

LIVING HOPE

A study through
the Books of 1 & 2 Peter

This study belongs to

Small group facilitator(s) are:

Living Hope

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Heart2Heart Ministries, Refuge Calvary Chapel, Huntington Beach, CA

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Heart2Heart Women's Ministry is dedicated to: equip, edify, and exhort women to walk closer with our Lord Jesus; encourage each woman to that place of ministry to which God has called her; and that she will know why she believes what she believes.

Equip ~

"...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12)

Edify ~


"For the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12,13)


"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another." (Romans 14:19)

Exhort ~

"Only let your conduct be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel." (Philippians 1:27)

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 1:3)

 This study is dedicated to my Lord, Jesus Christ, who by His merciful grace saved me. He has faithfully walked with me through trials and tribulations even when I was not faithful.

 Secondly, as I wrote this study I could not help but think of all our Refuge Missionaries (state-side and abroad). You face various challenges, ridicule, persecutions and even risk your life, all for the sake of the Gospel. Your love and dedication to Jesus is an example to all of us who are “Senders”. We love you all. It is a great honor and privilege to pray for each of you and how glorious it is to hear your stories of struggle and triumphs.

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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Prayer is a key factor to any study in God's Word, so always begin your study with prayer. John 14:26 says *"the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things..."* so remember to ask for His help and understanding. A specific prayer point is found at the top of the page for each day.

Step 1 *God's Word* – We want to always handle the Word of God with honor, pray before opening your Bible, ask for His Spirit to help you correctly explain and understand the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15b

- Read the passage through at least two times. Use different versions and the resources mentioned in the **Resource Helps** of this study.
- Take notice of facts, and keep the context of the passage in mind.
- Underline or highlight a verse or phrase that stands out to you the most, or ministers to your heart.
- Look at cross references mentioned in your Bible and read them for step 4.

Steps 2 through 5 are intended to help you focus on establishing a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Step 2 *Comprehend the Word*- What does the verse mean?

Interpretation- Understand it, know it, "To observe well is to interpret well." Draw understanding from the text, don't read meaning into it. Always remember Scripture will never contradict itself. Use your cross references often and reliable commentaries.

John 16:15 *Jesus said "...the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."*

Step 3 *Connect It To You* - What does the verse mean to me?

Examination-This is a time to really connect personally with God through His word and what He is saying. Examine your heart and ask Him to reveal the areas in your life that need to change in order to transform your character into His image.

Psalm 139:23- 24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."

Step 4 *Cross Thoughts*- Record other verses or cross reference verses that came to mind.

As a student of God's Word it is important we know how to study and use our Bibles. This portion of the study will help you gain deeper understanding of the verses you read. A "cross-reference is simply a list of other relevant verses linked by a common thought, word, topic, or expression."

- Write any cross-reference associated with the verse or verses that ministered to you.
- Summarize what the cross-reference says.

Step 5 *Call to Action*- How will I respond and what will I do?

Application- How will I respond and what will I do differently? Pinpoint what God is saying to you personally from the passage. Is He asking you to do something? Is He asking you to change or give up something?

Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

2 Timothy 3:16,17 "All Scripture is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness."

Theme – Write a theme or title you think best describes the main point or 'bottom line' of the passage.

Digging Deeper – This section is designed to include some definitions, biblical terms, customs, commentary or historical facts and questions.

Overview of 1 Peter

Title:	The Book of 1 Peter
Author:	The Apostle Peter
When:	A.D. 65-67
World History:	Nero burns Rome but blames and persecutes Christians 64-68 A.D.
Written to:	This letter is addressed to Christians who were scattered throughout Asia Minor. (Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia)
The Message:	Even though Christians face suffering, we have an eternal hope in Jesus.
Faith Keys:	Persecution, trials and tribulations are never easy, but we are not to be alarmed at the “fiery trials” which come to test our faith. We were never told that being a Christian would be a walk in the park. We are called to share Christ’s sufferings but one day, when He shows Himself in full splendor to all mankind, you will be filled with the most tremendous joy. 1 Peter 4:12-16
Where is Jesus in this book?	Jesus Christ is throughout the entire Epistle. Peter presents Jesus as our example and our great hope in times of suffering in a fallen world that is becoming increasingly hostile towards Christians in these last days.

**Overview format adapted from Route 66 Study
Refuge-Calvary Chapel Huntington Beach, CA**

“It must have been very pleasant to his heart to write these words, — not “Peter, who denied his Master, “not” Peter, full of imperfections and infirmities, the impetuous and changeable one of the twelve; “but” Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,”


C.H. Spurgeon

Lesson 1 - 1 Peter 1



Teaching Notes

Date: _____

 One thing that impacted my heart the most from this teaching was:

Day 1 *Begin your study with time in prayer. Ask God to show you His truth.*

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a **verse** that stood out to you the most and write it below.

1 Peter 1:1-5

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record other verses or cross reference verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

Addressing the “pilgrims of the Dispersion” both Jews and Gentiles, the apostle Peter reminds the church that we are only strangers who are scattered throughout this world for the purpose of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19). Read Acts 8 to learn about the great persecution the church began to experience. This period of persecution caused Christians in Jerusalem to scatter throughout the regions.

God’s people live here on earth, but this is not our ‘real’ home; we are merely pilgrims, strangers, sojourning our way to our permanent address, Heaven. When you make the decision to follow Jesus Christ, God calls you one of His “chosen”.

1. What is the Spirit of God doing in us and what is the result of that work? (v2)

2. Peter’s salutation is slightly different in this letter. “Grace to you and peace be multiplied.” Why do you think he added the last part to his greeting?

3. What encouraged you most from today’s passage?

4. What does Peter mean in verse 3 when he says, God had “begotten us again”? (John 3:3)

5. What is the hope of every believer? (v4)

Day 2 Pray for our church, Pastors and their wives.

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a **verse** that stood out to you the most and write it below.

1 Peter 1:6-9

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record other verses or cross reference verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

In verse 6, Peter says believers can greatly rejoice in a priceless inheritance; an inheritance kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled beyond the reach of change and decay. What a glorious truth. Peter teaches that although true believers in Jesus will endure many trials, there is wonderful joy awaiting us. He uses the analogy of refining gold to remind them that their faith is more precious to God than “**mere gold**”.

1. How long must we endure testing? (v6)

2. What is the purpose of testing? (v7)

3. What is the end result? (v7)

4. Read verses 8 and 9. What did Jesus say to Thomas in John 20:29?

If you struggle with believing in and being assured of your salvation, do as the man in Mark 9:24 did and cry out “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

Day 3 Pray for our Nation, State and City Officials.

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a **verse** that stood out to you the most and write it below.

1 Peter 1:10-12

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record other verses or cross reference verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

When the prophets of old wrote about “the salvation of your souls”, they weren’t writing for the people of that time or for themselves. They, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote those things for our benefit (v10, 12). The prophets wondered what time or situation the Holy Spirit was talking about when He revealed to them in advance about the Messiah’s suffering and His great glory afterward. The prophets lived under the Law of Moses, not the covenant of grace promised to Abraham. The beauty of the Gospel, our salvation and the grace that would be poured out on us even got the attention of the angels who desired to look into these things. See how very much our Father loves us, for He calls us His children and that applies to all who believe in Jesus Christ! (1 John 3:1)

1. What did the prophets prophesy and make inquiry about? (v10)

Commentary: “...[T]he prophets wrote about things they couldn’t figure out..they saw the glory of Psalm 2, and they also saw the suffering in Isaiah 53...They saw Mount Calvary...and the Mount of Olives, but they didn’t see the valley between the two- a valley of about two thousand years. They were writing about two different comings of the Messiah.”

2. Who was “in” the prophets and what did He reveal and testify to them? (v11-12).

3. Read Luke 12:12, John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:13, Ephesians 1:13. What does this Person do in the life of the Believer?

Day 4 Pray for Missionaries

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a **verse** that stood out to you the most and write it below.

1 Peter 1:13-19

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record other verses or cross reference verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

The New King James Version in verse 13 says you are to “gird up the loins of your mind, [and] be sober”.

In Biblical times men wore an ankle-length robe called a Tunic. When they needed more mobility or freedom to move unhindered by the length of the robe they lifted the hem of the tunic and tucked it into the belt, also known as the ‘girdle’. This is known as “girding up the loins”; the phrase became a metaphor for being prepared.

1. What do the following passages teach you about your mind and what you are to be doing?
 - a. Matthew 22:37

 - b. Romans 12:2

 - c. Colossians 3:2

2. What are you to rest your hope on? (v13)

Commentary: A call to holy living....does the call to be holy in all your conduct (v15) cause you to feel defeated or overwhelmed? We are not perfect, but we make choices in every situation that begin to conform us into the image of Christ not the world and its views.

Used as a noun in 1 Peter 1:2, the word Holiness (hagiasmos) means to be or become sanctified, which means you are set apart for the work of God in and through your life. From the beginning God chose **you** for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

3. What things of this world are you still conforming to? Are you ready for a really solid commitment to Jesus Christ at any cost? Take a few minutes to pray about this and ask for His strength.

Day 5 Pray for your Bible teacher and small group

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a **verse** that stood out to you the most and write it below.

1 Peter 1:20-25

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record other verses or cross reference verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

Teacher's pet, mom or dad's favorite...aren't you glad God doesn't have 'favorites' among His children! People rate each other based on looks, intelligence etc., but God looks at the heart (1Samuel 16:7). The sister or brother sitting next to you in church isn't loved any more or less by God than He loves you and you can't make Him love you more than He already does right now.

We are cleansed from our sins when we chose to obey the Truth of the Gospel; so if we call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ and are calling on and trusting in Him, then we should be living our life in a way which reflects that belief.

Commentary: From the very beginning of creation God planned to create man and woman. He wanted to create mankind so He might have a meaningful love relationship with us. God knew Adam and Eve would make wrong choices and fail, yet God still gave mankind the capacity to choose because He will not force anyone to love Him. His plan of redemption was set into motion on that fateful day. His only beloved Son was willing to come to earth and purchase us with His precious blood, as a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

1. How long was God planning mankind's redemption through His Son? (v20)

2. How are your life and heart purified? What are we to now do? (v22 and Acts 15:9)

3. What does Jesus tell us in John 13:34-35?

4. Read and write out verse 25 then journal your thoughts on the verse.

God makes a promise.
Faith believes it.
Hope anticipates it.
Patience quietly awaits it.
-D.L. Moody