

1 & 2 PETER

WELCOME FRIENDS,

to our study of 1 & 2 Peter. Peter was one of the disciples in the inner circle of our Lord Jesus. We have chosen to study his letters to the church, to help us learn to walk more closely with the Lord. The point of this study is to not just learn about Peter, or his instructions for the church, but also to help us engage in our relationship with God.

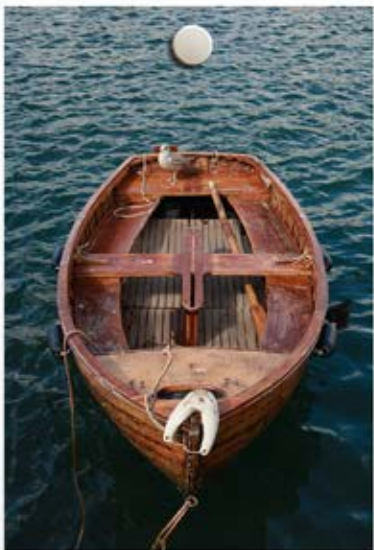
I have included reminders at the beginning of each day to help focus your thoughts on God. You will then be led to a short passage of Scripture to read, along with a few questions for reflection. Our desire is that you use this booklet like a journal, documenting what you learn about God, what you learn about yourself, and what you learn about your relationship with the Lord.

Thanks for taking the time to study 1 & 2 Peter with us. We hope it is a blessing and an encouragement for you.

Thom Fulmer

Peter, an apostle of
Jesus Christ, to God's
elect, exiles scattered –
who have been
chosen according to the
foreknowledge of God
the Father, through the
sanctifying work of the
Spirit, to be obedient
to Jesus Christ, and
sprinkled with His
Blood: grace and peace
be yours in abundance.

1 PETER 1:1-2 NIV



Diaspora:
Greek for those
who have been
scattered

1 PETER BACKGROUND

At the time of the writing of this letter, Peter was the leader of the church in Rome. He was concerned about those who were scattered throughout Asia Minor, a region that had been previously evangelized by Paul.

Peter did not want them to fall away from their faith, so he wrote to encourage and strengthen them, and to warn them that the trials they were suffering were to be expected. Peter wanted them to know that trials walked out as believers would result in proven faith, and a godly character.

*Asia Minor
is present day
Turkey.*



WEEK 1 : CHOSEN

There are marvelous benefits of being chosen by God—eternal things, such as salvation and an inheritance, and current things, such as strengthened faith in trials, and a sincere love for others.



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in which the
prophets and
angels longed
to look

What qualities of God did you read about?

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What benefits of being chosen did you see in these verses?

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What did you learn about your relationship with God?

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PRAYER

Praise God for who He is.
Thank Him for choosing you.
Pray about the current trials you are suffering.

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Take a deep breath before you begin and ask the Lord to speak to you as you read His Word.

What did you learn about the Holy Spirit?

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Uncrowd my heart,
O God, until silence
speaks in your still
small voice; turn me
from the hearing
of words, and the
making of words,
and the confusion
of much speaking,
to listening, waiting,
stillness, silence.

THOMAS MERTON

What future events were the prophets writing to tell you about?

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How are you blessed by the Gospel?

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PRAYER

Thank God for the work of the Holy Spirit.
Write one word that describes His presence in your life.

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Long ago the Lord
said to Israel:
I have loved you,
my people, with an
everlasting love.
With unfailing love
I have drawn
you to myself.

JEREMIAH 31:3 NLT

*Consider and
thank the Lord
for how he has
drawn you to
himself.*



Because of who God is, how are we to live?

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PRAYER

Ask God for the desire, understanding, and strength to live a holy life.

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Take a minute before you begin today, and invite the Lord into this time.

What did you learn about God the Father from today's reading?

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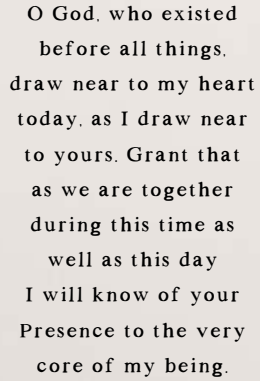
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O God, who existed
before all things,
draw near to my heart
today, as I draw near
to yours. Grant that
as we are together
during this time as
well as this day
I will know of your
Presence to the very
core of my being.

JIM BRANCH

What did you learn about Jesus?

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What does God want you to understand? What does God want you to do?

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PRAYER

Take time to thank God for who He is, and what He has done for you.

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As we begin today, let's thank the Lord for His love and attention to us.

We see God's character shining through His salvation and Word. What characteristics did you see?

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**For the Lord
delights in
his people:
he crowns the
humble with
victory.**

PSALMS 149:4 NLT

As a Christ-follower, what characteristics should mark your life?

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All people are like grass.
And all their glory is like
flowers of the field.
The grass withers and
the flowers fall.
But the Word of the Lord
endures forever.

PRAYER

Thank God for what you have learned about Him this week, for what you have learned about yourself, and for what you have learned about your relationship with Him.

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**WEEK 2 :
LIVING STONES**

So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

1 PETER 2:1-3 NLT



We must not
stay baby
Christians -
it's time
to grow up!

BACKGROUND

Peter continues his masterful letter to the *scattered ones*. In Chapter 2, he uses metaphors such as newborn babies and living stones, in order to challenge his readers to grow up in salvation and take their place in the Body of Christ.

Upon this
Rock I will
build my
Church!

MATTHEW 16:16-18



Who was "The Living Cornerstone," and what were His characteristics?

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Would you say you are a living stone? Why or why not? If so, how are you described in these verses?

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What do you believe about the Cornerstone?

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PRAYER

Ask God to show you how to be a “living stone” to those around you this week.

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As we begin today, thank God that He is so close and accessible to us.

Read Romans 13:1. What do you learn about God in this verse?

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God dwells within you. You yourself are the tabernacle, his secret hiding place. Rejoice, exult, for all you could possibly desire, all your heart's longing is so close, so intimate as to be within you: you cannot be without him.

JOHN OF THE CROSS

What is God's will for you?

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Show proper
respect to everyone.
love the family
of believers.
fear God.
honor the king.

If we are “temporary residents and foreigners” in this world, where is our actual citizenship?

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PRAYER

Thank God that He controls who is in authority over us. Ask Him to show you how to be respectful in all situations.

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How was Christ our example in suffering?

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substitute the word 'employees' for the word 'slaves'

Show me the right path, O Lord: point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.

PSALMS 25:4-5 NLT

How can you please God in your current work situation?

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How does it comfort you that Christ understands your hardship?

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PRAYER

Thank the Lord for suffering for you, in His life, and on the cross. Ask God for the patient endurance required in your current situation. Ask that God will give you words of encouragement for others who are suffering.

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Ask the Lord to reveal himself to you today, as you read His word and as you go through your day.

In whose hands did Christ leave His case?

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The human being is created in the divine image and likeness in order to have continual and intimate communion with the One who made us.

MARJORIE THOMPSON

How can knowing that God is in control of every situation, and is always just, comfort you today?

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Return to the
Shepherd and
Guardian
of your souls.

How did Christ's wounds heal you?

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PRAYER

Praise God as your Savior, Shepherd, and Guardian. Thank Him for being your substitute on the cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you from wandering away from Christ. Ask Him to show you how to live for righteousness.

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List the motivations that Peter has given us for following his instructions.

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The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak: night after night they make him known.

PSALMS
19:1-2
NLT

On a clear night when you look up into the heavens and see the sky filled with stars, what do you think about God?

Who is our example in obedience?

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What does this teach you about God?

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PRAYER

“Praise the One who called you out of darkness into His wonderful Light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

Thank God for who He is: The Cornerstone, Savior, the Righteous Judge, Shepherd, Guardian of souls... Pray for understanding of how to be a living stone, and an example to others in your life.

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WEEK 3 :
SUBMITTED TO CHRIST

Last week we looked at how we are to submit to others for the Lord's sake. Submission involves voluntarily cooperating with someone out of respect for God, and for that person. We read in Romans 13 that all governing authorities are established by God, and therefore, believers are to submit to them. Likewise, employees are to submit to their employers, and show them respect.

In Chapter 3, we will see that wives are to put their trust in God, and submit to their husbands, while husbands are to respect their wives, and treat them with understanding.



*inward
beauty*

What is of great worth to God?

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How are wives to treat their husbands?

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Trust in
God

How can wives not give into fear?

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PRAYER

Thank God for Who He is and the hope we have in Him. Pray about any fears you have about your marriage — past, present, or future. Watch for the Lord's healing in your relationships.

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Read Ephesians 5:22-33.
What do we learn about
Christ from this passage?

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There is no greater
love than to lay
down one's life
for one's friends.

JOHN 15:13 NLT

*How does it make
you feel to know
that Jesus chose
to lay down His
life for you?*

Why should husbands love, honor, and respect their wives?

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*unhindered
prayers*

Looking back at Chapters 2 and 3, in which arena do you have the most trouble submitting?

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PRAYER

If you are married, thank God for your spouse. Thank Him for the gift of a new life in Christ. Ask God to help you to respectfully cooperate in the areas He has called you to submit.

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As you begin today, consider how great it is that we are unconditionally loved by God.

What does today's reading instruct believers to do?

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There never was a time when He did not love you - His mercy is from everlasting; nor a time when He will love you less - His mercy is to everlasting.

F B MEYER

What should we not do?

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answer
insult with
blessing

What do we learn about the eyes, ears, and face of God?

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PRAYER

Thank God for enabling you to do what He has called you to do. Pray about any relationship that is causing you to suffer. Ask God how to seek peace in this situation.

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Start today by taking a few minutes to thank God for a couple of things He has done for you.

What did you learn about God in today's verses?

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Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 NLT

What is our hope as believers? How would you explain this hope to someone else?

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Worship
Christ as
Lord!

What does God want us
to do?

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PRAYER

Thank God for the hope we have in Christ. Ask God to
remove any worry or fear you have in a relationship, and
replace it with trust in Him.

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It is always good to begin our day by proclaiming to God that He is the Lord and we belong to Him!

List the things Christ did in today's verses.

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**Acknowledge that
the Lord is God!
He made us and
we are his.
We are his people,
the sheep of
his pasture.**

PSALMS 100:3 NLT

How does The Flood event represent baptism?

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Why should we submit to Christ's authority?

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PRAYER

Spend time thanking the Lord for suffering on the cross for your sins, and for bringing you to God. Thank Him for saving you through His resurrection.

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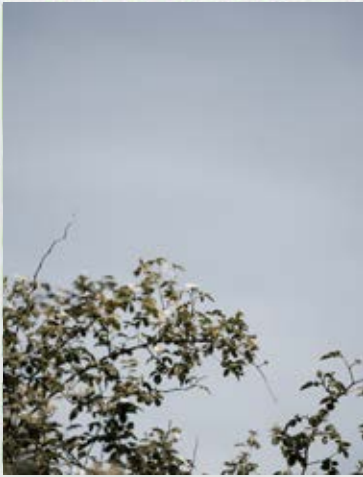
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WEEK 4 : SUFFERING WITH CHRIST

This week we will look at the difficult topic of suffering as a Christian. Of course, no one wants to suffer, but Christ was very clear in Matthew 16:24, when He told His disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up the cross and follow Me."

Peter also knew something about suffering. We read in Acts 5 that Peter and the apostles were thrown into public jail, and when they escaped, they were flogged. Furthermore, at the time of the writing of this letter, Nero was the Emperor in Rome. Nero was known to be the great persecutor of Christians. He falsely blamed Christians for the fire that destroyed Rome in AD 64, and had many thrown to the lions, crucified, or used as human torches to light his garden parties. Tradition has it that both Peter and Paul were executed during Nero's reign.



*consider it
pure joy*

What do you think was Christ's attitude in suffering?

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As believers, what should we not chase?

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What should we live for?

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PRAYER

Thank the Lord for being willing to suffer physical pain to save you. Pray that you will have the desire to pursue eternal things and not things of this world. Pray about who you could share the Gospel with this week.

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Read Matthew 24:12.

What did Jesus say caused love to grow cold?

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**Help me, Lord
Jesus, to want your
company more than
I want serenity, and
to love fellowship
with you more than
I fear the suffering
necessary to
enter it.**

KEN GIRE

Do you feel love is growing cold in our generation?
Why or why not?

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We love each
other because He
first loved us.
1 John 4:19 NLT

How have you felt God's love
for you this week?

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PRAYER

Thank the Lord that He will be in complete control of the world until the end. Pray for a deep love for others. Ask to have eyes to see those who need to feel the love of Christ.

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Take a few minutes to commit this time and the rest of your day to the Lord.

Read Romans 12:6-8. What does God provide each believer?

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**Commit
everything
you do to the
Lord. Trust
him, and he
will help you.**

PSALMS 37:5 NLT

Do you know what your spiritual gift is? If you do, write it down below.

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every
believer
is gifted
to serve

How does using your gift
bring glory to God?

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PRAYER

Praise God for His eternal glory and power. Thank God for giving you the words, strength and energy to use your spiritual gift. If you don't yet know what your gift is, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it to you. Ask Him to show you ways to use your spiritual gift.

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Take a couple of minutes to invite the Lord into whatever is currently troubling or worrying you.

How do you think Christ suffered in His earthly life?

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Let us not worry about the greatness or smallness of our faith: the main point is whether it is directed towards the living Savior.

F B MEYER

Have you ever suffered because of your Christian beliefs and ideals?

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Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

JAMES 1:2-5 NIV

In suffering, what future event can we look forward to?

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PRAYER

Praise God for the privilege of being called by His Name! (1 Peter 4:16 NLT) Thank God that one day you will share in His glory when He returns. Thank Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit, resting on you when you suffer. Spend time praying about anything that is causing you to suffer right now.

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Though we have troubles,
the Lord never abandons us.
Let's express our gratitude
to the Lord for His presence
in our life.

Looking back at 1 Peter 2:23,
what did you learn about
God as Judge?

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I have told you
these things so
that in Me you
may have peace.
In this world you
will have trouble.
But take heart! I
have overcome
the world.

JOHN 16:33 NIV

If you are suffering, who should you trust your life to?
Why?

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Man is born
to trouble as
sparks fly
upward.

Job 5:7 NIV

How will Christians and non-Christians face judgement day differently?

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PRAYER

Praise God for being the Faithful Creator who will never fail you. If you belong to Him, thank God for this marvelous gift. If you are unsure how you stand with God, ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to become a Christ follower. If you chose to become a Christ follower this week, share this decision with a fellow Christian.

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WEEK 5 : SHEPHERDS

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes Lord,' he said, 'You know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' Again Jesus said, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, You know that I love You.' Jesus said, 'take care of my sheep.' The third time He said to him, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, do you love me? He said, 'Lord you know all things: You know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'

JOHN 21:15-17 NIV



I am the
Good Shepherd.
John 10:11 NLT

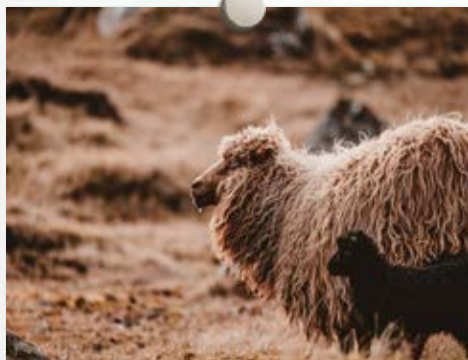
BACKGROUND

Peter's letter to the Diaspora was personal. He knew something about suffering, but he also knew the Risen Lord. Rome, under the Emperor Nero, would soon become determined to get rid of those who were called the *Christ-ones*. Trials and suffering would only increase. But Peter wanted all believers to know that suffering for Christ, while difficult, would ultimately lead to glory.

There is a purpose in suffering. Suffering refines faith, defines beliefs, teaches us about God's faithfulness, and deepens our love for others. Suffering is an expected part of life and the Christian walk. In Peter's final remarks, we will see that suffering can make us better leaders, make us humble before God, and give us strength to resist evil attacks when they come.

My sheep
know my
voice and they
follow me.

JOHN 10:27



What did you learn about the Good Shepherd in these verses?

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We are all called to be servant leaders within our realm of influence. From these verses, what attitudes should characterize your leadership?

What are faithful leaders promised in the future?

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In Bible times, a shepherd would go out of the pen first and lead his sheep. How have you felt the Good Shepherd leading you recently?

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PRAYER

Thank God for being your Shepherd and for His guidance in your life. Ask that in your realm of influence, whether it is large or small, that the Holy Spirit will show you how to be a servant leader.

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Ask the Lord to show you how to truly love those he has placed in your life.

What did you learn about God in these verses?

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The fundamental building blocks of the kingdom are relationships. Not programs, systems, or productivity. But inconvenient, time-consuming, intrusive relationships.

ROBERT D LUPTON

With what are we to dress ourselves? Why?

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*Be swift to
hear and slow
to speak.
James 1:19*

What does it mean to humble yourself before God? If you are humble before Him, what will He do in time?

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PRAYER

Thank the Lord for His tender care for you. Entrust Him with all of your worries, and thank Him for the work He is already doing in each situation. Express your humble submission to His will for you.

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Invite the Lord into your heart, and ask Him to heal any area that might feel broken or crushed.

Why do you think the devil attacks the family of believers?

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The Lord is close to the brokenhearted: he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

PSALMS 34:18 NLT

Read James 4:7. What is the key to being able to resist the devil?

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stay
alert!

Read Matthew 4:1-11. How does it comfort you to know that Christ understands your temptations?

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PRAYER

Thank God that you have an empathetic Savior who understands temptation. Ask the Holy Spirit for the alertness to see trouble coming. Pray that you will be able to stand firm in your faith when temptation strikes. Pray for believers around the world who are suffering for their faith.

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What characteristics of God do you see in these verses?

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What does God promise to do for you after you have suffered?

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There is a limitation to our suffering. It is only for a little while; but every moment has been fixed by the immutable purpose and love of God. The hour of darkness is timed with exact measurement. You shall not suffer one moment more than is absolutely necessary for your perfecting of God's glory; and for every moment there is an ample supply of grace.

F B MEYER

What has God called you to share one day?

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PRAYER

Praise God for His eternal glory and power. Thank Him for His grace. Thank Him for being your firm foundation, who promises to restore, support, and strengthen you, even during difficult seasons of life.

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Pray for yourself or anyone close to you who might be suffering in some way today. Ask the Lord to help you see Him working in this present struggle.

Do you think God is always in control even when you are suffering? Why or why not?

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Help me to see
my pain as an
invitation to
know you more
intimately rather
than a reason to
doubt the
goodness of
your heart.
JIM BRANCH

What are you to do in suffering?

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peace to
all of you
who are in
Christ

What do all who are in
Christ have?

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PRAYER

Thank God for His grace. Ask for His peace and encouragement in whatever you are facing right now. Pray that you will be aware of, and have words of encouragement for those who cross your path and are struggling.

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For God made His light
shine in our hearts to
give us the light of the
knowledge of God's glory
displayed in the face of
Christ. But we have this
treasure in jars of clay to
show that this all-
surpassing power is from
God and not from us.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6-7 NIV



*I am
the vine.
You are the
branches.*

WEEK 6 :
POWER TO LIVE THE
CHRISTIAN LIFE

After Christ's resurrection and before His ascension, the Lord told Peter how he would one day die—Peter would be martyred (John 21:18-19). In 2 Peter 1:14, we see that Peter was convinced that his death was near, and he was desperate to remind his readers of all the things he had taught them. He wanted believers to stand securely on their foundation of faith. He wanted them to believe in the authority of Scripture, and believe Christ would one day return. He warned that false teachers would soon join their congregations, and these teachers would begin to subtly teach heresy. He wanted his readers to watch out and be ready. The time was urgent, believers must listen, and so Peter packed every sentence in this letter full of theology (truths about God), and instructions for Christian living.

Peter used the word knowledge 13 times in these 3 chapters. He was passionate that believers would strive to know Christ. No doubt he was eternally grateful for the time he was able to personally spend with the Lord on Earth.

Where does the power to live the Christian life come from?

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How can you receive this power?

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Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 PETER 1:1-3 NIV

What does Peter say believers have received from the Lord?

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PRAYER

Praise God for His power, glory and goodness. Thank Him for calling you to be His follower, and for His promises. Ask that you will continually learn to know Him better.

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Write a synonym for each characteristic below:

Faith:

Goodness:

Knowledge:

Self-control:

Perseverance:

Godliness:

Affection (Phileo):

Love (Agape):

Faith is the word that describes the direction our feet start moving when we find that we are loved.

FREDERICK BUECHNER

Take a minute to commit to respond with a yes to any nudge you sense from the Lord today.

Who is our example for the characteristics listed above?
What plan will you make to add them in increasing measure to your life?

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They will
know we are
Christians
by our love.

How will the Holy Spirit help you develop these characteristics? (See Galatians 5:22-23)

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PRAYER

Thank God for empowering you to live the Christian Life. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you, opportunities to practice these godly characteristics. Ask for the ability to recognize your spiritual growth as you start with faith and move toward love.

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I know the Lord
is always with me.
I will not be shaken,
for he is right
beside me.

PSALMS 16:8 NLT

If you grow in godly character, what will you become in the knowledge of Christ? If you do not grow in godly character, what will happen?

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in my
Father's
house are
many
mansions

If you are called and chosen,
what will you receive from
God?

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PRAYER

Praise God for the hope of eternity with Him. Thank Him for cleansing you of sin. Write the Lord a note of thanks for always being beside you.

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Read Matthew 17:1-8.

How was Peter an eyewitness of Christ's majesty?

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Meditation is almost all contained in this one idea: the idea of awakening our interior self and attuning ourselves to the Holy Spirit, so that we will be able to respond to His grace.

THOMAS MERTON

What do you learn about Christ in these two passages?

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*Transfiguration.
Christ's appearance
in radiant glory
to his disciples*

How does this help you
know Him better?

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PRAYER

Praise the Lord for His majesty and glory. Thank Him that one day you will be able to share in His glory. Ask the Holy Spirit to continually remind you of the spiritual truths that you have learned.

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Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

Who is the originator of all Scripture?

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The instructions of
the Lord are perfect,
reviving the soul.

The decrees of
the Lord are
trustworthy, making
wise the simple.

PSALMS 19:7 NLT

How can you be prepared for every good work?

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Think about and then write down a time when the Lord either revived you or made you wise through His word.

How is Scripture a “lamp shining in a dark place,” until Christ returns?

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PRAYER

Thank God for His Holy Word. Ask for the desire to study Scripture, and the ability to understand it.

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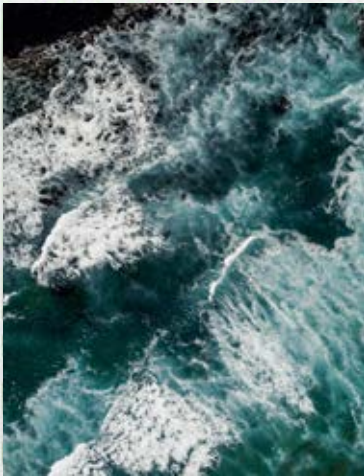
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WEEK 7 : FALSE TEACHERS

In stark contrast to last week's list of godly characteristics of a life empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter spends Chapter 2 describing the depraved characteristics of the false teachers. It is obvious that Peter considers the false teachers to be a grave threat to the Body of Christ. Claiming to be Christ-followers themselves, these teachers used their freedom in Christ to excuse all kinds of immoral behavior. Their motives were sometimes subtle, and sometimes overt. Like false teachers of today, they would line up untruth next to truth, so that which was true became unclear. During Peter's day, they were spreading the rumor that because so much time had passed since Christ left, He was never going to return. Some even denied that Jesus was the Son of God. This was the greatest heresy of all. As you read Chapter 2 this week, consider how similar false teachers are today.



heresy:
opinions which
contradict
foundational
Christian beliefs

What do you learn about God as the Righteous Judge in these verses?

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How can you safeguard yourself against falling for false teaching?

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I urge you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to His holy people. I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

JUDE 1:3-4 NLT

With what did the Lord buy you?

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PRAYER

Praise the Lord, who is sovereign and just, in all circumstances, and at all times. Pray that you will come to firmly know the truths about God. Ask the Holy Spirit to alert you when someone is telling you something false about God.

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Who did God condemn in these verses? Who did He protect?

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the Lord
knows how to
save the
godly

Which two specific sins should you avoid?
(See verse 10)

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There is no
condemnation for
those who belong
to Christ Jesus!

ROMANS 8:1 NLT

How can you make sure you
will not face punishment on
the final Day of Judgment?

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PRAYER

Praise the Lord for His righteousness and justice.
Thank Him that as a Christ-follower, you will not be
condemned. Pray for one person who crosses your
path this week, who needs to know Christ.

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Read Jude 1:17-21. From the 2 Peter and the Jude passages, list the characteristics of the false teachers.

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Looking back at Day 2 from last week's lesson, which characteristics do you think would keep believers from acting like the false teachers?

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From the Jude passage, how are we to live while we wait for Christ's return? (See verses 20-21)

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PRAYER

Thank the Lord for the power of the Holy Spirit which protects and guides your life. Pray that you will recognize false teaching, and that you will not be tempted to follow ungodly ways. Thank the Lord for the safety of His love.

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Read Luke 17:1-3. What does Jesus say about those who cause others to stumble in their faith?

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What is the “right path,” and why is it dangerous to wander off of it?

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*This is what the Lord says:
Stand at the crossroads and look.
Ask for the ancient paths.
Ask where the good way is.
And walk in it. And you will
find rest for your souls.
Jeremiah 6:16 NIV*

PRAYER

Ask that the Holy Spirit will daily show you the right path to follow. Seek the Lord's presence everywhere you go. Pray for those who act like the false teachers of Peter's day. Their fate is dire.

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Read Jude 1:22-23. How does God want us to treat those whose faith is wavering?

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Do you think true freedom is doing whatever you want? Why or why not?

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To not be slaves to sin, we must be slaves to God. What does this mean?

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PRAYER

Thank God that as believers, we have freedom in Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to point out anything in your life that might enslave you. Pray for anyone you know who is struggling with their faith.

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WEEK 8 : THE DAY OF THE LORD

As we conclude Peter's second letter, we will see that His thoughts turn to the end of the world. No doubt, anticipating the end of his own life on earth, led him to speak about when all life on this planet will end. He said, "The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, the heavens will disappear with a roar, all will be destroyed by fire, and man's actions will be laid bare." Peter contradicted the heresy that the Lord is not coming back, by explaining God's timetable is not the same as ours.

There is purpose in the waiting, and it is because of God's great patience that many more will have the opportunity to come to Christ. Peter then spoke of God's promise to create a new Heaven and new Earth. It is important for us to remember that Christ will one day return, and in the meantime, we are to grow in the knowledge of Him.



*This is my second letter
to you, dear friends.
And in both of them
I have tried to stimulate
your wholesome thinking
and refresh your memory.
2 Peter 3:1 NLT*

Read John 14:1-6. What promise had Jesus made?

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What are you to remember?

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last days:
time between
Christ's first
and second
coming

Do you believe the Lord keeps all of His promises? Why or why not?

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PRAYER

Praise God as the Way Maker and Promise Keeper. If you have prayed for a long time for something that has not yet happened, ask for the faith to believe that God will work in the situation. Will you, by faith, thank Him in advance for His timing and resolution?

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What has God done in the past by His Word? What will He do by His Word on the Day of Judgment?

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I have set my
rainbow in the
clouds - never
again will there be
a flood to destroy
the Earth.

Do you believe there will be an actual Day of Judgment? Why or why not?

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By the Word of the Lord
the heavens were made,
their starry host by the
breath of his mouth. He
gathers the waters of the
sea into jars, he puts the
deep into storehouses.
Let all the earth fear the
Lord: let all the people of
the world revere him. For
He spoke, and it came to
be: he commanded, and it
stood firm.

PSALMS 33:6-8 NIV

What about these verses
from Psalms 33 is captivat-
ing for you?

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PRAYER

Praise God as Creator of Heaven and Earth. Thank Him
for sustaining all creation by the power of His word. Pray
that in these "last days," the Gospel will spread around
the world, and many will come to the Lord.

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Take a minute to thank the Lord for being willing to share his unconditional love and joy with us.

From today's verses, why is the Lord waiting to return?

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Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing - sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death - can take that love away.

HENRI J M NOUWEN

Are you ready for His return? Why or why not?

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Live with
an eternal
perspective.

How has the Lord been
patient with you recently?

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PRAYER

Praise God who was, and is, and is to come. Thank Him,
that as believers, we do not need to fear the end of the
world. Thank Him for His glorious plan for eternity.

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Read Revelation 21:1-5. What is God's glorious plan for the end of the world?

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The Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.

PSALMS 84:11 NLT

How does this verse cause you to feel about the Lord?

How should you live now, in light of the future?

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*I am making
all things new!*

Write down one thing that you are looking forward to in Christ's Kingdom.

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PRAYER

Praise God as the One who makes all things new. Pray about what you would like for Him to make new in your life right now.

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What is the result of God's patience?

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Yet I still dare to hope
when I remember this:
The faithful love of
the Lord never ends!
His mercies never cease.

LAMENTATIONS
3:21-22 NLT

*Spend a few minutes
thanking the Lord that
His love never ends and
His mercies never cease -
for each one of us!*

How are you to grow?

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Grow in the
grace and
knowledge of our
Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.

Take a moment to flip back through this journal. Write down a few of the things you would like to remember from your study of 1 and 2 Peter.

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PRAYER

Let's conclude the study by praising God with the words of Peter:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. To Him be glory both now and forevermore! Amen."

1 Peter 1:3-5 & 2 Peter 3:18 NIV

