O DEATH, IS YOUR VICTORY? WHERE, O DEATH, IS YOUR STING?" 1 Corinthians 15:55

8) Symbol: a concrete image that points to or embodies other meanings. Examples include "light" used to represent God, goodness, truth, or blessing (such as in Psalm 27:1) and "throne" to represent power and authority (such as in Psalm 89:4 and 14).

INTERPRET

Our observation of a passage should stir interesting yet challenging questions, leading us to the second stage of our Bible study: interpretation. Fortunately, we do not have to run to a commentary or study Bible for answers (though these are helpful tools to check our conclusions). Use the following six methods, as needed, to tackle a variety of questions. Also, make sure to familiarize yourself with the three "Principles of Interpretation" on page 112.

INTERPRETATION METHODS

Interpretation Method 1 | Use the context.

Look for important clues in the sentences and paragraphs that come before and after the verse in question. Try to follow the author's flow of thought through the whole chapter. This may take you to the previous lesson, so have it handy as a review. You may need to read ahead in the book for clues.

Interpretation Method 2 | Study cross-references.

Cross references are simply other passages in any book of the Bible that are somehow related to the verses you are studying. They often prove incredibly helpful as you seek to understand your passage. A few such cross references can be found in the margins of most English Bibles, but more can be found by visiting online tool such as netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that "NET2" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for "Greek" on the right side of the screen. Now hovering over any word in English will highlight the corresponding Greek term and reveal its Strong's definition in the opposite window. Then, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, and choose to run a "Word Search" that will provide all Biblical references that use the English term.

Interpretation Method 3 | Look up key words.

While looking up a key word in English is helpful, doing so in Greek provides deeper understanding and is surprisingly easy, thanks to online tools such as netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that "NET2" is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for "Greek" on the right side of the screen. Now hovering over any word in English will highlight the corresponding Greek term and reveal its Strong's definition in the opposite window. For

even further study, you can select a word, click the magnifying glass above it, then choose to run a “Word Search,” “Strong’s Search,” or “Word Study.” The first will provide all Biblical references that use the English term. The second will provide all Biblical references that use the Greek term. And the third will provide the full definition and derivatives of the Greek term. What used to take multiple books & many hours now takes one internet browser & a few seconds!

Interpretation Method 4 | Look up background information.

You can find helpful insights by looking up confusing names or words in a Bible dictionary or by looking up the particular verses you are studying in a background commentary. One of the best dictionaries is *The New Bible Dictionary* by Wood & Marshall. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* by Craig Keener is another excellent example of a verse-by-verse background commentary.

Background information can be found by visiting the online reference netbible.org. Simply search for the passage at the top of the screen, and the relevant text will appear. Be sure that “NET2” is your selected Bible in the drop down box, and then select the tab for “Notes” on the right side of the screen. Now, anytime you select one of the numbered annotations above particular words or verses, you can immediately see the relevant Biblical or historical context for that term or passage. This is a great tool for answering tough questions!

Interpretation Method 5 | Tackle tough questions step-by-step.

When trying to answer the most challenging questions, follow this four-step process:

1. List all the options. Always start by brainstorming every possible answer to your question.
2. List pros and cons for each option. See all the evidence you can find that either argues for or against a particular option. This evidence comes from your study of key words, the grammar of the sentence, the context of surrounding verses and the book as a whole, cross references to other books, and comparison with your overall understanding of Christian theology.
3. Choose the most likely option. Look at your evidence for each option. Typically, evidence from the immediate context is most important, followed closely by evidence from the book as a whole. Evidence from other books of the Bible, or from Christian theology as a whole, does not carry quite as much weight unless the solution contradicts a clear passage elsewhere or a major tenant of Christian doctrine. In that case, since Scripture never lies and God cannot contradict Himself, you must eliminate that option.
4. Decide on your certainty level. Once you have chosen the best solution, step back for a second and humbly gauge how certain you are of its accuracy (90% = I am very sure this is correct ... 60% = This solution is just a bit more likely than the others!). Finally, talk with others and check commentaries or reference books to see what solutions they have chosen and why.

Interpretation Method 6 | Compare multiple translations.

This packet uses the New American Standard (NASB) translation. You can often find helpful interpretive clues by comparing this translation with other translations. The New King James Version (NKJV), like the NASB, is a fairly word-for-word translation of the Greek text. The New International Version (NIV) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) are excellent phrase-to-phrase translations of the Greek and thus often easier to read.

Another excellent phrase-to-phrase Bible, which includes extensive translation notes, is the New English Translation (NET) available online for free at netbible.org. You can find and compare numerous translations of any Bible passage at www.biblestudytools.com.

INTERPRETATION PRINCIPLES

There are three fundamental principles of interpretation that help us to use our interpretive skills accurately.

Interpretation Principle 1 | Discern Author's Intended Meaning

Your goal is to discern the author's intended meaning to the original audience.

Unfortunately, most people begin their Bible study by asking, "What does this passage mean to me?" While there may be multiple possible applications to my life, there is only one meaning, the author's intended meaning, and we must first seek this out. This involves three important steps:

1. Always start your study with prayer, asking the same God who composed Scripture through these ancient authors to give you insight to understand His intended meaning.
2. Avoid inserting your 21st century circumstances and theological issues into the text as they can skew understanding.
3. Work diligently to see the text from the point of view of the original readers. To do this: (a) dig into the historical and cultural background using Bible dictionaries and commentaries, and (b) spend a few moments thinking about the original audience's religious understanding by asking, "What books of the Bible did they have access to? What did they know about God? About Jesus? About salvation? etc."

Interpretation Principle 2 | Assume "Normal" Use of Language

The Bible was given to us because God desired to communicate with us, not to hide Himself from us. Therefore, we should not be looking for "hidden" meanings as we study. Instead, we should use the "normal" techniques we would use to understand any piece of literature:

1. Study the grammar. Pay attention to nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. Think through any figures of speech. Observe how phrases and clauses are connected into sentences and how sentences are linked together into paragraphs.
2. Remember that chapter divisions came later. When Paul wrote Corinthians or Luke wrote the book of Acts, they wrote single, unified stories without verse or chapter divisions. These books were meant to be read just like you would read a letter or a novel. Always keep the overall story in mind as you study each passage.

Interpretation Principle 3 | Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

This is the third and last principle of interpretation. Because God is unchangingly truthful and always consistent (John 17:17; Hebrews 3:6; James 1:17), we can, and should, expect the same of His Word. This has two practical applications:

1. Check your conclusions. Always compare your conclusions with the teachings of scripture as a whole. If you find your interpretation of a passage contradicts the clear teaching of scripture elsewhere, you probably need to revise your conclusions.
2. Allow clear passages to illuminate ambiguous passages. Whenever you encounter a passage that is confusing or open to multiple possible interpretations, use clearer passages of scripture to guide you to the correct interpretation.

One last caution: remember that God revealed scripture progressively, not all at once. Therefore, we should not be surprised by differences between how people related to and understood God at different times in the history of scripture. For example, while Abraham needed only believe that God was faithful in order to be justified (Genesis 15:6), in the New Testament era, we must believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to be saved (1 Corinthians 15:1-7).

APPLY

Our Bible study is not over until we apply what we have learned to our everyday lives. And lest we underestimate the value of this last step, remember that in God's eyes it is the person who does not just know His Word, but also obeys His Word that truly loves Him (see John 14:21). So how do we apply a passage to our lives? Application involves the following two tasks:

APPLICATION TASK 1

List potential principles from your passage.

A "principle" is simply a fact or command stated or implied in a particular passage that is practically relevant to our lives. Legitimate principles are not specific to a particular person (e.g., 1 Timothy 5:23 is just for Timothy) nor a particular time (e.g., "do not leave Jerusalem" in Acts 1:4). It is often helpful when listing principles to consider the following questions:

- Is there something to worship or thank God for?
- Is there a promise for me to claim or a truth for me to believe?
- Is there something I am convicted about that I need to change or begin doing?
- Is there something or someone I need to pray for specifically this week?
- Is there any relationship I need to work on?

APPLICATION TASK 2

Choose one principle, and create a plan to apply it to your life this week.

Once you complete your principle list, prayerfully choose the one principle you most need to work on (Do not just choose the easiest to apply!). If you felt deeply convicted about one in particular, that is probably the principle God is leading you to apply. Once you have chosen a specific principle, answer these two questions:

1. What exactly will you do differently this week to apply this principle to your life? Be specific.
2. Whom, other than the Lord, will you ask to help you follow through with this application?

CHRONOLOGY

EVENT	APPROXIMATE DATE
Crucifixion of Jesus	April 33
Pentecost (Acts 2)	May 33
Paul's conversion (Acts 9)	Summer 35
Paul in Jerusalem, 1st visit (Acts 9:26-29; Gal. 1:18-20)	35-43
Paul to Antioch (Acts 11:25-26)	Spring 43
Epistle of James written	45
Paul in Jerusalem, relief visit (Acts 11:30; Gal. 2:1-10)	Autumn 47
Paul to Antioch (Acts 12:25-13:1)	Autumn 47 – Spring 48
Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13-14)	April 48 – September 49
Peter at Antioch (Gal. 2:11-16)	Autumn 49
Galatians written from Antioch	Autumn 49
Paul in Jerusalem, Jerusalem council (Acts 15)	Autumn 49
Paul in Antioch (Acts 15:30-35)	Winter 49/50
Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-18:22)	April 50 – September 52
1 & 2 Thessalonians written	Spring – Summer 51
Paul in Jerusalem and Antioch	End of September 52; Winter 52/53
Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 18:23-21:16)	Spring 53 – May 57
1 & 2 Corinthians written	Spring – Fall 56
Romans written	Winter 56/57
Ephesian elders visit Paul at Miletus (Acts 20)	May 57
Paul in Jerusalem	Eve of Pentecost, May 27, 57
Paul's arrest and trial before Felix (Acts 21:26-24:22)	June 57
Paul's appearance before Felix (Acts 24:24-26)	June 57
Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea (Acts 24:27)	June 57 – Aug 59
Paul's trial before Festus (Acts 25:7-12) & Agrippa (Acts 26)	July 59; Aug 59
Paul's voyage to Rome (Acts 27:1-28:29)	Aug 59 – Feb 60
Paul's first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:30)	Feb 60 – Mar 62
Luke written	60

Acts Written	60
Ephesians written	Autumn 60
Colossians and Philemon written	Autumn 61
Philippians written	Spring 62
Paul's release	Spring 62
Mark written	62
Paul in Ephesus and Colossae	Spring – Autumn 62
Peter in Rome	62
Paul in Macedonia	Summer 62 – Winter 62/63
1 Timothy written	Autumn 62
Paul in Asia Minor	Spring 62
Peter martyred	Summer 64 (67?)
Paul in Spain and Crete	Spring 64 – Spring 66; Summer 66
Titus written	Summer 66
Paul arrested and taken to Rome	Autumn 67
2 Timothy written	Autumn 67
Paul's death	Spring 68
Matthew written	60's
Hebrews written	60's
Destruction of Jerusalem	September 2, 70
Jude written	60's or 70's
John written	80's or 90's
1,2,3 John written	80's or 90's
Revelation written	Early 90's

Adapted from Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ, Harold H. Hoehner, Zondervan, 1978.

ENGAGE TOOLS

Because God loves all people, He is constantly working to draw men and women to Himself. He invites believers to partner with Him in this great mission of redemption and restoration. We do this by helping people find and follow Jesus — this is disciple-making. Jesus summarized this calling in Matthew 28:18-20.

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'”

On the following pages are some foundational tools, practices, and resources to engage in helping people find and follow Jesus.

Visit grace-bible.org/disciplemaker for more resources.

EVERY NEIGHBOR MAP

Just as Jesus entered into a specific time and place, God has placed each of us into a unique context in which to share His love and to represent Him. Our context includes anyone that we commonly encounter on a regular basis which gives us the ability to have influence in their lives.

Think about the people in your spheres of influence; the people with whom you live, learn, work, and play who are near to you but might be far from God.

Also, think about people that are just beyond your normal spheres. Perhaps there is an acquaintance that you don't know well, or a neighbor who is different from you ethnically or socio-economically, or a community member that the Holy Spirit has put in your path but is more a stranger than friend. Be creative and think outside the box!

Pray Big - diligently pray for these friends to find and follow Jesus.

Map - write down at least three names in each of these spheres.

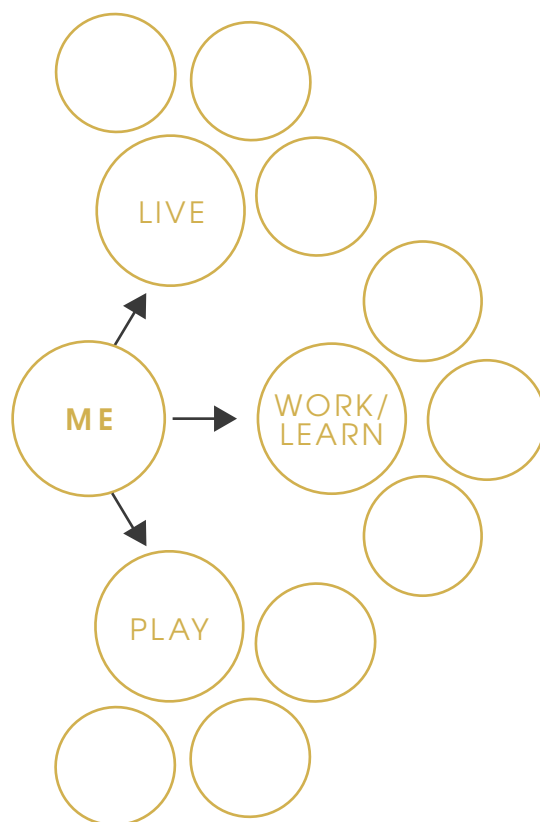
Ask God:

Who might be seeking Him or is asking hard questions about life?

Who needs acts of love and concern shown to them?

How to serve and share the love of Christ with them?

For opportunities to share your story and the gospel.



STARTING A SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

During His life on earth, Jesus told stories using illustrations from everyday life that created an interest in His Kingdom. Jesus made His message accessible to those who would hear. Sadly, we have become conditioned to put on a filter and not speak of Jesus because we imagine that it is awkward, pushy, or politically incorrect. What would it be like to take off this filter and grow in boldness and love as we share stories about who He is and what He is about?

Marking ourselves as a “spiritual” person can help us gauge whether others are interested in God and His message. Some people will “lean in” as you speak about such topics, asking additional questions, sharing their own beliefs, telling about their own journey. Some will not; they will “lean back” and change the topic, become silent, or shut down altogether. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you as you initiate and let Him do the work of speaking to a person’s soul.

Practice talking about two or three of the following “interest creating” topics:

Recently, God/Jesus has been teaching me that...

I am realizing more and more that God has blessed me by...

I used to struggle with (insert fear, stronghold, idolatry) but now I see God wants me to believe...

I decided to follow Jesus because...

I’ve really been learning to pray more lately. Do you have anything in your life that I can commit to pray for?

Think of common topics that come up as you meet people, for example: career, living situation, family history, educational background. Pick one of these and tell how God changed your path in the past, or how He is guiding you in the present.

As you practice talking about these things, try to end with a learning question such as:

Have you ever considered God in this way before?

Do you think God is teaching/blessing/asking you to believe anything right now?

Do you consider yourself on a spiritual journey? What is that like?

What does your tradition say about Jesus?

Your questions are to gauge a response and to allow space for them to interact with your story.

Now, be prayerful and alert as to who God brings across your path!

SHARING YOUR STORY

You have a unique story of how you came to know and follow Jesus. Your story is one of the most powerful tools you have for helping other people find and follow Jesus as well. As you begin to let people know that you are following Jesus, simply ask, “Can I share with you the story of my spiritual journey?” Those who are interested in spiritual things are likely to demonstrate their interest in one way or another (asking questions, making a comment) and that often provides an open door to share your story.

HOW TO BEGIN

Write out your thoughts on the following topics and questions. These ideas will help you share the story of your spiritual journey, sometimes called your “testimony.”

MY LIFE BEFORE JESUS

My life revolved around _____, and I found my identity, happiness and security from _____. Use an example from your personal life here. For instance, did your security come from money, your relationships, etc.?

How did this disappoint me? How was this unfulfilling? How did I come to realize this?

What was I struggling with (if anything) just before I believed in Jesus?

Note: Some people trusted Jesus when they were very young, and don't have clear memories of the time before they knew Him. If that is you, simply share this as part of your story.

HOW I FIRST BELIEVED IN JESUS

This part of your story is where you came to a transition in your life.

When and how did I first hear about Jesus?

What did I learn about the life He offers all who believe in Him?

When and why did my perspective about Jesus begin to change?

Why did I decide to believe in Jesus?

Note: Some of us may be able to point to specific times or circumstances regarding how or when we believed. For others of us, we can only point to a time period or gradual understanding. Both are great. Everyone's story is significant and the biggest point is that you now believe in Jesus.

MY LIFE SINCE I FIRST BELIEVED IN JESUS

How is my life different now? List some specific changes in your character, attitude, and perspective on life.

How am I motivated differently now? What do I live for now?

How do I experience God now?

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Think about your answers to the questions above, and ask yourself the following:

Is this a continuous story that makes sense?

Are there any consistent themes in my story?

Can I share my story in 3-4 minutes?

Was I clear about what I believed about Jesus?

SHARING THE GOSPEL: THE BRIDGE

In the Christian faith, the word “gospel” simply means the “good news” about Jesus - His life, death and resurrection. The message that through belief in Jesus we can enter into a loving relationship with God, experiencing forgiveness and receiving the gift of eternal life, is good news, indeed!

Let’s look at a concise and understandable way to communicate the gospel to your friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.

PEOPLE



GOD



God created people to enjoy a relationship with Him and represent Him through our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28, 31) As a loving Father, He communicated boundaries that protect and allow us to enjoy our relationship with Him and with other people. (Genesis 2:15-16)

PEOPLE



SINFUL

GOD

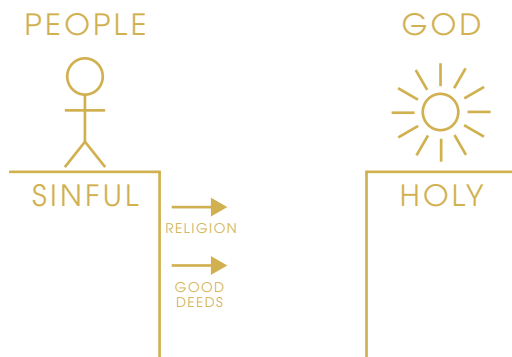


HOLY

Everyone has fallen short of God’s standards. The Bible calls that “sin.” Our sin results in our separation from God. Unless our sin is forgiven, we deserve eternal punishment, separated from God forever.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death.” Romans 6:23a

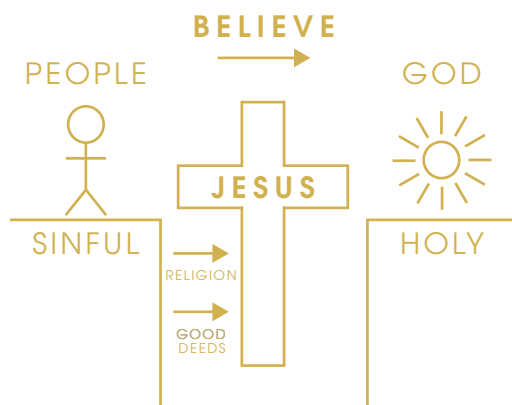
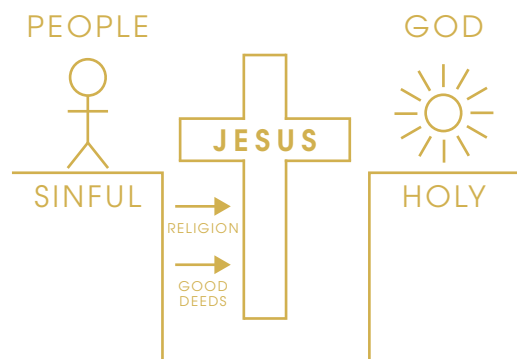


Some try to reach God through religion or by trying to be a good person. But the Bible tells us that there is only one way to God and that is through belief in His Son, Jesus Christ.

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6

God graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and freely give us eternal life. God’s only Son Jesus died in our place. He took on Himself the punishment that our sin deserves. Then, Jesus rose from the dead. He conquered sin and death forever.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8



Everyone who believes in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins receives eternal life. To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God’s approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and salvation. Instead, you accept God’s free gift of eternal life.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” John 5:24

SHARING THE GOSPEL: THREE CIRCLES

In Christianity, the word “gospel” simply means the “good news” about Jesus - His life, death and resurrection. The message that through belief in Jesus we can enter into a loving relationship with God, experiencing forgiveness and receiving the gift of eternal life, is good news, indeed!

Let’s look at a concise and understandable way to communicate the gospel to your friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.

These three circles help us explain the gospel according to the Bible.

Read each section and the scripture verses that follow.

GOD’S DESIGN

Out of God’s great love, He created a world that was good. He made people to enjoy a deeply connected relationship with Him and to represent Him through our lives. (Genesis 1:26-28, 31) As a loving Father, He communicated boundaries to protect us and to allow us to fully enjoy our relationships with Him and with other people (Genesis 2:15-17).

BROKENNESS

Yet, when we look around our world, brokenness and evil are evident everywhere - war, famine, disease, corruption. If we are honest, we also see brokenness and evil inside ourselves - deceit, hatred, greed, lust. This is because we have rejected God’s design and chosen to follow our own way. Our rejection of God and His ways is what the Bible calls sin. (Romans 3:23) Our sin results in separation from God which the Bible calls death. (Romans 6:23a) Unless our sin is forgiven, we will remain separated from God forever.

JESUS

God does not want to leave us in our sin and brokenness!

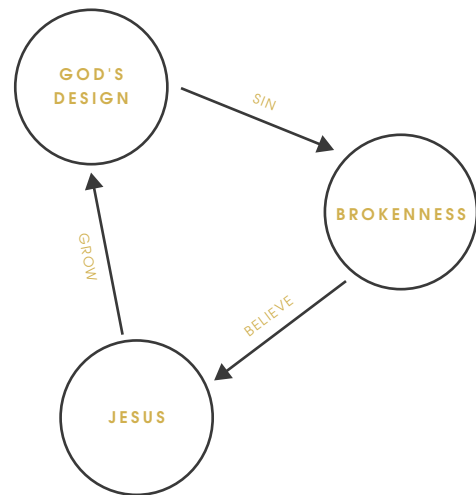
God graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and to freely give us eternal life - a life connected to God both now and forever. (Romans 6:23b; John 17:3)

God’s only Son Jesus died in our place. He took upon Himself the penalty that we deserve because of our sin. Then, Jesus rose from the dead, and forever defeated the power of sin and death. (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

BELIEVE

We respond to Jesus by believing in Him for the forgiveness of our sin.

To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God’s approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and rescue. Instead, you accept God’s free gift of eternal life. Belief or faith is simply being convinced or persuaded that something or someone is trustworthy (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9).



Everyone who believes in Jesus is forgiven of their sin and receives eternal life. We can now know God personally and experience the life we were designed to live (John 3:16-17).

Which circle or arrow in the diagram best represents your life right now? Have you put your trust (believed) in Jesus alone to be reconciled to God?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS AND NEXT STEPS:

“Yes.”

Ask: “Tell me about that. When and how did that happen for you?”

Try to discern if the person is trusting in anything other than Christ alone.

Move to Grow and Go

“No, but I want to.”

Affirm their decision to believe and help them to tell God in prayer of their belief in Jesus.

Example: “Thank you God for loving me by sending your Son Jesus to die for me. I believe in His life, death and resurrection to rescue me from my sin and spiritual death. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me the free gift of eternal life.”

Welcome them to the Family of God!

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Move to Grow and Go

“Not Sure” / “Not Yet” / “No.”

Ask: “What is keeping you from trusting in Jesus?”

Try to discern their willingness or unwillingness to believe.

For those willing, help answer their questions if possible.

For those unwilling, offer to pray for them and talk further at another time.

GROW

Everyone who believes in Jesus should then grow in their relationship with God. We grow by knowing God more deeply and living more like Him personally.

We begin to know Him and we become like Him by following His way of living (Ephesians 4:15).

GO

Followers of Jesus have the great calling and opportunity to go into the broken world to share the love of God and the good news of the gospel message (Matthew 28:19-20).

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

Discovery Bible Study is an easy and meaningful way to read the Bible with friends in your life who do not know Jesus. The simple practice consists of reading a section of scripture and answering five basic questions. The goal is to facilitate an encounter between God's truth and your friend's heart. Be praying for God to reveal Himself to your friend through His Word.

Choose a passage of scripture, read it aloud (1-2 times).

Ask someone to retell it in their own words.
Answer these five questions:

1. What does this passage teach about God?
2. What does this passage teach about people or myself?
3. What stands out most in this passage?
4. Since God's word is true, how should I change as a result? What will I do in response to this passage?

Consider the following:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a challenge for me to face?

5. With whom am I going to share this passage and what I am learning from the Bible?

Suggested Passages

Read through these 4 Core Passages about Jesus:

- John 3:1-21 (You must be born again)
- Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus has authority to forgive)
- Luke 7:36-50 (Forgive much/Love much)
- Luke 18:7-14 (Self-righteous/irreligious)

Read through the book of John.

Creation to Christ

Read through these passages for bigger picture of the Biblical narrative.

- ☐ Genesis 1:1-25
- ☐ Genesis 2:4-24
- ☐ Genesis 3:1-13
- ☐ Genesis 3:14-24
- ☐ Genesis 6:5-8
- ☐ Genesis 6:9-8:14
- ☐ Genesis 8:15-9:17
- ☐ Genesis 12:1-8, 15:1-6, 17:1-7
- ☐ Genesis 22:1-19
- ☐ Exodus 12:1-28
- ☐ Exodus 20:1-21
- ☐ Leviticus 4:1-35
- ☐ Isaiah 53
- ☐ Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20
- ☐ Matthew 3; John 1:29-34
- ☐ Matthew 4:1-11
- ☐ John 3:1-21
- ☐ John 4:1-26, 39-42
- ☐ Luke 5:17-26
- ☐ Mark 4:35-41
- ☐ Mark 5:1-20
- ☐ John 11:1-44
- ☐ Matthew 26:17-30
- ☐ John 18:1-19:16
- ☐ Luke 23:32-56
- ☐ Luke 24:1-35
- ☐ Luke 24:36-53
- ☐ John 3:1-21

PRAY MODEL

PRAY* is a simple acronym to help frame your time of prayer.

P - PAUSE

- Take a deep breath and center your mind and heart on God's presence with you.
- Don't rush; be still and sit quietly with Him.
- Slowly let go of distractions surrounding you and focus on the nearness of God.

Silence and stillness reorient our minds and hearts to pray from a place of love, joy and peace.

“But as for me, the nearness of God is good for me; I have made the Lord God my refuge,” **Psalm 73:28**

R - REJOICE

- Begin praising God for who He is and for how He loves His good creation; the natural world, all people and you.
- Thank Him for specific things in your life, family, church, community and the world.
- Acknowledge your identity as a “gift recipient” of the abundant grace of God.

“For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.” **John 1:16**
“Everything that has breath shall praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!” **Psalm 150:6**

A - ASK

- Tell God what is on your heart and mind.
- Ask Him for what you need and want.
- Cast your burdens upon Him because He cares for you (1 Peter 5:6-7).
- Listen to Him as He reveals His heart to you as well.
- Try keeping a list of people and specific areas of your life that you are praying about.

Prayer is a conversation of talking and listening; communion and communication.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” **Philippians 4:6**

Y - YIELD

- Finish your prayers with a heart posture of surrender; trusting in His love for you.
- Try opening your hands, palms up, as an outward expression of your inward desire.

Jesus is our great example of both asking God for His deepest needs and of yielding the outcome to the Father's will.

“And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.'”
Matthew 26:39

ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES

ONLINE RESOURCES

netbible.org | cross references, word studies

biblestudytools.net | word studies

blueletterbible.org | word studies

planobiblechapel.org/soniclight | commentary

bestcommentaries.com | commentary database

Grace Bible Church does not always agree with the views of these commentaries. These are good tools to help understand hard passages, but the particular theological views reflect the author of the commentary and not those of Grace Bible Church.

DISCIPLESHIP/BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

Living By the Book by Howard Hendricks and Charles Swindoll

A more in-depth book on how to study the Bible using the tools discussed in this packet.

The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman

A highly motivational analysis of Jesus' own principles of evangelism and discipleship.

The Lost Art of Disciple Making by Leroy Eims

This practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.


A Survey of Bible Doctrine by Charles Ryrie

An easy-to-read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.

Rooted by Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX

Nine conversations that establish a new believer with foundational truths and practices to follow Jesus for a lifetime. <https://www.grace-bible.org/resources/bible-study/46/rooted>

FIND MORE RESOURCES AT **GRACE-BIBLE.ORG**

Abstract gold lines, resembling cracks or veins, are scattered across the top left corner of the dark background.

*But we have this treasure in
clay jars,
so that the extraordinary
power belongs to God
and does not come from us.
2 Corinthians 4:7 (NET)*

