

# FOR E I G N E R S AND E X I L E S

1 PETER

# 1 PETER

Term 1	Passage	Preaching Date
Week 1	1 Peter 1:1-12	A Glorious Future Awaits
Week 2	1 Peter 1:13-2:3	Be Holy While You Wait
Week 3	1 Peter 2:4-10	The Chosen One and the Chosen Ones
Week 4	1 Peter 2:11-25	Living as God's People in a Foreign World
Week 5	1 Peter 3:1-7	Living as God's People in the Home
Week 6	1 Peter 3:8-12	Living as God's People in the Church
Week 7	1 Peter 3:13-22	Suffering for Doing Good
Week 8	1 Peter 4:1-11	Living in Light of the End
Week 9	1 Peter 4:12-19	Suffer Joyfully
Week 10	1 Peter 5:1-13	Shepherds, Sheep and Lions

## The Bible in a Year

Week	Passage 1	Passage 2	Passage 3
1	1 Peter 1:1-12		
2	1 Peter 1:13-2:3		
3	1 Peter 2:4-10		
4	1 Peter 2:11-25		
5	1 Peter 3:1-7		
6	1 Peter 3:8-12		
7	1 Peter 3:13-22		
8	1 Peter 4:1-11		
9	1 Peter 4:12-19		
10	1 Peter 5:1-13		

# TERM 2 2025

## Introduction to 1 Peter

*This introduction is taken from Journey Through 1 Peter by David Burge which is part of **Our Daily Bread Journey Through Series***

The Apostle Peter probably wrote 1 Peter in the early 60's AD around 30 years after Christ's death and resurrection. He mentions the persecution faced by the churches he was addressing, which was spread across Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) and made up of Jews and Gentiles. We can read examples of persecution in the Book of Acts, but it begins even in the Gospels. Soon after writing 1 and 2 Peter, it seems that Peter may have been crucified like his Lord.

Why would anyone follow Christ when it brought such suffering? Because belonging to Christ is worth any pain that might follow. Peter sets our hearts and minds on the glory and grace that will be ours when Jesus returns.

In this way, 1 Peter is a powerful tonic for the persecuted church, but it helps all of us. It enriches all Christians by pointing us to our true home. It inspires us with God's grace and his glorious plans for us, so that we see the value of pressing on faithfully like his Son. Our increasingly Christlike, holy lives will attract the attention of a watching world, and even if we must suffer undeservedly, God will glorify himself through us and, in a little while, lead us to our eternal home.

### A Key Verse

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."  
(1 Peter 5:10)

## Recommended reading

*Peter at the Cross* David Mulready

*Journey Through 1 Peter* David Burge (available to read online)

*1 Peter For You* Juan R. Sanchez

*1 Peter: Living Hope* Paul Barnett

# 1 PETER

## What is the goal of these notes?

The goal is to grow your ability to read the bible. Bible reading is essential to Christian growth and survival but it's a skill that only develops with practice. Indeed because of the spiritual apathy that's part of our fallen nature the desire to read only grows with practice! The bible is an extraordinary book. It has changed people, nations and the flow of history. That's unsurprising since it's God's book and contains God's wisdom for life. Yet, bible reading in some ways is no different to reading any other book. These notes will assist you in developing skills which will increasingly enable you to feed yourself from the bible and help others do the same.

Three ways to use these notes

### 1. Personal reading

Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day. Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray asking God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

### 2. Growth Groups

Use the section at the end of each week to prepare for your Growth Group. Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group. Let your group know who you are on mission to.

### 3. Church

Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church. Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

## 3-1-1 Prayer

We all care for friends and family who don't know Jesus and this should be reflected in our prayers. List below the names of 3 such people you can be praying for once a week for one minute.

1.

2.

3.

4

# A GLORIOUS FUTURE AWAITS

## Opening Paragraph

## Week 1: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 1:1-5:14 (it won't take very long, trust me!)

Peter writes from Babylon (1 Peter 5:13), almost certainly a coded reference to Rome.

1. What is Peter's stated purpose in writing this letter? (see 1 Peter 5:12)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What stood out to you by way of encouragement as you read this brief letter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What stood out to you to help you stand fast in the true grace of God?

**PRAY:** That God will encourage you in the faith and equip you to stand fast in his grace as you study this letter this term.

# WEEK 1: 1 PETER 1:1-12

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 1:1-2

1. The author is Peter, one of Jesus' 12 disciples and an apostle of Christ but what can you learn about those to whom he was writing?

2. What difference would it make to these 'strangers in the world' to know that they are 'God's elect...chosen by God'?

3. How might the portrait of believers in verses 1-2 change your day?

*"Our triune God has made a way for us to enjoy these rich realities of 'grace and peace', not in small measure, but, as Peter prays 'in abundance' ( 1 Peter 1:2)".*

David Burge

**PRAY:** That God's grace and peace may be yours in abundance, along with your brothers and sisters at Grace Church.

# A GLORIOUS FUTURE AWAITS

## Day 3

### READ 1 PETER 1:3-5

1. What has God the Father given his “scattered, chosen strangers” (1 Peter 1:1-2)? How is this possible?
2. According to Peter, what is the place of faith in the Christian life?
3. On a scale of 1-10 how sure are you of your eternal home with the Lord Jesus? What truths from today bring comforting assurance?

**PRAY:** Give thanks for what God has gifted his people, and the means by which He has done it. Ask Him for complete assurance of your future hope.

# WEEK 1: 1 PETER 1:1-12

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 1:6-9

1. How do God's chosen, scattered strangers respond to the knowledge of Christian assurance?

2. What might Christians experience as they await their inheritance? What is the purpose and outcome of this?

3. How can the words 'for a little while' (v 6) bring a proper perspective to your trials?

*God transforms us like he transformed Peter-from a fair-weather friend to a committed, faith-demonstrating, trial enduring disciple.* David Burge

**PRAY:** Assist me mercifully, O Lord, in these my prayers; and so guide your servant towards the attainment of everlasting salvation that, among the changes and chances of this mortal life, I may always be defended by your gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ my Lord. **Amen.** ( Modified from *A Prayer for God's Help* in An Australian Prayer Book, 1978)



# A GLORIOUS FUTURE AWAITS

## Day 5

### READ 1 PETER 1:10-12

1. What are we told here about the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation?
2. Would you rather hear a sermon from the Old or New Testament? Why? How does / should this passage impact your answer?
3. In verses 10-12 insert your name wherever you see the word 'you.' What impact does this have especially if you are feeling marginalised or forgotten? Now repeat the exercise, inserting Grace Church Peninsula.

**PRAY:** Give thanks for those who preach the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit. Pray that God will sustain them, encourage them and bless them in that task.

# WEEK 1: 1 PETER 1:1-12

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What are we told here about the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation? (Day 5 Q1)
2. According to Peter, what is the place of faith in the Christian life? (Day 3 Q2)
3. On a scale of 1-10 how sure are you of your eternal home with the Lord Jesus? What truths from today bring comforting assurance? (Day 3 Q 3)

# WEEK 1: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# WEEK 2: 1 PETER 1:13-2:3

## Opening Paragraph

## Week 2: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 1:13-16

The passage begins with the word “therefore”, drawing us back to “the salvation of our souls” described in verses 3-12.

1. What things are God’s chosen ones to do and not to do?
2. The quotation about holiness in verse 16 is found in three different places in Leviticus. Look up these passages. What do they tell us about what holiness really is?
  - Leviticus 11:44-45
  - Leviticus 19:1-2
  - Leviticus 20:6-8
3. In what areas of your life do you struggle to be holy? What motivation does this passage give to assist you in your struggle? (verses 13 and 15)

*“When I speak of a person ‘growing in grace’ I mean simply this—that his sense of sin is becoming deeper, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, his love more extensive, his spiritual mindedness more marked”*  
J.C. Ryle ‘Holiness’

**PRAY:** That God will enable you by his Spirit to keep growing in grace.

# BE HOLY WHILE YOU WAIT

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 1:17-21

1. What does 1 Peter 1:18-20 say about our redemption?
2. How do verses 17-19 help us to have our “faith and hope in God” (v. 21)?
3. How can you live each day, conducting yourself with an appropriate fear of God?

*“Reverent fear (v.17) does not mean we are worried that God will forsake or condemn us, for he will never do that (see Romans 8:1, 39). Rather, it means we remember God is God and treat him accordingly-with deep awe, trust and obedience.”*

David Burge

**PRAY:** That you will have an appropriate, reverent fear of God that makes you long to please Him.

# WEEK 2: 1 PETER 1:13-2:3

## Day 3

### READ 1 PETER 1:22-25

1. How does Peter describe Christians in verse 22?
  - a. What should Christian love be based on?
  - b. How then, should our love be different from worldly love?
  
2. Verse 23 begins with 'since' (or for), indicating that what follows serves as a reason or basis for loving one deeply from the heart.
  - a. What should Christian love be based on?
  - b. How then, should our love be different from worldly love?
  
3. In thinking of our Grace church community, what would it look like for you to love more sincerely, deeply and from the heart:
  - a. Those you know well
  - b. Those you don't know so well

*"Truth without love is too hard; love without truth is too soft."*

J.R.W. Stott

**PRAY:** That God will make you an incredible lover of others.

# BE HOLY WHILE YOU WAIT

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 2:1-3

1. On the basis of our new birth, what are Christians to do and to crave?
2. The word 'therefore' links this section to what has gone previously and especially the love command in v. 22. What is the connection between the two sections?
3. As babies are expected to grow, so God expects Christians to grow in their faith. What can you do to accelerate your growth rate and that of your brothers and sisters in Christ?

**PRAY:** For God's help to rid yourself of wrong things, to crave good things so to enable you to grow spiritually and not be diagnosed as 'failure to thrive'.

# WEEK 2: 1 PETER 1:13-2:3

## Day 5

### READ 1 PETER 1:13-2:3

1. In this whole section, Peter is calling his readers to holiness. In these verses, how is *thinking* differently important to *living* differently?

2. In this whole section, how is God reordering my heart's affections? That is, what I love?

3. In what areas of life do you think Central Coast Christians struggle most to be holy?

**PRAY:** That my thoughts, affections, and actions will be acceptable to God who raised Jesus from the dead for my sake.



# BE HOLY WHILE YOU WAIT

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Peter is calling his readers to holiness. In these verses, how is *thinking* differently important to *living* differently? (Day 5 Q1)

2. The quotation about holiness in verse 16 is found in three different places in Leviticus. What do they tell us about what holiness really is? (Leviticus 11:44-45; Leviticus 19:1-2; Leviticus 20:6-8)

3. In what areas of life do you think Central Coast Christians struggle most to be holy? (Day 5 Q 3)

# WEEK 2: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# THE CHOSEN ONE AND THE CHOSEN ONES

## Week 3: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 2:4-5

1. What strikes you as odd about the terms 'living stone' and 'living stones'. What then is being conveyed here?

In God's new spiritual house, God's people are the new holy priests for that temple. The sacrifices of rams and goats are replaced by the spiritual sacrifices of our whole lives offered to God through Jesus Christ (see also Hebrews 13:15-16, Romans 12:1-2).

2. As you consider the process of sanctification (Christian growth) what difference does it make that you are only one stone amongst many in God's new spiritual house?

3. How should these verses affect your view of what you are doing as you "go to church" next Sunday?

**PRAY:** Spend some time reflecting on this vision of God's spiritual house and how you can better take your place in it.

# WEEK 3: 1 PETER 2:4-10

## Day 2

READ ISAIAH 28:14-19, PSALM 118:19-29, ISAIAH 8:11-15 AND 1 PETER 2:6-8

As he does in the speeches in the book of Acts, Peter quotes various Old Testament texts which prophetically speak of Jesus and those who place their trust in him. Peter shows that his building metaphor is not new.

1. As you read the Old Testament quotes, what encouragements and warnings would they bring:

a. To the original hearers

b. To us today

2. Read Matthew 21:33-46. How does this help us understand 1 Peter 2:6-8?

The string of Old Testament quotations from 1 Peter 2:6-8 begins with the phrase “for in scripture it says”.

a. What does this say about Peter’s attitude to the Old Testament?

b. How should that impact our attitude to the Old Testament?

**PRAY:** Give thanks for all of God’s word to us and ask that it will consistently be “a lamp to our feet and a light to our path”.



# WEEK 3: 1 PETER 2:4-10

...continued from previous page

3. Reflect on Jesus as the “chosen and precious cornerstone” (1 Peter 2:6). What does it mean and how will it impact the way you live today?

In Christ alone, my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

(Verse 1 of the Song, In Christ Alone  
by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend)

**PRAY:** That our trust will forever be in the chosen and precious cornerstone.

# THE CHOSEN ONE AND THE CHOSEN ONES

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 2:9-10

1. In contrast to those in v. 7b-8, God's people are here described as:

- 
- 
- 

That they may:

- 

Once they had not:

- 

But now they have:

- 

2. These verses are telling you that you have a special place in God's heart. What strikes you most from these descriptions of you?

3. What opportunities is God giving you to "declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

**PRAY:** Let these truths fill your heart and overflow into praise of God today.

# WEEK 3: 1 PETER 2:4-10

## Day 5

### READ 1 PETER 2:4-10

1. What should flow from an appreciation of all that God has done for us in the gospel (v. 5, 9 and 10)?

2. Does 'declaring God's praises' primarily refer to evangelism, or to the act of singing when God's people gather together, or does it have a wider meaning (v. 9 and 10)?

3. How can you encourage your brothers and sisters at Grace Church to:

- a. "Offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God"
- b. "Declare God's praises" to those still in the dark.

**PRAY:** That God would enable you to see how you are being called to declare and display his praises both individually and as a church



# THE CHOSEN ONE AND THE CHOSEN ONES

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1, In contrast to those in v. 7b-8, how are God's people described? (Day 4 Q 1)

2. What opportunities is God giving you to "declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light"? (Day 4 Q3)

3. How can you encourage your brothers and sisters at Grace Church to:

a. "Offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God"?

b. "Declare God's praises" to those still in the dark? (Day 5 Q3)

# WEEK 3: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN A FOREIGN WORLD

## Week 4: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 2:11-12

1. What does Peter encourage God's people:
  - a. to avoid
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. to seek
  
2. What are some of the ways that Christians stand out in today's society:
  - a. as "foreigners and exiles" (1 Peter 2:11)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What are we abused or reviled for?
  
3. As the world watches you, will they be drawn towards God or pushed further away?

**PRAY:** That pagans will glorify God on the day he visits us because of your example.

# WEEK 4: 1 PETER 2:11-25

*"The great challenge for us as believers is to identify with the world in its need but not in its sin... Will I love this world enough to be quite unlike this world, that I might point the people of this world towards a better one."*  
Alistair Begg, Truth for Life

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 2:13-17

From 1 Peter 2:13-4:11 Peter gives examples of how submission is to apply to four spheres of authority under which Christians may struggle: Governors or emperors (2:13-17); masters (2:18-20); husbands (3:1-7); and lastly, meekness towards one another and towards the world in general (3:8-4:11).

1. Who are Christians to be subject to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Is it always right to be in submission to governing authorities?
  - a. What light does verse 17 shed on whether there are any exceptions (also see Acts 4:18-21; 5:29)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In what ways can we as Christians 'do right' in our own local situation?

**PRAY:** Give thanks for our ruling authorities; federal, state and local and pray that they will rule justly.

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN A FOREIGN WORLD

## Day 3

### READ 1 PETER 2:18-20

1. What should be the basic attitude of servants to their masters?
2. To what extent should our behaviour change if the master is harsh and inconsiderate?

As we consider this passage in the 21st century, we need to bear in mind that the slave-master relationship in the ancient world was not really the same as our employee-employer relationships, although it was not entirely different either. The key issue for us is unjust suffering: whether from the hands of government (see day 2) or employers (today's passage).

3. How should we respond to unjust suffering bearing, in mind verses 18-20 and verses 13-14?
4. In what ways do you find it hardest to submit to authorities?
  - a. How does this passage both challenge and motivate you to do so?

**PRAY:** That you will submit appropriately to ruling authorities and be a witness to the gospel as you do so.

# WEEK 4: 1 PETER 2:11-25

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 2:21-23

Today we see that submission makes us more like Jesus!

1. As we suffer unjustly as Christians in what ways is Jesus an example for us?
2. How does this passage change your perspective on your sufferings?
3. Life can feel unfair, disappointing, or just out of control. In what situations might you imitate Jesus by entrusting yourself to him who judges justly?

**PRAY:** That you will be willing to follow in Jesus steps no matter where it might lead and what degree of suffering might be involved.

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN A FOREIGN WORLD

## Day 5

### READ 1 PETER 2:24-25

1. What results flowed from Christ's sufferings?
2. How does the description of Jesus as the "shepherd and overseer of your soul" bring comfort and motivation as you endeavour to "die to sin and live for righteousness."
3. Spend some time meditating on the cross, reminding yourself of all that was achieved for you there.

*"Moved by the perfection of his holy love, God in Christ substituted himself for us sinners. That is the heart of the cross of Christ."*

John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, page 165).

**PRAY:** 'Pour contempt on all your pride' as you give thanks for the cross of Christ.

# WEEK 4: 1 PETER 2:11-25

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. As we suffer unjustly as Christians in what ways is Jesus an example for us? (Day 1 Q1)
2. Is it always right to be in submission to governing authorities? What light does verse 17 shed on whether there are any exceptions (also see Acts 4:18-21; 5:29)? (Day 2 Q 2)
3. In what ways can we as Christians 'do right' in our own local situation? (Day 2 Q 3)



# WEEK 4: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# WEEK 5: 1 PETER 3:1-7

## Week 5: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 3:1-2

“On the basis of God’s good design (see Genesis 1:27), he intended husbands to lovingly lead, and wives to be respectful of their husband’s leading as they live in union.

*It is important for husbands to notice in 1 Peter 3:1 that Peter does not tell husbands to force submission upon their wives. Rather, he appeals with gentleness to wives to voluntarily ‘submit yourselves to your own husbands.’ This submission is not to every man or husband, but to “your own” husband (v. 1)-the one who is to be sacrificially and lovingly committed to your welfare.”*

David Burge

1. What potential outcome is mentioned of wives submitting to their husbands?

2. Does the fact that some husbands will be won over without words make words irrelevant, or at least secondary? Why?

3. Submission to your husband, purity and reverence for God: what do these features look like for you if you are a wife or hope to be a wife?

For others, whether single or married, how can you support wives as they endeavour to submit to their husbands and imitate their trust in Jesus?

**PRAY:** Pray for members of our church who have non-Christian husbands that they will be won for Christ by word or by deed (or both).

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE HOME

*"I counsel single women to consider carefully the man they want to marry. "Has he the depth of Christian character that will not make unreasonable demands? Can you trust his spiritual judgment? Are you willing to submit yourself to him? Does he love sacrificially as Christ loved?"*

Mary Kassian, *Women, Creation and the Fall*

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 3:1-2: EPHESIANS 5:21-33

A wife's loving and informed submission to her own husband is for the purpose of creating a "one flesh" union that points beyond the marriage to the mystery of Christ and his church?

1. What light does this shed on how we should view a wife's submission?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How can wives be in submission without being doormats?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In what ways is Jesus the model of humble submission? (Mark 14:35-36, Philippians 2:6-8)

*"Submission is not inferiority. It is the proper response to an established authority structure. Women are directed to voluntarily submit within the marriage relationship, for husbands are assigned the role of authority and wives the role of submission-not as a matter of their own qualifications, but rather, as a matter of divine appointment."*

Mary Kassian

**PRAY:** Give thanks for Christ's headship of the church and pray that Christian husbands will love their wives as Christ loved the church and so make a wife's submission a joy.

# WEEK 5: 1 PETER 3:1-7

## Day 3

### READ 1 PETER 3:3-6

1. What are the differences between the two types of adornments mentioned in verses 3-4?
2. Read 1 Timothy 2:9-10. What is the opposite of getting dressed in fancy clothes?
3. How might you, as a man or woman, have given too much attention to outward appearances? How might a more beautiful inner self become a greater pursuit for you?

Some may have questions about Sarah calling Abraham Lord. Bring these to your Growth Group and to the Sunday sermon.

**PRAY:** That we will have a right attitude to outward appearances, and that we will pursue inner beauty.

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE HOME

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 3:7

1. How are husbands to treat their wives?
2. How does verse 7 highlight that men and women are equal but different?
3. What is the relationship between a husband's treatment of his wife and his prayer life? Why do you think the two are connected?

*"The only thing harder than to submit to a head might be to be the head. How can a man ever live out the unfailing love of God for his people. Here's where grace comes in."*

Kathleen Nielsen, Women and God

**PRAY:** That husbands will treat their wives well, and that there won't be among us even a hint of abuse.

# WEEK 5: 1 PETER 3:1-7

## Day 5

### READ 1 PETER 3:1-7

We are to remember that all of God's word to us is not something that we merely tolerate but that we delight in and see as exceedingly good. (See Psalm 119:18, John 17:17, 2 Timothy 2:161-7).

1. What good things in this week's passage do you particularly delight in?
2. Are there beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that you need to repent of as a result of what you've seen this week?

*We need to avoid the desire for precise rules when it comes to headship and submission. Christlike headship and submission form a delicate and beautiful dynamic that cannot be pinned down with rules. Man and wife both individually and together are to live under the gentle authority of God, learning to love his will and to serve him together in his world.*

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE HOME

Christopher Ash in *Marriage: Sex in the Service of God* has provided a helpful description of ways in which submission and headship have been resisted or distorted.

1. The tyrannical husband
2. The compliant wife
3. The rebellious wife
4. The abdicator husband

3. Which of those are you at most risk of being? If you are single or single again think of which you might potentially be or what you were (or most at risk of becoming) when married.

*"Paradoxically, it may not be the challenges of secular feminism that pose the greatest threat to God's order of marriage, but the pathetic abdications of sinful males who will not take upon themselves their God-given responsibility to exercise headship in their marriages and their homes."*

Christopher Ash.

**PRAY:** That spouses will not resist or distort their God-given responsibilities.

# WEEK 5: 1 PETER 3:1-7

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. In what ways is Jesus the model of humble submission? See Mark 14:35-36, Philippians 2:6-8 (Day 2 Q3)

2. How can wives be in submission without being doormats? (Day 2 Q2)

3. Are there beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that you need to repent of as a result of this week's readings? (Day 5 Q2)



# WEEK 5: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# WEEK 6: 1 PETER 3:8-12

## Week 6: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 3:8-9

1. What does Peter instruct God's elect (1:1) to do and not to do?
2. What would a church look like and achieve if it followed these instructions?
3. What would it look like and achieve if it disobeyed them?
4. What changes can you make to your attitudes and behaviour to contribute to the positive vision of church presented here?

**PRAY:** That Grace Church will become more and more a reflection of Peter's vision of the church presented here.

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 3:8-9

1. What things do people think of when speaking of their “calling”?
2. What picture of “calling” do these verses present to us? What promise is made to those who live it out?
3. How does this picture of calling challenge and motivate you?

**PRAY:** That God by his Spirit will enable you to fulfill your calling.

# WEEK 6: 1 PETER 3:8-12

## Day 3

READ 1 PETER 3:8-12, PSALM 34:1-22.

The Old Testament quote in 1 Peter 3:10-12 is from Psalm 34:12-16.

1. From the heading of the Psalm (the bit in italics at the top) what is the circumstance of David at the time? (you can read about this in 1 Samuel 21:10-15, Abimelek is another name for Achish, King of Gath.)

2. The citation of Psalm 34 reminds us that the pursuit of godliness is not a new challenge. What was there in David's circumstances to tempt him to compromise his faith?

a. What could there be in yours?

Wh3.at practical steps can you take to pursue the godliness mentioned in 1 Peter 3:10-12?

**PRAY:** That you will resist the temptation to compromise your faith and that you will continue to pursue godliness.

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 3:8-12

1. What promises are made to those who obey these instructions in v's 9b, 10 & 12?
2. Do you wonder if too much is being promised here?
  - a. What will these blessings look like?
3. Write down some ways in which God has, and is, providing these blessings for you.

**PRAY:** Give thanks for all of the things you wrote down in question 3.

# WEEK 6: 1 PETER 3:8-12

## Day 5

### READ 1 PETER 3:8-12

1. What parts of our body are highlighted in verse 10? Why do you think that is? (see also James 3:5-10)
2. What parts of the Lord's 'body' are mentioned here? How does this literary technique enhance the point being made?
3. How can the stance of the Lord's 'eyes, ears and face' help you to keep your 'tongue and lips' pure?

*"He that can rule his tongue can rule his whole body. Alas! that unruly member destroys peace and happiness in thousands of cases. The tongue can no man tame, but the grace of God can tame it."*

C.H. Spurgeon

**PRAY:** Knowing that the Lord's ears are attentive to your prayers bring your praises and petitions to him with confidence and delight.

# LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What promises are made to those who obey these instructions in v's 9b,10,12?

2. What would a church look like and achieve if it followed these instructions? What would it look like and achieve if it disobeyed them? (Day 1 Q2)

3. What practical steps can you take to pursue the godliness mentioned in 1 Peter 3:10-12? (Day 3 Q3)

# WEEK 6: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES



# SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD

## Week 7: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 3:13-14

1. What important point is made here about suffering for being a Christian?
2. How fearful are you of suffering or even being ridiculed as a Christian? What actions (or inaction) might show that?
3. Read Matthew 10:28. Meditate on this and ask God for help to be less fearful.

*"All death can now do to Christians is to make their lives infinitely better."*

Tim Keller

**PRAY:** "When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?" Psalm 56:3-4

# WEEK 7: 1 PETER 3:13-22

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 3:15-17

1. From verse 15b what is the antidote to fear?
2. What 'tips' are provided here for how to share our hope?
3. In what ways can you prepare yourself to be ready to give an answer to those who question you (v 15)?

**PRAY:** For preparedness, opportunities and boldness to share your hope in Jesus.

# SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD

## Day 3

### READ 1 PETER 3:18

Verse 18 is one of the most comprehensive statements about the meaning of the death of Christ to be found in the New Testament.

1. What did Christ's death achieve and what happened after his sufferings?
2. Why is it important that Jesus was our substitute and not just an example for us?
3. How can the sufferings of Christ help you in your sufferings?

*"If Christ be not the substitute, he is nothing to the sinner. If he did not die as the sin-bearer, he has died in vain."*

Horatius Bonar, 1862

**PRAY:** The sufferings of our Lord in our place have saved us and brought us forgiven into the presence of our holy God. We are invited to call him Father! Pray accordingly.

# WEEK 7: 1 PETER 3:13-22

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 3:18-22

Whilst v 18 is one of the most theologically rich in the whole New Testament, v 19-22 are some of the most theologically confusing! For some thoughts visit:

[matthiasmedia.com/products/homeward-bound](http://matthiasmedia.com/products/homeward-bound) to download the article "*On the Trail of the 'Spirits in Prison'*" by Tony Payne

1. Some use these verses to justify the doctrine of purgatory along with the view that we are saved by baptism. How would you argue against these?
2. What sometimes neglected doctrine is highlighted in v 22? What difference does this make to the Christian message?
3. What difference should it make to God's suffering elect, including us, that Jesus is now at God's right hand-with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him?

**PRAY:** Ask God to continue to give you wisdom in understanding the trickier parts of the Bible.

# SUFFERING FOR DOING GOOD

## Day 5

### READ 1 PETER 3:13-22

1. Peter sees a strong connection between doing good and suffering. How would you describe it? (see also 1 Peter 2:20 and 1 Peter 4:19)

2. Can you think of examples of where Christians today suffer for doing good?

3. How can you persevere in doing good even when suffering comes? How does verse 18 provide encouragement?

*"When our faith is tested by suffering 'as gold is tried in a furnace' and we depend with confidence on God, and rely entirely on his help, we will be granted the most excellent gift of patience and through faith we may victoriously persevere to the end."*

John Calvin

**PRAY:** Give thanks for Christ's suffering for us and ask for his help to endure suffering.

# WEEK 7: 1 PETER 3:13-22

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. Peter sees a strong connection between doing good and suffering. How would you describe it? (see also 1 Peter 2:20 and 1 Peter 4:19) (Day 5 Q1)
2. What 'tips' are provided here for how to share our hope? (Day 2 Q 2)
3. How can you persevere in doing good even when suffering comes? How does verse 18 provide encouragement? (Day 5 Q3)

# WEEK 7: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# WEEK 8: 1 PETER 4:1-11

## Week 8: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 4:1-6

Having explained in 1 Peter 3:18-22 that Jesus himself suffered unjustly while being obedient to God, even to death, Peter now exhorts Christians to arm themselves with that same resolve, so that they too might live victoriously.

1. What did Peter's readers live for in their unconverted past? What do they live for now?
2. In practical terms what could it mean to 'arm yourselves with the attitude of Christ' and what is likely to be the result? (v 1-2)
3. How can we encourage each other not to be swept along by the pressures of an ungodly society?

**PRAY:** That you will not live the rest of your earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. Pray this too for members of your Growth Group and other members of Grace Church.



# LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE END

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 4:1-6

1. 'Detestable idolatry' (v 3) is a summary of all the sins listed here and countless other sins mentioned in scripture? (see also Romans 1:20-23) In what sense are these idolatrous?

2. In what ways should verse 5 affect your thinking and behaviour?

3. How have you experienced the surprise of others that you won't join them in sin? How does this passage help you to deal well with those moments?

**PRAY:** For courage to live in the world but to not be of the world. Pray that your actions will lead some to ask regarding your Christian faith.

# WEEK 8: 1 PETER 4:1-11

## Day 3

### READ 1 PETER 4:3-6

1 Peter 4:6 is another of Peter's difficult verses (along with 3:19-21). One explanation is as follows:

"Everyone is "dead" (presumably in their sins)-and everyone, including Christians, will be "judged in the flesh" (we will die)-but those who trust the gospel that has been preached to them will "live in the spirit the way God does"-in other words (as in 3:18), be resurrected to the realm of the Spirit in a spiritual, incorruptible body. (Juan R. Sanchez, 1 Peter Bible study)

1. From v 5-6 what can you glean about the importance of the gospel?
2. Like Christ, for the believer, suffering (4:1) and death (4:6) are to be followed by resurrection life. How does it impact your life that you have a future beyond the grave?
3. How does the hope of resurrection impact your view of suffering? How does your experience of suffering impact your view of resurrection?

*"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep in order to gain what he cannot lose."*

Jim Elliot

**PRAY:** That you will have a right view of suffering and resurrection and be prepared to sit loosely to the attractions of this world.

# LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE END

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 4:7-11

1. How should our understanding of the gospel and the verdict of the final day affect our praying? (v 7)

2. What do you think it means that 'love covers over a multitude of sins'? (v 8)

3. Why do you think hospitality is highlighted here? (v 9) How can our church be more hospitable:

a. the insider?

b. To the outsider?

**PRAY:** "The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray." (1 Peter 4:7) In light of the end of all things, pray for those you love.

# WEEK 8: 1 PETER 4:1-11

## Day 5

### READ 1 PETER 4:7-11

1. What do verses 10-11 teach us about the use of gifts?

2. Our 'Ministry' portfolio is aiming to increase those involved in serving from 50-60% this year. How could we encourage each other to be more prepared to use our gifts and to serve within the church family?

3. Given we are encouraged to pray in v 7 what things might you put on your prayer list from what you read in v 8-11?

**PRAY:** Pray through your list from Q 3.

# LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE END

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. What did Peter's readers live for in their unconverted past? What do they live for now? (Day 1 Q1)
2. In what ways should verse 5 affect your thinking and your behaviour? (day 2 Q2)
3. How does the hope of resurrection impact your view of suffering? How does your experience of suffering impact your view of resurrection? (Day 3 Q3)

# WEEK 8: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# SUFFER JOYFULLY

## Week 9: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 4:12-16

1. How should God's scattered elect (1:1) respond to unjust suffering?

- V 12
- V 13
- V 16

2. Can you find anything in this passage that sheds light on the purpose of suffering (v 12, 17, see also Psalm 119:65-72, Hebrews 12:4-11)?

3. In v 14 Peter states that if we are insulted for the name of Christ, we are blessed. Are you so distinct that you might draw insult for being different? If not, can you think of any reasons why?

*"Suffering for our faith is not a sign that things have gone wrong, but that they are going right."*  
Juan R. Sanchez

**PRAY:** Give thanks that God grants us the privilege of suffering for him. Pray that we will respond in the ways mentioned in Q 1.

# WEEK 9: 1 PETER 4:12-19

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 4:12-16

1. What do you think it means to “participate in the sufferings of Christ”? (v 13)
2. What are the reasons for Christians not to be ashamed of suffering? When should they be ashamed? (vv. 14-16)
3. If you are suffering now, is it for things that you need not be ashamed of, or things that you should? Does anything need to change in your attitude or behaviour?

Learn 1 Peter 4:16 as a memory verse:

*“If you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.”*

**PRAY:** Give thanks for righteous suffering and repent of any sin that has brought about suffering of which you should be ashamed.



# SUFFER JOYFULLY

## Day 3

### READ 1 PETER 4:17-19

Peter teaches that 'the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God' (v 17). This is not the final judgment since this will occur at the 'revelation of Jesus Christ' (1:13). This 'last judgment' begins within history whenever the Gospel-word is welcomed or rejected. Whenever the believer experiences times of persecution they decide whether to continue to trust Jesus or to commit apostasy.

1. What does Peter ask his readers about the future of the ungodly (v 17,18)?

What do you think is the implied answer?

2. What new perspective on the trials of Peter's readers' might this insight bring?

3. How would you answer a person who said that suffering is a sign that you don't have enough faith or that you've been abandoned by God?

**PRAY:** Reflect on the future of the ungodly, asking God to help you share your faith with your 3-1-1 people (see page 4)

# WEEK 9: 1 PETER 4:12-19

## Day 4

READ 1 PETER 4:17-19 & MALACHI 3:1-5

1. What light does Malachi shed on this passage?
2. What do you think it means in v 18 "....it is hard for the righteous to be saved?"
3. How does verse 19 help suffering Christians who might have been on the verge of giving up? How does it help you?

*"For believers, this earth is as close to hell as we will get. Sadly, for unbelievers, unless they come to Jesus, this world is as close to heaven as they will get."*

David Burge

**PRAY:** Commit yourself to your faithful Creator and ask for his help to enable you to continue to do good.

# SUFFER JOYFULLY

## Day 5

**READ 1 PETER 4:12-19 & MATTHEW 25:31-46**

1. Write down one thing that challenges you about Christian suffering and one thing that encourages you about it.

2. What light does Matthew 25:31-46 shed on 1 Peter 4:12-19?

3. How does 1 Peter 4:12-19 help us to support and pray for the suffering church throughout the world?

**PRAY:** For God's suffering church. You might like to look up a website like [barnabasaid.org/au](http://barnabasaid.org/au); [opendoors.org.au](http://opendoors.org.au); [cms.org.au](http://cms.org.au) that work with the persecuted church.

# WEEK 9: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. How should God's scattered elect (1:1) respond to unjust suffering?

- V 12 un\_\_\_\_\_
- V 13 \_\_\_\_\_
- V 16 un\_\_\_\_\_ Day 1 Q1

2. What are the reasons for Christians not to be ashamed of suffering? When should they be ashamed? (vv. 14-16) Day 2 Q 2

3. How does 1 Peter 4:12-19 help us to support and pray for the suffering church throughout the world? Day 5 Q 3

# SUFFER JOYFULLY

# WEEK 10: 1 PETER 5:1-13

## Week 10: Day 1

### READ 1 PETER 5:1-4

1. What should elders do and remember?
2. Why is Peter so concerned about the character of the elders rather than about their ability to handle God's word?
3. What would be the danger of having a superb bible teacher who nevertheless fell into the traps mentioned here?
4. What are the ways you could best support, encourage and pray for your church leaders to fulfill the pattern outlined in these verses?

**PRAY:** For our staff-Craig, Jasper, Nick, and Grace.

# SHEPHERDS, SHEEP AND LIONS

## Day 2

### READ 1 PETER 5:5-7

1. According to v's 6, 7, how is humility to be shown within the church family (v 5) and towards God?

2. What can you do to be humble in relation to:

- Those who lead you?
- Other people in your church family?
- God?

3. Notice in v 7 that Peter doesn't say we are to deny, ignore, or flee from anxiety. Instead, we should be "casting all our anxieties on him." How might life be different for you if you cast all your anxieties on God more regularly? (v 7)

*"A proud person is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you."*

C.S. Lewis

**PRAY:** For humility, cast all your anxieties on your loving heavenly Father.

# WEEK 10: 1 PETER 5:1-13

## Day 3

### READ 1 PETER 5:8-11

1. How is the devil described here?

2. Are you more in danger of underestimating or overestimating the devil's power? What help do the verses below offer to get the balance right?

3. Read 1 Peter 5:10-11 a few times, slowly. What do these verses do in your heart and mind as you read them?

*"The devil is like a roaring lion seeking to devour, (1 Peter 5:8ff), and he is behind the persecution of Christians around the world (Revelation 12:7ff), but yet he will flee any resistance (James 4:7) because he has been defeated and stripped of his powers by the atoning work of Jesus on the cross (Colossians 2:13-16)."*

Phillip Jensen

**PRAY:** Give thanks that the devil is a defeated foe. Ask for God's help to resist him and that God will "make you strong, firm and steadfast."



# SHEPHERDS, SHEEP AND LIONS

## Day 4

### READ 1 PETER 5:12-14

1. What do you think it means to “greet one another with a kiss of love?” What might be a modern-day equivalent? What does it convey?

2. Would members of Grace Church be more likely to share a “holy kiss”, a “holy punch” or a “holy cold shoulder”? How can you contribute in a positive way?

3. Learn 1 Peter 5:12 as a memory verse:

*“I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.”*

You may care to write to someone briefly (or text, or e-mail or Facetime) to encourage them to stand fast in the faith.

**PRAY:** For you and others in your Growth Group that you and they will stand fast in the faith.

# WEEK 10: 1 PETER 5:1-13

## Day 5

**READ** 1 Peter 1:1-5:14 (it won't take long, you remember that from Week 1 Day 1!)

1. How has this letter encouraged you to “stand fast” as a Christian (1 Peter 5:12)?

2. How has this letter helped you to be neither surprised nor despairing at the reality that the Christian life is a life of suffering?

3. Write down one or two things that the Spirit has been prompting you to change in your thoughts or actions as you have studied 1 Peter?

**PRAY:** Give thanks for the opportunity to have studied 1 Peter this term. Pray through your answers to Q 1-3.

# SHEPHERDS, SHEEP AND LIONS

## FOR GROWTH GROUP PREPARATION

1. According to v's 6, 7, how is humility to be shown within the church family (v 5) and towards God? (Day 2 Q 1)
2. Are you more in danger of underestimating or overestimating the devil's power? What help do the verses below offer to get the balance right? (Day 3 Q 2)
3. In what ways could you best support, encourage and pray for your church leaders to fulfill the pattern outlined in these verses? (Day 1 Q 4)

# WEEK 10: PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# PRAYER POINTS & NOTES

# SELF HEALTH GUIDE

God's grace is powerful. It brings security and optimism when we think we're doing well and even when we think we're not. And his grace will spur us on to grow. Growth can be hard. We're not sure of the way ahead.

The following is a self-health guide. It's for you to use privately. It's between you and God. If you thought it measured how your Father looks at you, it could lead to a sense of legalism. But it doesn't do that. Rate yourself 1 to 5 for each point, with 5 being high. Pick one or two to ask God's help in.

## Mission

- |   | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I am praying regularly for non-Christians friends to be saved                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I take opportunities to speak to my non-Christian friends about the gospel      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel confident that I could explain the gospel to someone who doesn't know it | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I prayerfully and financially support mission partners                          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I make use of Grace Church events to help my friends by inviting them.          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Maturity

- |   | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I engage regularly with the Bible during the week outside church activities | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I intentionally make time for prayer throughout my week                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am a regular participant with others in a group for Christian fellowship  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| My Christian life and beliefs are evident to my friends                     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I regularly confess my sins to God and seek to overcome them                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Membership

- |   | 1                     | 2                     | 3                     | 4                     | 5                     |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| I value & prioritise church attendance  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I take the initiative before & after church to welcome new people                             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| I am alert to opportunities at church and during the week to care for needy members of church | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

I initiate fruitful conversations with brothers and sisters to build them up

I seek to show hospitality in a way that is consistent with my situation

## Magnification

1 2 3 4 5

I have a mindset that my daily life is about God's glory

In my relationship with God I regularly experience- gratitude, joy, repentance, forgiveness, satisfaction etc

I feel equipped with practices & habits that help me relate with God during the day

I know my example on a Sunday affects others so I seeking to encourage them in the way I listen, sing, talk etc

I seek to worship God through the way I interact with others

## Ministry

1 2 3 4 5

I see all of my life as service and take opportunities outside church to serve others

I serve regularly in a church ministry team and prioritise this in my planning

I feel like I'm using my skills, gifts and time wisely for God's kingdom

The gospel drives me to serve as much as I can to further the kingdom

I generally serve with humility and gladness

How are you feeling? Good because you think you nailed it? Depressed because you think you're failing? Consider this: *"...by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect..."*

1 Corinthians 15:10

Pick one or two things you want to grow in and ask God to help you:



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