



2021-2022 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 2

Series Overview and Guides

OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

That we live by the grace of God – persevering today in light of the glory of tomorrow.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it!"

—1 Peter 5:12 NASB

"The dominant note of this epistle is one of confidence and hope (1:3, 21). God's people have set before them the prospect of the full vindication and open glorification of the Christ whom they know as their Shepherd... This prospect should inspire His people to endure earthly trial with joy, as partakers of Christ's sufferings, that their joy, and indeed their personal share with Christ in His glory, may thus be all the greater on the day when His glory is revealed (4:12-13; Romans 8:18-20)."

— Alan M. Stibbs

The First General Epistle of Peter



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Premise

why we are studying this

Ours is a remarkably complex world, where divergent voices claim to tell us how we should live. In such a situation, the Christian needs to understand the simple truth of God's grace and live by it alone. Christians should dwell on earth as people who are: bound for a future grander than anything temporal, transformed by God's gracious election, and operating according to a greater purpose. Sadly, that is rarely our experience, necessitating engagement with God's word from Peter. When we so engage, the Lord changes not only us, but the world.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."

—1 Peter 2:11-14 NASB

"First Peter has a distinctively pastoral tone with a strong emphasis on godly behavior in suffering. It is of great value for Christians today, who are still in a hostile world and many of whom in certain lands are suffering for Christ. A faithful witness for him can be costly, not only under repressive regimes but also in our more open society."

—Edwin Blum
1 Peter

Theme

what the study is about

Peter's first general letter is one of those rare books where a clear purpose statement is delivered. As with John's gospel, this purpose statement comes near the end (1 Peter 5:12; John's is found in 20:31.) That declaration to stand in God's grace obviously sets the tone for the entire epistle and undergirds Peter's argument.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"[You] who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure."

—1 Peter 1:1-2 NASB

"The design of Peter in this Epistle is to exhort the faithful to a denial of the world and a contempt of it, so that being freed from carnal affections and all earthly hindrances, they might with their whole soul aspire after the celestial kingdom of Christ, that being elevated by hope, supported by patience, and fortified by courage and perseverance, they might overcome all kinds of temptations, and pursue this course and practice throughout life."

—John Calvin and John Owen
Commentary on the Catholic Epistles

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:1-2

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Peter launches the letter with his “big idea” in mind. His greeting includes some major themes of the letter:

- God’s grace, as shown through election,
- The triune God’s work in the life of the Christian,
- The sovereignty of God as revealed in foreknowledge,
- The Christian as a pilgrim in this life,
- The Christian is meant to live differently, in obedience.

OBJECTIVE

We live by the full measure of God’s grace.

WE ARE PILGRIMS

“When scientific achievement, the welfare state, and dialectical materialism combine to make our century too worldly-minded, 1 Peter recalls us to the heavenly and eternal outlook, and reminds Christians that they are but strangers and pilgrims here.”

—Alan M. Stibbs
The First General Epistle of Peter

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that grace and peace are multiplied to us to God’s glory.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 1: Stand Firm in Grace

1. What challenges for you (not in general) come to mind when you hear “Stand firm” in the context of your faith? From the group discussion, did any categories of challenges become evident?
2. Read the Objective, Premise, and Theme for this series on the first page of this guide. What ideas stand out or resonate with you? Why?
3. Read 1 Peter 5:12. What is the reason Peter wrote this letter?
 - a. Why is it important to understand this?
 - b. How does God’s grace affect your daily life as a believer?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2 together. What do we learn about God?
 - a. How are the three persons of the Trinity described?
 - b. How should the biblical truth that God is sovereign impact your view of your own life? How should it impact your view of world events?
 - c. How does being elect according to God’s foreknowledge, knowing that Jesus died for you, and that the Spirit gifted you for service to others strengthen your resolve to stand firm in God’s grace?
5. What do we learn about ourselves in these two verses?
 - a. In what way are you, as a believer, an “exile” in your culture and community?
 - b. Why do we often forget that we are first and foremost citizens of heaven?
 - c. Peter prays that grace and peace be multiplied to his audience. What incident in Peter’s life illustrates how he learned to stand firm in God’s grace?
 - d. How can grace and peace be multiplied to you personally? How might God use you to do this for others?
6. What are some practical ways to live as strangers and pilgrims in this world while still being salt and light to it?





ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:3-7

KEY IDEAS

THEME

This passage reveals what we have in our great salvation, how the Christian journey flows, and the results for us and God.

- Our salvation brings praise to God.
- Our trials strengthen our faith.
- Our faith journey brings praise, honor, and glory to us and to the Lord.

OBJECTIVE

We embrace our great salvation – past, present, and future.

HOPE

The first characteristic of the new pilgrim life of the believer is hope. This hope is living (1:23; 2:4-5) not merely because it is active (Heb. 4:12), or simply an improved version of Jewish hope (Heb. 7:19)... Peter is referring to something of a different order: a sure and confident outlook which has a divine, not a human, source... This living hope highlights the fact that the present life is by no means the limit of the believer's expectation. The living hope in the newborn Christian has a vigor, an endurance, and an assurance beyond any human power: such hope can no more fail than the living God who bestows it.

—Norman Hillyer
New International Bible Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we live now in the hope and joy of our sure inheritance.

Session 2: Stand Firm in Hope

1. Imagine that you were expecting a multi-million-dollar inheritance. How would that expectation affect your attitude toward normal financial situations in the meantime?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. Each verse describes an aspect of our salvation.
 - a. Which verses describe the work on our part?
 - b. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. What is the source of our salvation according to both Peter and Paul?
3. Discuss each of the three adjectives Peter used to describe our inheritance: imperishable, undefiled, unfading.
 - a. Describe each one in your own words. And for contrast, what would the opposite be?
 - b. How is this inheritance different than any earthly inheritance?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:6.
 - a. Knowing our inheritance, what attitude should we have?
 - b. Do you have an abiding joy in the midst of grief and trials? Why, or why not?
5. Read verse 7 from the New Living Translation: "These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."
 - a. What does God expect your trials to do?
 - b. What did Peter say is the ultimate result?
 - c. Describe how a trial has impacted your life. How did it show the genuineness of your faith?
6. How do these verses encourage you to live undaunted?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:7-12

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Salvation is awesome!

- The future revealing of Jesus is the disclosure of one present but unseen. It is laudable & encouraging to believe in and love Him while He is yet unseen.
- Salvation is not merely a future eschatological event, it is a present reality, the abundant life Jesus promised.
- This amazing gift is so precious that both angels and prophets of old longed to see the details of it. Incredibly, God planned it just for us.
- Surely something this wonderful is meant to be shared, continuing the tradition.

OBJECTIVE

We share the truth.

DAILY GOSPEL

God did not give us His gospel just so we could embrace it and be converted. Actually, He offers it to us every day as a gift that keeps on giving to us everything we need for life and godliness.

—Milton Vincent
A Gospel Primer for Christians

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we boldly share the reason for our joy.

Session 3: Stand Firm in Faith

1. Has someone ever asked you the reason for your joy? How did you reply?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:8-9.
 - a. What are some ways to explain believing in something you can't see?
 - b. Even though you haven't seen Jesus, why do you trust Him?
 - c. Review verse 6. How have you experienced joy even in the middle of grievous circumstances?
 - d. In what ways are you "receiving the goal of your faith" (v. 9) now and not just in the future?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:10-12.
 - a. What did the prophets declare about the gospel you have heard in your lifetime?
 - b. Why did they (and we!) want to know when a prophecy is going to come to pass? Why did Christ not make it plain to them?
 - c. What is the correct "lens" through which we are to interpret Old Testament prophecy?
 - d. Why do angels desire to look into the truths of the gospel?
4. What is the role of the Holy Spirit when we share the gospel with others as it was shared with us?
5. What is wonderful or precious about knowing you are saved in these turbulent days?



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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:13-21

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The Christian is no longer trapped in the cycle of familial sin (*patroparadotos*), but instead has God Himself as Father. This relational change has occurred because of Jesus' resurrection and is unspeakably precious. As happy and obedient children, Christians should live holy lives. This conduct isn't based on rules, but rather a relationship with the Father to whom we are set aside. Our new conduct in fact demands that we gird up the loins of our thinking and embark like Israel from Egypt, showing inherent courage, integrity, and humility.

OBJECTIVE

We live obediently as God's family.

FIND SOMETHING GOOD

"Each of us will give an account of his works, and each will receive the appropriate reward. This is a 'family judgment,' the Father dealing with His beloved children. The Greek word translated *judgeth* carries the meaning 'to judge in order to find something good'."

—Warren W. Wiersbe
The Bible Exposition Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we are obedient and holy in all our conduct.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

Session 4: Stand Firm with Family

1. 1 Peter 1:13 begins with "Therefore." Back up and read verses 6-7 followed by verse 13.
 - a. In light of verses 6-7, why should we hold the attitude described in verse 13?
 - b. What is the ultimate event to which both sections refer? Why is that event so important?
2. Read verses 14-16 which refer to us as God's children.
 - a. Discuss the biblical idea of our adoption by God. Read Galatians 4:4-7 and Ephesians 1:5-6 for more context.
 - b. What kind of conduct does God expect from His children?
 - c. Why is it that we don't always live this way?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:18-21.
 - a. What past history in your earthly family was contrary to godly living?
 - b. How were you ransomed from those old, futile ways?
 - c. What does it mean to you to know you have been set free from the power of sin?
 - d. How does your life reflect the fact that your faith and hope are in God?
4. Discuss with your group specific applications of this passage which you can make in your life.



SERIES 2 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

KEY IDEAS

THEME

We Christians are expected to obey God’s truth, a responsibility that includes purifying our souls (*psuche*) in regard to love for our fellow believers. This love (*philos*) should be expressed fervently (*ektenos*). Such familial affection is sincere (*anupokritos*) and pure (*katharos*). Looking at the disunity of depraved humanity, one wonders how such love could ever be experienced! Peter expresses the reasons such *philos* can and should be experienced in the local church:

- We’re children of the same Father
- We eat at the same table
- We have common enemies

OBJECTIVE

We love each other fervently.

CHANGED RELATIONSHIPS

“A changed life should also be evidenced by a changed relationship with God’s other children... to love purely those who share the same faith. This love is to be expressed not shallowly but ‘deeply’”.

—R.M. Rayner
Bible Knowledge Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we show sincere love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Session 5: Stand Firm in Brotherly Love

1. Read 1 Peter 1:22-23.
 - a. How does loving other believers show up in actions?
 - b. When have you experienced love from other believers?
 - c. How is obedience to the truth the source of our ability to love?
2. Review 1 Peter 1:6 for an insight into Peter’s audience’s situation.
 - a. How does a time of shared trials impact our ability to love each other?
 - b. How does it impact our need to love each other?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:1. How does this command relate to the context of chapter 1?
4. Read 1 Peter 2:3.
 - a. In what ways have you “tasted that the Lord is good”?
 - b. Why should loving others be a result of this experience?
 - c. Is there someone in your life who needs your love this week?
5. Discuss Peter’s analogy in 1 Peter 2:2. In what ways is reading and studying God’s Word similar to a newborn drinking pure milk? Do you desire this?



SERIES 2 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:4-10

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The elect of God are His church building program, serving as both temple and priesthood. To emphasize this, Peter quotes three great “stone” passages from the OT, Isaiah 28, Psalm 118, and Isaiah 8. Looking at these texts, we see behavioral application for how to offer spiritual sacrifices through Jesus. Is 28:15-18, 22 gives the first application: take God’s judgment of non-believers seriously! Ps 118:22-24 gives the second application point: rejoice each day! Is 8:12-20 holds the third application: do not fear what this world fears, turn to God and His Word instead!

OBJECTIVE

We fulfill our purpose as God’s people.

BECOME PRIESTS

“...all Christians must become priests, children of God and co-heirs with Christ the Most High Priest. Men universally consider the title of priest glorious and honorable, but the duties and the sacrifice of the office are rarely accepted. The Christian priesthood costs life, property, honor, friends and all worldly things. It cost Christ on the holy cross.”

“First Sunday after Epiphany”
from *Complete Sermons of Martin Luther*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we praise God for what He is doing with us.

Session 6: Stand Firm with God’s Church

1. What are the purposes of the Church? In other words, why is there a Church instead of no Church? Discuss with your group.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:4-5.
 - a. What is one purpose of the Church in these verses?
 - b. In what ways is the Church like a spiritual building?
 - c. What does it mean to you that God has chosen you to be a member of a holy priesthood?
 - d. What spiritual sacrifices can we offer to God? For example, see Romans 12:1-2.
3. Read verses 6-8. How did the life of Jesus fulfill these Old Testament passages which Peter cites?
4. Read and discuss verse 9.
 - a. Discuss the four ways in which Peter describes the Church. For each one, what is one thing it tells us about God, and what is one thing it tells us about us?
 - b. What is another purpose of the Church?
 - c. Make a short list of the things for which you praise the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
5. Read 1 Peter 2:10. How have you received mercy? Therefore, what should you do?
6. Why is it important to be an active participant in a local church?





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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:11-21

KEY IDEAS

THEME

This is the first part of the general behavior section of the epistle (2:11-3:12). The section describes appropriate responses to struggles in every significant area of life – citizenship, employment, and home life. The eleven verses considered here exhort Christians to live differently because we are different, and we know eternity can be different. Our changed behavior is motivated by a love for God’s glory and positive intentions for the lost people around us. (11-12)

OBJECTIVE

We live honorably.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

Peter says that God looks favorably on our submissive bearing of government and employment unfairness, which again blesses the world around us by silencing fools and attracting non-Christians. Is Peter calling for Christians to continually stand silently in tacit approval of evil? Peter gives a resounding no, outlining instead the biblical concept of *voluntary* surrender. The Christian is completely free, and that freedom is purposefully harnessed to a four-fold objective: honoring all, loving Christians, fearing only God, and honoring the government powers. (16-17) When government or employment demands that one of those objectives be purposefully violated, other scriptures teach that we should, as befits a free individual, speak truth and accept the consequences.

Session 7: Stand Firm in Honor

1. Read 1 Peter 2:11
 - a. What does it mean to be strangers and exiles (or aliens)?
 - b. In what way are we, as Christians, strangers and exiles?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:12 – 16.
 - a. What is honorable conduct?
 - b. What is the correlation between submitting to human authorities, and “silencing the ignorance of foolish people”?
 - c. How might one use their freedom in Christ as a “cover-up for evil”? What does this have to do with submission to authority?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:17 – 21.
 - a. What should be the Christian’s response to unjust suffering?
 - b. How does living like this when suffering bring favor with God?
4. Verse 17 commands us to “honor everyone.” Whom do you have difficulty honoring and why?

Prayer:

Pray for each other this week, that we respond honorably to the struggles of life.





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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:21-3:12

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Jesus is the ultimate example of suffering, as He accepted an undeserved penalty so that others might be blessed. Believers in Christ who desire a close relationship with the Father should follow Jesus in such surrender. Specifically, this involves:

- Blessing those who curse us.
- Trusting God's ultimate purposes.
- Living for good.

OBJECTIVE

We follow Jesus' example..

SUFFERING

"Nothing seems more unworthy and therefore less tolerable, than undeservedly to suffer; but when we turn our eyes to the Son of God, this bitterness is mitigated; for who would refuse to follow him going before us?"

—John Calvin
Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles

"The idea is that, Christ having died for sins, and to sin, as our proxy or substitute, our consequent standing before God is that of those who have no more connection with our old sins, or with the life of sinning."

—Alan M. Stibbs
The First General Epistle of Peter

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we are Christ-like both inside and outside the home.

Session 8: Stand Firm in Christ-likeness

1. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25.
 - a. To what, exactly are we called? Review verse 20.
 - b. In what areas of your life might these principles be applied?
 - c. How are we to follow in the footsteps of Christ?
 - d. Peter is quoting Isaiah extensively throughout this chapter. Discuss the implication for our understanding of the person and work of Jesus and our proper response?

2. Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. There are at least three distinct characteristics Peter lays out for women to follow:
 - Submitting to their husbands
 - Living pure and reverent lives
 - Ensuring inner beauty is greater than outer adornment
 - a. Discuss ways in which these characteristics are completely at odds with the world.
 - b. Discuss which of these is the most difficult to practice and why.

3. Now Read 1 Peter 3:1-7.
 - a. Peter begins verse one with "In the same way..."; then again in verse 7, he leads with the same phrase. In his admonishments to wives and husbands, why does he begin with the phrase "in the same way" and what does this mean? (Review chapter 2:21-24)
 - b. What does it mean for husbands to honor their wives as "co-heirs of the grace of life"? Why and how should this inform the husband's duty to "live with his wife in an understanding way?"

4. Read 1 Peter 3:8-12.
 - a. Which of the Christ-like attributes listed in verses 8-9 do you struggle with? What does that look like in daily life?
 - b. In verses 10-12, Peter is quoting Psalm 34:12-16. Read Psalm 34:12-16 and discuss how we can apply these instructions to our lives in practical ways.





ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The divine, eternal perspective is appropriate even under discomfort and trial. Peter first lays out the exhortation (13-17) and then reveals the encouragement that Jesus is the author of such behavior (18-22). The natural human perspective is assumed in Peter's argument, but he counters it with great detail regarding the eternal, divine perspective on "unfair" things.

OBJECTIVE

We live by the divine, eternal perspective.

PREPARED TO SUFFER

"Peter is laboring in this letter to say that we are aliens and exiles here and that it is NOT surprising, and not abnormal when the cultural powers that be revile Christianity.... Take this one thought with you in preparation for your suffering. No harassing, oppressing, deceiving, accusing demon is free to do as he pleases. All angels, authorities, powers, devils, evil spirits, demons, and Satan himself are subject to Jesus Christ."

—John Piper

"Strengthened to Suffer", desiringGod.com

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we maintain an eternal perspective amid our circumstances.

Session 9: Stand Firm in Preparedness

1. Read 1 Peter 3:12-17.
 - a. How does having an eternal perspective make a difference when experiencing hard things?
 - b. What is involved in preparing to give an answer regarding your reasons for having hope?
 - c. What does it look like to defend your hope with "gentleness and reverence"?
 - d. Why does this matter?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:18-20.
 - a. What is verse 18 describing?
 - b. Discuss the implications of verse 19. Who are the likely "spirits in prison"?
 - c. What is the correlation between the spirits to whom Jesus proclaimed truth, and Noah?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:21-22
 - a. What is the correlation between baptism and the salvation of Noah and his family from the flood?
 - b. What does baptism represent?
 - c. What does verse 22 tell us about Jesus?
4. Read Acts 5:40-42
 - a. Discuss how this account relates to Peter's message in this passage.
 - b. How does this story inform our understanding of unjust suffering?



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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 4:1-11

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Peter's core tenet is that Jesus' sacrifice is our purposeful guide in reckoning ourselves as dead to sin. Flowing from that, he answers why and how we stand firm every day.

OBJECTIVE

We reckon ourselves alive to God and dead to sin.

DEAD TO SIN

Being dead to sin is not a series of regulations, but rather a call to exciting activities, including:

- Biblically sound prayer (v. 7)
- Fervent love for each other (v. 8)
- Gracious hospitality (v. 9)
- Giving stewardship (v. 10)
- God-empowered service (v. 11)
- Praise where it belongs (v. 11)

—Wayne Braudrick
Stand Firm series notes

ROMANS 6:11-12

11 So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we live our lives in holiness.

Session 10: Stand Firm in Holiness

1. Read 1 Peter 4:1-6.
 - a. What does it mean to be "finished with sin" because we "suffer in the flesh"?
 - b. If we are to be seeking God's will, and not human desires for the remainder of our lives, how do verses 4-5 inform our understanding of this?
 - c. Discuss the contrast between "human standards" and "God's standards" from both a human and divine perspective. What are practical ways we can pursue God's standards in our lives?
2. Read verse 7.
 - a. What does it mean to be alert and sober-minded, and what does that have to do with prayer?
 - b. If the end of all things is nearer today than it was when Peter wrote this, how does that inform our perspective on Peter's admonishments?
3. Read verse 8.
 - a. How does this passage emphasize the significance of love?
 - b. Discuss how "love covers a multitude of sins". (Hint: the text doesn't explicitly state this—as a group, talk about specific ways this might apply in real situations.)
4. Read verses 9-11.
 - a. List the practical applications Peter uses to illustrate love in action.
 - b. Ultimately, where does our motivation, and our ability to live according to God's standards and not human standards, come from? (Re-read verse 11.)





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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 4:12-5:5

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Many of the concepts of the letter are repeated in succinct form, though the emphasis is here on the Spirit. Because of God's Spirit, trials grant deeper chance to trust our sovereign God. All this applies to each Christian, and Peter particularly relates these lessons to Elders. This is likely because of their exemplary role and the fact that the job is fraught with pain.

OBJECTIVE

We see the Spirit transform our pain into glory.

SUFFERING AND GLORY

"'Suffering' and 'glory' are twin truths that are woven into the fabric of Peter's letter. The world believes that the absence of suffering means glory, but a Christian's outlook is different. The trial of our faith today is the assurance of glory when Jesus returns (1 Peter 1:7-8). This was the experience of our Lord (5:1), and it shall also be our experience. But it is necessary to understand that God is not going to *replace* suffering with glory; rather He will *transform* suffering into glory."

—Warren Wiersbe
Be Hopeful

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we humbly do good for God's glory even in suffering.

Session 11: Stand Firm in Hardships

1. Discuss these questions together.
 - a. As an American (if you are an American), how comfortable has your life been in general?
 - b. As a Christian, should you expect a comfortable life? Why, or why not?
2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14.
 - a. What are we told not to do when difficult times arise because of our faith? Why could Peter state this so confidently?
 - b. What are we told to do instead? What is the perspective which allows this reaction to suffering?
 - c. Why do people try to silence the Christian witness? Why does God allow such attempts?
3. According to verse 15, what should we be careful to avoid? Why did Peter make this distinction?
4. Read 1 Peter 4:16-19.
 - a. Describe how this is lived out in our world today.
 - b. Who does verse 19 say is in control even in our suffering?
 - c. What are some of the ways a Christian should respond to suffering? (verses 16 and 19)
5. Read 1 Peter 5:1-5.
 - a. What are church leaders exhorted to do?
 - b. How have you seen your church leaders do this?
 - c. According to verse 5, what are we all responsible to do?





ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 5:5-14

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Humility serves as the bridge to this final section of the letter. Humbly, we live, grow, and are strengthened through the difficulties of this life. Peter then closes in the formal Greek style, stating his overall purpose – that we stand fast in grace.

OBJECTIVE

We humbly stand in God’s grace.

GOD-DEPENDENCE

“Remember that God wants to bring us to the place of humility which is the place of God-dependence rather than arrogant independence. The reason for this is because dependence on the Lord honors God and is the place of blessing and fruitfulness... One of the key subjects of 1 Peter is suffering. The word “suffer,” or the concept of suffering occurs over 15 times in this book. Peter sees suffering (trials) as one of the necessary elements of life... Suffering helps us to see our weakness and the insufficiency of our strategies so we will respond to God’s Greatness!”

—J. Hampton Keathley, III
Counsel Concerning Our Cares

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we rely on God’s grace above all else.

Session 12: Stand Firm in Humility

1. Read 1 Peter 5:5-7.
 - a. What are the two actions of humility in these verses (5 and 7)?
 - b. How is casting your cares on God an acknowledgement of His sovereignty?
 - c. Some Christians talk about “giving it to God, and then taking it back again.” Why do they do this?
 - d. Why is it so hard to be humble?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9.
 - a. What does it mean to be on the alert for the devil?
 - b. What are some ways our adversary tries to devour believers? What are some ways we can effectually resist him?
 - c. How are fellow believers suffering throughout the world? How can you help?
3. Read 1 Peter 5:10-11.
 - a. What does your future look like from God’s perspective?
 - b. How does this hope impact your daily living?
 - c. How does the knowledge of God’s dominion comfort you in times of suffering?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:12. Why was Peter’s purpose in writing to exhort us to take our stand in God’s grace?
5. Review the Premise for this series on page 1 of this guide. What from this study of 1 Peter has resonated the most with you?

