

1 Peter
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

HOW TO STAND FIRM
WHEN TESTED

1 Peter Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out

When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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1 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis

- Overview of 1 Peter

AUTHOR AND RECIPIENTS

You can begin by asking what kind of literature this book is and who wrote it.
Tell your group to look at the page in the lesson “1 Peter Observations” as a visual aid.

The apostle Peter wrote this letter to believers.

He was one of Jesus’ apostles, on who had been with Him.

He was also an elder, shepherd, over the church.

Peter said in 5:1 he was a partaker of the glory to be revealed.
He had persevered in suffering and was looking forward to glory.

Ask what they learned about those to whom Peter wrote this letter.

They were aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.
(ESV—those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in...)

Although Peter had seen Jesus, the people addressed in this letter had not, 1:8.
1:12 and 25 seem to indicate that they had heard the gospel from someone other than Peter.

This letter was not written to only one local church.
5:1 addresses the elders among the recipients.

At least some among them seemed to be Gentiles.

2:9-12
You were not a people, but now
Among the Gentiles

4:3 also refers to Gentiles

They were going through various trials and sufferings.

1:6-7
3:14
4:12-13
5:9-10

Others slandered / spoke against them as evildoers.

2:12

3:16

4:4

They lived under the authority of human institutions, as all do even now, 2:13.

The devil himself was seeking to devour them, 5:8.

Give a brief time to discuss any relevant application for believers now and how 1 Peter speaks to believers, especially your group.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Why did Peter write to those suffering Christians? What did he want them to know and to do?
How does that relate to believers now?

This letter was written as an exhortation, and in it Peter testified to what the true grace of God is.

Peter defined “true grace of God” in this letter as salvation.

“grace”—1:2, 10, 13; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5, 10, 12

He told them to stand firm in the true grace of God.

What are some of the things he said to do in this letter which are part of standing firm in salvation?

NOTE: Your group will probably not bring up all of the following. You don't need to bring up what they don't. All will be studied in the following lessons. This is only the overview.

Rejoice in trials, 1:6-9 and 4:12-13, because of the outcome.

Prepare your minds

Keep sober / be sober-minded, 1:13; 4:7; 5:8.

Fix / set your hope on grace to come, 1:13.

Don't be conformed to former lusts / passions, 1:14; 2:11

Be holy in all behavior, 1:15; 2:12.

Love one another, 1:22; 4:8.

Long for the pure milk of the Word (ESV—pure spiritual milk) to grow in salvation, 2:2.

Submit / be subject to human and Christian authorities, 2:13-3:6; 5:5.

Be humble in spirit / mind, 3:8-9; 5:5-7.

Don't fear, 3:14

Sanctify (ESV—honor as holy) Christ as Lord in your hearts, 3:15.

Be ready / prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks, 3:15.

Keep a good conscience, 3:16.

Have Christ's purpose / thinking—to live for God's will, 4:1-2.

Be hospitable / show hospitality, 4:9.

Employ / use spiritual gifts to serve one another, 4:10-11.

Don't be surprised at trials, 4:12.

Resist the devil, 5:9.

You might ask if this encourages your group to stand firm.

KEY WORDS

For the purpose of discussing other main subjects in this letter and how they all relate to the purpose, ask what key words or phrases your group marked and what they learned.

“Grace” and “suffering” have already been discussed.

But Christ's sufferings are mentioned in 1:11; 2:21-24; 4:1, 13; and 5:1.

Other key words which might be discussed—

“Glory” is used 14 times in the book.

“Revelation or revealed” is used 4 times in chapter 1, and once in 4 and in 5.

“Submit, submission / be subject” is in chapters 2 and 3.

Some might have noted this as a book segment.

“Doing good,” “right,” “good”—used several times in chapters 2–4.

Some might have also noted this as a segment.

“Purpose”—2:21; 3:9; 4:1, 6, 7

(ESV does not use the word “purpose.”)

Now ask what they observed as some main points or flow of thought in each chapter. Ask what they noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for each chapter.

1 Peter 1

Peter began the letter by telling how salvation comes about and that trials are part of it.

Then he exhorted those who are saved to prepare their minds for action.

There is action in salvation—it's not a passive state.
Love is part of that action.

Possible theme:

Salvation; Prepare minds for action

1 Peter 2

Another part of salvation's action is growing from the Word of God, being built up on the foundation of Christ, the cornerstone, as living stones.

Then Peter called his readers to abstain from sins of their former lifestyle and keep their behavior excellent. Part of that is submission / being subject to human institutions as Jesus did.

Possible theme:

Living stones, holy nation; Submission / being subject

1 Peter 3

Wives are to follow Jesus' example of submission.

After addressing the husbands, Peter told all how to live humbly but without fear.

He kept telling them suffering for righteousness is part of God's will.

Possible theme:

Wives, Husbands, all do right / good

1 Peter 4

Again he called them to live no longer as they did and as Gentiles around them were.

Half of this chapter is about sufferings and God's judgment.

Possible theme:

Judgment and testing

1 Peter 5

Peter first told his fellow elders how to shepherd their flock.

Then he called all to be humble and resist the devil.

He ends with his purpose statement. This is true grace. Stand firm in it.

Possible theme:

Elders, humility, resist the devil

To end this discussion, ask how the Lord spoke to any while they were studying this overview.

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 1
- “chosen / elect” and “foreknowledge”

REVIEW

Begin with a review from the overview lesson. Ask what your group remembers about the recipients, the author, and his purpose for writing. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart.

It’s a letter written to believers who were scattered / of the Dispersion, living as aliens among Gentiles.

They suffered trials, and the apostle Peter wrote to exhort them to stand firm in the true grace of God. That grace includes suffering and trials.

He wrote to testify that the true grace of God is salvation.

1 PETER 1

How did Peter begin his letter to those scattered / dispersed, suffering believers?

He told them they were chosen. (ESV—he addressed them as elect exiles)

Ask what they learned from their study of “chosen / elect” in this lesson.

NOTE: Keep this discussion focused on what your group studied.

eklektos—picked out¹; select²

You can list a few main points as a visual aid. See the end of this lesson’s guide for an example.

1 Peter 2:4 and 6

This refers to Jesus as a living stone rejected by men, but chosen by God.

1 Peter 2:9

This is refers to believers—a chosen race. As such, they proclaim His excellencies.

¹ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G1588.

²Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). H8674.

Colossians 3:12

As God's chosen ones, here are other commands for believers. Put on. . . .

Ephesians 1:3-4

Believers were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.
Chosen to be holy and blameless before Him

There is a purpose and responsibilities for believers, for those chosen / elect by God.

Romans 8:33

None can bring a charge against God's elect.
Relate this to 1 Peter; those believers were slandered although righteous in God's sight.

Revelation 17:14

This tells the future of those called and chosen. They'll be with the Lamb, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

2 Timothy 2:10 and Titus 1:1

Paul spoke of those who had not yet been saved, although they were chosen.

Ephesians says God chose before the foundation of the world.

Paul endured sufferings, as did Peter, for the sake of those who would hear the gospel through him and be saved. But God had chosen them before the foundation of the world. The result is eternal glory for those chosen by God.

You might ask your group, "Just because one is chosen by God, does that mean he'll never suffer?" How does suffering compare with the outcome of being chosen by God?

The answer is obviously "no." Peter encouraged those suffering trials that they were chosen. It exhorted them, and should have the same effect on your group.

There is no comparison with the future for believers.

Ask what they learned about foreknowledge.

1 Peter 2:1-2 "chosen / elect...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father..."

prognosis—from *pro* meaning "before" and *gnosis* meaning to "know"³

1 Peter 1:20

Jesus was known before the foundation of the world, but appeared / was manifested in human form in the last times.

³W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996). 2:249.

2 Peter 3:17

“...knowing this beforehand...”

People can have foreknowledge as Peter warned these believers.

Acts 2:23

Jesus was delivered to the cross by God’s foreknowledge. It was His plan before it happened.

Romans 8:29-30

Those foreknown are predestined to be conformed into Jesus’ image. Believers are also the called, justified, and glorified.

1 Peter says a lot about glory. It seems that there is a connection with suffering, being conformed to Jesus’ image and the glory to be revealed at His coming.

Romans 11:2

God also foreknew His people Israel. He has not rejected them.

Now you might ask what your group thinks that God’s choice and foreknowledge mean in the context of 1 Peter 1:1-2. They need to verbalize their summaries or conclusions of this study. It helps them be prepared to share with others.

NOTE: Caution regarding “foreknowledge.” The Bible does not teach that God chose because He knew beforehand who would accept Jesus. The choice and foreknowledge are God’s, not man’s, in this context.

What else does verse 2 say?

God chose according to His foreknowledge.

The Spirit sanctifies those chosen.

They are to obey Jesus Christ.

They’re sprinkled with His blood.

This is all grace from God.

Verses 3-9

Ask about the main points in these verses.

This teaches various aspects of salvation. God caused us to be born again according to His great mercy. Salvation is from Him.

- God’s mercy
- Born again
- God’s protection / guarding of His own
- Trials—the proof / tested genuineness of one’s faith
- Faith
- Glory

Verses 10-12

What are these verses about?

Salvation prophesied
Jesus' sufferings prophesied
Glory prophesied

Old Testament prophesies are for New Testament believers because the fulfillment of them is in Jesus and salvation.

Verses 13-16

Ask how this differs from verses 1-12.

1-12 are about salvation, Peter's testifying to the true grace of God.
13-16 tell those saved what to do, exhortations to stand firm.

- Prepare minds
- Keep sober / be sober-minded
- Fix / set hope on grace at Jesus' revelation
- Don't be conformed to former lusts / passions
- Be holy in all behavior / conduct

Verses 17-21

What are the points and flow of these verses?

Exhortation to conduct themselves with fear
That conduct is based on knowledge of redemption / ransom, more true grace.
This section is mostly about the true grace of redemption / ransom by Jesus' blood.

Give your group time to discuss what they learned about Jesus.

Verses 22-25

What is this about?

Exhortation to love fervently / earnestly
Salvation explained as born again and based on God's Word.

To close your discussion, ask what your group learned from this chapter about salvation (true grace) and about standing firm in it.

Chosen

according to

God's foreknowledge

God chose believers "in Christ"
before the world's foundation
put on. . . .
proclaim His excellencies
will come with Lamb, King

Jesus – crucifixion
before the world's foundation
believers foreknown
predestined – Jesus' image
called
justified
glorified

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 1:1-2

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, ask you group why Peter wrote this letter.

5:12—it should be memorized by the time the course is finished

Ask what the true grace of God is, based on this letter.

Salvation

You could list the main points as you discuss. There's a sample visual aid at the end of this lesson's guide.

ALIENS / EXILES

Then ask who Peter wrote, what they learned about the aliens / exiles who were scattered / of the Dispersion.

“. . . not simply one who is passing through, but a foreigner who has settled down, however briefly, next to or among the native people,” from a word meaning “to reside as a stranger.”¹

The people Peter wrote this letter to resided as aliens / exiles, scattered / of the Dispersion throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

They were believers; chosen, born again, beloved, Christians.

1 Peter 1:17-19

These verses are about how to live during the time of stay / exile. Conduct yourselves with fear, knowing you were redeemed / ransomed from your futile way of life.

1 Peter 2:10-12

Again, Peter told them how to live as aliens / sojourners and strangers / exiles. They lived among the Gentiles.

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 3927.

John 7:35

During Jesus' time there was a Dispersion of Jews among the Greeks or Gentiles. This referred to Jews who didn't live in Israel.

James 1:1

James wrote his letter to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion. They were also believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:1, 4; 11:19

There was a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem and all but the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. They preached the word so that the church spread.

Some of those who had been scattered went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch speaking the word of God to Jews. Jews were in these places because of the Dispersion before Jesus' time.

- There was a dispersion of Jews before the church began.
- There was a dispersion of the church from Jerusalem.

Ephesians 2:11-13

At one time Gentile believers were separate from Christ, excluded / alienated from Israel—Jews, and strangers to God's covenant promises. Jesus brought them near by His blood. Believers are all together in one body now.

Philippians 3:20 and Hebrews 11:9-16

All believers in Jesus Christ are citizens of heaven, not earth.

Ask how this applies to your group.

Also, give them time to discuss the interpretation of 1 Peter 1:1.

Verse 1 indicates a literal dispersion to the places listed.

SANCTIFYING WORK / SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT

Ask what they learned about this.

Sanctification is “separation unto God”²; holiness; consecration, purification.³
It's from the same root word as “holy.”

The Spirit does the sanctifying work.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 38.

³ J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (HGK2876). (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Paul said a similar thing: God chose us for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit. The Spirit of God sets apart the chosen, sanctifies them.

Hebrews 10:9-18 and 1 Corinthians 1:30

Believers are sanctified initially by Jesus' sacrifice and continually by the Spirit.

Give time for your group to discuss how this affects their lives.

OBEY JESUS CHRIST

Ask your class how the three Persons of the Godhead work(ed) in 1 Peter 1:1-2.

God chose
The Spirit sanctifies
Jesus' blood was shed

Ask what they learned about this.

1 Peter 1:1-2
Chosen to obey Jesus Christ

They were called obedient children, 1:14.
They had obeyed the truth, 1:22.

1 Peter 2:7-8

Unbelievers are disobedient to the word. This is a contrast with believers.

1 Peter 3:1, 6, 18-20

Again, the unbelievers are those who don't obey God's Word.
Obeying is connected with doing what is right / good.
The disobedient, even from Noah's time, are contrasted with believers.

1 Peter 4:17

The contrast again—those who don't obey the gospel are the unbelievers.
God's household consists of believers.

Romans 1:5; 15:18 and 16:25-26

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, proclaimed the gospel to bring about the obedience of faith among the Gentiles / all the nations.

There is a connection between faith, believing in Jesus Christ, and obedience to Him.
Just as there is a connection between unbelief and disobedience.

Romans 2:6-8 and 6:16-19

People will be judged according to their deeds.

Those who don't obey the truth, but unrighteousness, will receive wrath and indignation. People are slaves of what they obey, sin or righteousness.

The Romans used to be slaves to sin which results in death.
But they became obedient to the gospel.

2 Thessalonians 1:8

Those who don't obey the gospel will receive retribution / vengeance from God. They don't know Him.

Matthew 7:21-27

Jesus said the one who does His Father's will is the one who will enter the kingdom of heaven. Those who claim His name, but don't obey Him are not really saved.

Acts 5:28-32

The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey God.
The context of Acts indicates the obedience is responding to the message of the gospel.

Because Peter and the other apostles had done this, it resulted in them walking in further obedience to God's command to preach the gospel.

Hebrews 5:9

Jesus is the source of eternal salvation to those who obey Him.

There is initial obedience at salvation, and there is continued obedience during sanctification.

Give time for your group to discuss what they learned for their lives from this study.

BE SPRINKLED / SPRINKLING WITH HIS BLOOD

Ask what your group learned from their study about this.

Believers were chosen by God to be sprinkled with Jesus' blood. This speaks of the new covenant of salvation, grace. His blood was shed on the cross for all. Those who believe in Him as Savior are sprinkled with His blood.

Exodus 24:3-8

- Moses took blood from sacrifices.
- He sprinkled the altar with half of the blood.
- He read the covenant, the Law, to the people.
- They agreed to obey what God said in the Law, the covenant.
- Then he sprinkled (ESV—threw on) the people with the other half of the blood.
- He called it the blood of the covenant.
- The covenant was made with God as the people agreed to obey His Word.

Isaiah 52:13-15

This is a prophecy about Jesus on the cross. He'll sprinkle nations.

Matthew 26:26-28

Jesus said His blood that was shed on the cross is the blood of the New Covenant.
It was poured out for forgiveness of sins of many.

Hebrews 9:13-14, 18-22

Jesus' blood is compared to the OT sacrifices
His blood cleanses conscience, not just the flesh, to serve the living God
The first covenant was the Old Covenant of the Law.
Exodus 24 tells of it being inaugurated by blood.

Therefore, all things are cleansed with blood.
Jesus' blood cleanses the conscience of men who believe in Him.
Without it, there is no forgiveness.

You can ask your group to summarize what they would say if asked what the first two verses of 1 Peter mean.

True **grace** of God = **salvation**

God chose
according to His foreknowledge
by the sanctifying work of the Spirit
to obey Jesus Christ
and
be sprinkled with His blood

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 1:3-12
- Salvation

REVIEW

Ask for Peter's purpose in writing this letter.

5:12—the true grace of God is referring to salvation

Ask what they've studied so far about salvation.

Chosen by God's foreknowledge
Sanctifying work of the Spirit
Obey Jesus and be sprinkled with His blood

SALVATION

What did Peter say about salvation in 1 Peter 1:3-12?

Based on God's great mercy
God caused us to be born again through Jesus' resurrection
Will be completely revealed in the last time
By faith
Salvation of your soul
Was prophesied by the Old Testament prophets, but they didn't completely understand it
God's grace
Announced in the gospel / good news

Ask about the definition of salvation.

“Safety, deliverance, preservation from danger or destruction”¹

Tell your group to look at “The Three Tenses of Salvation” chart as a visual aid.
Then ask what the deliverance or preservation is from.

- Sin's penalty—death, God's wrath
- Sin's power in daily life
- Sin's presence in the future

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 4991.

Ask what they learned about the three tenses of salvation.

Present Tense

All have sinned and face the penalty—death and the lake of fire.

Those who “have been saved” no longer face that penalty.

Those who “have been saved” are justified, made right with God.

Paul agreed with Peter that it’s by grace.

Believers have been crucified with Christ, so that they are no longer slaves to sin.

Present Tense

Saved from sin’s power

Believers are being sanctified by the Holy Spirit

As a way of life, true believers no longer walk, live, according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. He lives within every believer to lead him or her in daily life. If a person does not have the Holy Spirit dwelling within, then he does not belong to God.

Believers were crucified with Christ and raised to walk in newness of life by the Spirit of Christ leading in that new life. By the Spirit, believers put to death the deeds of the flesh.

There is freedom, life, and peace in the Spirit.

Future Tense

Will be saved from sin’s presence in the future

The hope of salvation

The time of our bodies’ redemption, new bodies

Glorification, being with God, seeing Him for Who He is

The outcome of faith now, 1 Peter 1:9

The salvation ready to be revealed in the last time, 1 Peter 1:5

PROOF / GENUINENESS OF FAITH

What does 1 Peter 1 say about this?

Peter tells that the proof / testing the genuineness of faith goes on now.

It’s part of present-tense salvation—sanctification.

It’s part of the process to make Christians holy.

How do trials fit into this process? What are they? Discuss the definition.

A putting to the test², an experiment³, to learn the true nature or character of⁴

What was to be the outcome of those trials or tests?

Proving of faith:

“proof / genuineness”—“that by which something is tried or proved”⁵; to approve after examination⁶; a crucible⁷

Resulting in praise and glory and honor at Jesus’ revelation

To what did Peter liken this proving or testing of a Christian’s faith?

What does the Old Testament say in Jeremiah, Zechariah, Malachi, Psalms and Proverbs?

Like gold tested by fire

Jeremiah looked for pure silver as a tester of God’s people, but all he found was bronze and iron. The fire consumed the lead. They were rejected because of their rebellion, lying, and corruption. They weren’t true.

Gold and silver are tested, purified, by fire.

In smelting the heat of fire causes the dross, the worthless part, to rise to the surface to be skimmed off, leaving the purified metal.

God is like a refiner’s fire.

- He tests His people.
- He tests hearts.

What does the New Testament say?

James 1:2-4, 12

This compares with 1 Peter 1:6; joy because faith is proven.

Testing . . . produces . . . approved / stood the test . . . receive the crown of life

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 3986.

³ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G3986.

⁴ J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK4280). (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁵ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G1383.

⁶ Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 567.

⁷ W.E. Vine’s, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (electronic edition), published in 1940 and without copyright.

Romans 5:1-5

Exult in tribulations / sufferings . . . knowing . . . it brings about—perseverance / endurance, proven character and hope.

According to Romans 5, how can Christians have this attitude while being tested?

God's love poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit
The sanctifying work of the Spirit

According to 1 Peter 1 what is to be our response to our Savior during these trials?

Verse 8

Love Him

Believe in, trust, Him

Peter also says to rejoice greatly, and the context is the same as James—trials.

Ask how 1 Peter 1:5 relates to trials and testing.

Even though tested by fire, believers are protected / guarded by God's power.

Give your group time to discuss how trials have shaped their character.

Ask them if this lesson has helped to change their thinking about trials.

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 1:13-25
- Exhortations

REVIEW

To begin this discussion tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they remember about why Peter wrote this letter. Also ask about the circumstances of the recipients.

Peter exhorted and testified / declared the true grace of God.
He exhorted the believers in trials to stand firm in that true grace, salvation.

You might ask what Peter taught in chapter 1.

It's about salvation.
Exhortation and testifying / declaring God's grace
He chose.
His mercy caused us to be born again.
He protects / guards by His power.
He prophesied about it.

Based on that grace of God, ask what the first word of verse 13 is.

“Therefore”—because of all that Peter said in the first twelve verses.

Lead your group to discuss the exhortations of verses 13-25, what they have to do with salvation and with the lives of the people in your group.

As a visual aid for this lesson, tell them to look at the list of exhortations they made in the lesson.

EXHORTATIONS IN 1 PETER 1:13-25

Important Note:

The NASB and ESV translate the Greek of verse 13 differently, but both are legitimate options. In the NASB, there are three imperative sentences, three “exhortations” while the ESV treats the two participles as modifying phrases to the main imperative—one “exhortation” with two phrases telling “how you are to do that.” Below are the ways to handle each.

NASB:

Ask what the first exhortation is and what they learned about it.
Prepare your minds for action

Literally, the exhortation or instruction is “gird the loins of your mind.”
Let someone in the group tell or demonstrate what it meant to gird loins.

Elijah girded up his loins to run.

Jeremiah was to do so in preparation for speaking God’s Word.

In Job it’s used as part of getting up, being ready to do things a man would do.

Ephesians uses it symbolically as Christians being prepared with the truth of God’s Word.

Peter used it symbolically for preparation of one’s mind. A believer’s mind should be prepared with the truth of God’s Word for proper actions to take place.

Ask what they learned about the mind.

The believer’s mind must be renewed in the Word of God to be prepared to recognize false teaching that is raised up against the true knowledge of God.

What is in one’s mind or heart comes out into his or her life.

If one does not keep his mind prepared, the following can happen.

- Dull of hearing instead of mature
- Sluggish instead of assured
- Anxious instead of peaceful
- Conformed to the world instead of transformed

Give your group time to discuss how and why they should prepare their minds.

Relate this to the fact that the believers of 1 Peter were going through trials, tests of their faith.

Think on things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, or good repute.

Renewing of the mind takes place as God’s thoughts are put into our minds.
That comes from regular intake of the Word.

Knowing and doing God’s will is a result.

Another is being mature in discernment, knowing good from evil.

Peace and security are also results of having one’s mind prepared.

All of these things can be true in the midst of various trials.

What is the next exhortation? How does it apply?

Keep sober in spirit
Literally it is, “be sober.”

It might be an exhortation for believers to be alert as to the various trials which come upon them for their testing.

Let your group discuss how they can keep sober.

Ask about the next exhortation.

This tells Christians that there is no hope in the world for them to rely on like the hope they have in Christ. Therefore, they should fix their hope completely not partially, on the grace to be brought at Jesus’ revelation.

“Hope,” *elpizo*—means a confident hope¹, full confidence.²

Hope for this life only is by no means equal with the hope of what Jesus will bring when He comes.

He prepares a dwelling for believers to be with Him.
His reward is with Him for the life people live here on earth.

Future tense salvation—glorification—awaits those who eagerly await His return.
They’ll enter the holy city, the new Jerusalem, with the tree of life there.
Everlasting life with Him and no presence of sin, its penalty, or its power

Ask how the trials of this life compare with eternal things, 2 Corinthians 4.

Let your group discuss how this passage relates to their own lives and fixing their hope on the grace Jesus will bring to them.

¹ J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK1827). (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

² J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G1679.

ESV:

Ask what the first exhortation is and what they learned about it.

Set your hope fully on the grace to be brought to you at Jesus' revelation.

This tells Christians that there is no hope in the world for them to rely on like the hope they have in Christ. Therefore, they should set their hope fully, not partially, on the grace to be brought at Jesus' revelation.

“Hope,” *elpizo*—means a confident hope³, full confidence.⁴

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They'll enter the holy city, the new Jerusalem, with the tree of life there.
Everlasting life with Him and no presence of sin, its penalty, or its power

Ask how the trials of this life compare with eternal things, 2 Corinthians 4.

How are they to fix their hope? What supporting ideas does Peter give?

Preparing your minds for action
Literally, “gird the loins of your mind.”
Let someone in the group tell or demonstrate what it meant to gird loins.

Elijah girded up his loins to run.
Jeremiah was to do so in preparation for speaking God's Word.
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³ J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK1827). (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁴ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G1679.

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Think on things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, or good repute.

Renewing of the mind takes place as God's thoughts are put into our minds.
That comes from regular intake of the Word.

Knowing and doing God's will is a result.
Another is being mature in discernment, knowing good from evil.

Peace and security are also results of having one's mind prepared.

All of these things can be true in the midst of various trials.

How else do they fix their hope? How does it apply?

Being sober-minded

It might mean for believers to be alert as to the various trials which come upon them for their testing.

Let your group discuss how they can be sober-minded.

Let your group discuss how this passage relates to their own lives and fixing their hope on the grace Jesus will bring to them.

FROM THIS POINT ON, THE GUIDE IS FOR BOTH NASB AND ESV

What is the next exhortation in 1 Peter 1? Ask what your group learned about it.

Do not be conformed to the former lusts...
(ESV—do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance)

1 Peter 2:11 and 4:3-4

Their former lusts were the things they did before their salvation, things other Gentiles were still doing, things they were slandered for not doing.

- Fleshly lusts / passions of the flesh
- Things that war against the soul
- Behavior
- Excesses of dissipation / flood of debauchery
 - Sensuality
 - Lusts / passion
 - Drunkenness
 - Carousing / orgies
 - Drinking parties
 - Abominable / lawless idolatries

How is it possible not to keep doing those things?

Don't continue to be conformed to the same pattern.⁵

Gird your minds, then keep sober, then fix your hope
If one does those things, then he won't be conformed to the former lusts.

Don't live like you did when you didn't know better.
Don't live like children.
Live like obedient children—those being transformed by the renewing of their minds.

Colossians 3 tells of conscious decisions to be made.

- Consider
- Put aside

This is all part of the present tense of salvation—sanctification, being made holy or being separate from the world more and more.

What is the next exhortation?

Be holy because God is holy.

Holiness, sanctification, is the opposite of being conformed to the world.

⁵James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G4964.

Believers are being molded, by trials and maturity, into Jesus' image.

Holy behavior, behavior that is different from the world's behavior.
Like the recipients in 2:12 and 4:4. They were becoming more holy.

Verses 17-21

Ask about the flow of thought or logic in these verses. What are the reasons for the exhortation or instruction?

If a person calls God his Father, then he should act like his Father acts.
Be holy for He is holy.

Believers need to remember that they'll be judged by God for how they lived while here on earth. It's called the judgment seat of Christ or God. Christians need to be sober, live lives respecting God in all their conduct, because they'll give an account to Him.

Another reason to conduct yourself in fear, respect, is that Christ's blood bought redemption for all believers.

His life redeemed, paid the ransom, to free⁶ Christians from the bonds of slavery to sin. Through death He rendered the devil powerless.

The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sins. There is forgiveness only because of the cross, because Jesus' blood was shed.

Christians can't continue to live in sin because they've been redeemed from it.

You could close this discussion by asking your group about verses 19-21.
Did they learn anything more about the precious Lamb?

He was foreknown before the world.
He appeared / manifest in a body for our sake.
His body was killed—the ransom.
He redeemed us. Christ our Passover was the perfect, unblemished sacrifice.
God raised Him from the dead.
He's glorified as the Christ, the Savior.

Our faith and hope should rest in nothing else.

⁶*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey William Bromiley and Gerhard Friedrich, electronic ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964-c1976). 4:349.

1 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 1:3, 23—born again
- 1 Peter 2

REVIEW

Begin with a brief review of the author and his purpose for writing and how this relates to the recipients.

The apostle Peter wrote to believers who were being distressed by various trials. He exhorted them concerning the true grace of God—their salvation—and to stand firm in it.

BORN AGAIN

Ask what your group learned about this and what it has to do with salvation.

As you go, you might list on a visual aid the main points concerning being born again. See the end of this lesson's guide for an example.

1 Peter 1:3, 23

God's mercy caused believers to be born again.

New birth is caused by Him and brought about by the resurrection of Jesus Christ—life from the dead. It's a living hope—a living, confident expectation.

Verse 23 says new birth is not of perishable seed.

“Seed” is “seed sown.”¹

Being born the first time, physical birth, is of perishable seed, and even believers will die physically, except those alive when Christ comes for His church. But the living and abiding word of God is imperishable, abides forever. It doesn't die like grass and flowers.

“Word” is *logos*, “the expression of thought,”² “from *légō*, to speak intelligently.”³

This imperishable word, God's Word—His thoughts—was preached to them.

¹ W.E. Vine's, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (electronic edition), published in 1940 and without copyright.

² W.E. Vine's, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (electronic edition), published in 1940 and without copyright.

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 3056.

“Word” in verse 25 is *rhema*, “that which is spoken, a statement, word.”⁴

It conveys the idea of a specific word spoken.
They believed the specific word that was preached, spoken to them.

John 3

A person must be born of water (flesh, physical) and the Spirit (spiritual) in order to enter the kingdom of God. Entering into the kingdom—life eternal, not perishing spiritually—is given to those who believe in the name of Jesus.

And there will be results, practicing the truth. You can’t see the Spirit, but there will be results of the Spirit in that one’s life, just as you can’t see the wind, but you can see the results of the wind.

1 John

Practices / continues to practice righteousness, not sin
This is a result of God’s seed—the Holy Spirit—abiding within.
If we practice sin, we’re of the devil.

Loving our brother, the child born of Him
It’s obvious / evident that the one who hates his brother is a child of the devil.

Believes that Jesus is the Christ
Loves the Father
Keeps God’s commandments

Overcomes the world by faith
Kept by God and the evil one doesn’t touch Him

Encourage your group to examine their lives. Do their lives show they are born again?

Ask how this relates to 1 Peter 1:22, the next instruction they studied, and to verses 23-25 about being born again.

Believers are to love one another fervently / earnestly from the heart.
It’s an instruction, so it’s something that can be done, not an emotion.

Love is *agape*, which is to love, demonstrate love,⁵ which is what John 3 says God had for the world, resulting in His gift of Jesus. True love manifests itself in actions.

They are to do this since they, in obedience to the truth, had purified their souls for a sincere love of the brethren.

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 4487.

⁵ James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997). DBLG 26, #2.

“Love of the brethren” is *philadelphia*, “brotherly love.”⁶

Believers can do this because they have been born of the imperishable seed of the Word of God. That love is a result of new birth, born of the Spirit.

1 PETER 2

What is this chapter about? What is the flow of thought?

“Therefore / So,” in light of what he’s told them about begin born again of the imperishable Word of God.

Or maybe “therefore / so,” in light of all the truths in chapter 1

Those born again should long for the pure milk of the word like newborn babies, so they will grow in salvation. (ESV—does not say “word.”)

How are they to do this?

Putting aside all malice, etc.

A lifestyle of malice, deceit, etc. would not be the lifestyle of one who loves his brother, one who is born again and standing in that true grace.

What are verses 4-8 about and how do they relate to new birth in Christ?

Believers are living stones being built up as a spiritual house.
Jesus is the cornerstone.

Those who believe in Jesus won’t be disappointed / put to shame.
Those who don’t believe, reject Jesus, are those disobedient to the word.

Ask what 9-10 and 11-12 are about and if anything relates to being born again.

They are a chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, God’s possession,
to proclaim His excellencies.

They were called out of darkness into His light—by His mercy.

They’re to keep their behavior / conduct excellent / honorable to glorify God.

⁶Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G5360.

Ask about the topic that comes up in verses 13-17 and again in verses 18-25 and continue to relate the verses to being born again.

Submission

Submit / be subject to every human institution. Servants submit to masters. Christ is our example in unjust suffering.

Following these instructions is a result of being born again. Believers can live this way because at new birth they were given the Holy Spirit within to enable them.

If you have not already done so, ask your group how what they've learned can help in sharing the gospel so that others are born again.

Born Again

God causes
Living hope
Through Jesus' resurrection
Inheritance reserved
Protected by God's power
Of imperishable seed—Word of God
Result = righteous lifestyle

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 2:1-12

REVIEW

As with previous lessons, ask your group what they remember to briefly review Peter’s purpose for writing and how he began this letter.

5:12 says that he exhorted and testified / declared the true grace of God—salvation. Then he said, “Stand firm in it.”
This letter is for all Christians—how to stand firm in salvation.

Peter began with the scattered believers’ salvation, and then told them how to stand firm in it.

1 PETER 2

Tell your group to look at the first chart in the lesson, and ask about the flow of thought in this chapter. Who is it about? Give a brief time for them to share relevant application from their chart.

Verses 4-8

Ask what they learned about Jesus as the corner stone.

Tell them to look at the second chart in the lesson as a visual aid.

1 Peter 2:4-8

- A living stone
- Rejected by men
- Choice / chosen and precious in God’s sight
- Cornerstone
- Stone of stumbling
- Rock of offense

Psalm 118:22-24

- The builders, the leaders of Israel, rejected Him
- He became the cornerstone

Isaiah 8:13-15 and 28:16

- A stone to strike
- A rock to stumble over
- A tested stone
- A costly / sure cornerstone for the foundation
- God laid the stone in Zion

Mark 12:1-11

Israel killed God's prophets and even His Son, Jesus.

They rejected Him as the cornerstone for the foundation in Zion, Jerusalem.

Acts 4, Romans 9, and Ephesians 2

God planned for Jesus to be the foundation stone and put Him in Israel.

Even though Israel as a whole rejected Him, those who believe in Him will not be disappointed. They're no longer strangers and aliens, but God's household.

Luke 2:34

Simeon told Mary that her Son was appointed for the rise and fall of many in Israel.

Relate this to those who reject or accept Him.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Peter 2:4-10.

What did Peter say about those who rejected Jesus?

Israel, the builders, rejected their cornerstone.

All who stumble over Him as the stumbling stone do so because they're disobedient to God's Word. The disobedient are appointed / destined to doom because of this.

What did he say about those who believe?

There is a diagram at the end of this lesson's guide which you might use as a visual aid.

Living stones

Being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood

Not disappointed / put to shame

A chosen race

A royal priesthood

A holy nation

A people for God's own possession

To proclaim God's excellencies

Those who come to Jesus as to a living stone become living stones themselves.

They're being built up as a spiritual house.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about believers as living stones, a spiritual house.

Christ is called the great high priest and a faithful Son over God's house.
Evidence that believers are part of that house is hold fast the confidence and hope firm until the end.

Ephesians says the house is God's holy temple, a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

That is Jew and Gentile in one body=the church.

Corporately and individually, believers' bodies are God's temple, a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Paul told Timothy that the church is the pillar and support of the truth.

Give time for them to share what this means to them or how it exhorts them to stand firm in their salvation.

How else do 1 Peter 2:5 and 9 describe believers?

A royal priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices to acceptable to God through Jesus
All believers, all living stones, all who are part of God's household are priests now.

Ask what your group learned about priests and sacrifices.

Only Aaron and his sons were priests. Even other Levites were not priests.

Korah and some other Levites questioned the authority of the Aaronic priests, and God killed them. It was a matter of holiness before Him.

What are the duties of a priest?

Offering spiritual sacrifices to God
The ministry of the gospel
Thanksgiving, praise
Service of faith and worship
Broken spirit and contrite heart=humility
Giving
Doing good and sharing
One's body, a living and holy sacrifice

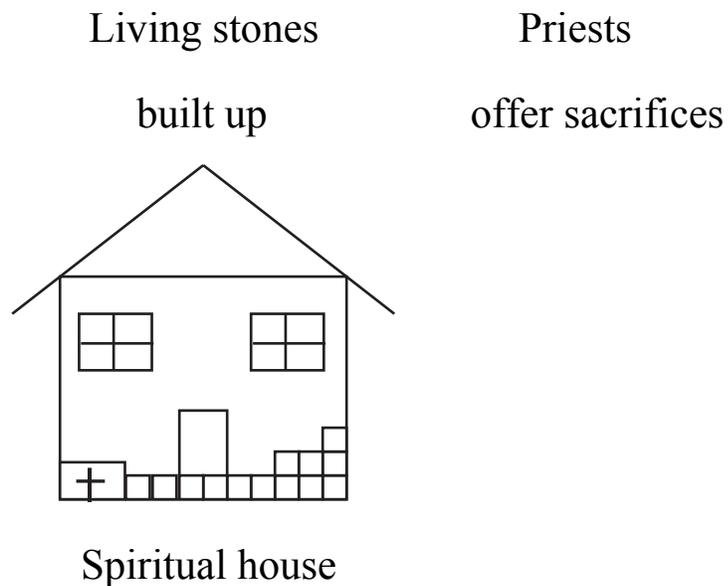
Give your group time to share what they learned and how they can better make sacrifices.

To end this discussion, ask your group how 1 Peter 2:11-12 relate to the rest of this lesson.

Priests are to be holy; therefore, abstain from fleshly lusts / passions.

Keep your behavior / conduct excellent among the Gentiles so that they might glorify God instead of slandering His priests.

What are your good deeds as a priest of the living God?



**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 8**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 2–3
- Submission / subjection and suffering

REVIEW

Ask your group to review the setting for Peter’s letter. How does it relate to the subjects of submission and suffering?

Peter stated his purpose for writing his letter in 5:12.
He exhorted and testified / declared the true grace of God, which is salvation.
He describes in the letter what true salvation is.

Then he tells his readers to stand firm in that true grace.

He began the letter by telling of salvation, then exhorted those who are saved in how to stand firm.

The believers he wrote to were suffering. So what did he tell them?
That’s part of the true grace, part of salvation.

Peter constantly reminds believers of who they are because of salvation.

Remind your group that the exhortations in 1 Peter are also exhortations to all Christians now.

SUBMISSION / SUBJECTION

Ask your group when this subject comes up in the letter.
Also, ask for the definition for the word and who it applies to in 1 Peter.

The first time Peter says to “submit / be subject” is in 2:13-17.
It’s directed to all the believers after telling them to keep their behavior excellent among the Gentiles.

Submit / be subject

- Yourself
- For the Lord’s sake
- To every human institution

Tell them to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

Submit / subject—*hupotasso*—*hupo* means “under” and *tasso* means “to arrange.”¹

It is the responsibility of the believer to arrange himself or herself under authorities.
This is one way of keeping one’s behavior excellent among unbelievers.
In doing what’s right / good, believers silence any accusation from people of the world.
Honor and love other people. Fear God—this is His will.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about this.

Paul says the same thing in Romans 13 and Titus 3:1 that Peter did in 2:13-17
—submit / be subject to governing authorities.

God is the one who establishes authorities.

Let your group discuss, for example, paying taxes. Is it right? Have them base their answers on the scriptures they studied.

Ask your group what they learned from 1 Peter 2:18-25 about submission / subjection.

Servants are commanded to submit / be subject to masters—with all respect.
It doesn’t matter if the master is a good one or not.
Suffering might be a part of serving an unjust master.

How do the cross-references add to this?

Paul said the same thing in Titus 2:9.
Bondslaves / bondservants are to submit by being well-pleasing and not argumentative.

Paul said for slaves to obey their masters in Ephesians 6 and Colossians 3.

Compare this with what Peter said about submission.

- With fear and trembling
- Not with just external service
- With sincerity of heart
- As to Christ, fearing the Lord

Application of this might be made for workers to employers.

How does this apply now? Give time for application discussion.

Who is the example for submission according to 1 Peter 2:21?

“example”—*hupogrammos*—*hupo* means “under” or “before” and *grapho* means “to write”²

¹ W.E. Vine’s, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (electronic edition), published in 1940 and without copyright.

“Lit., ‘an under-writing’ (from *hupographo* . . . to write under, to trace letters . . .)”³
“A writing to be copied”⁴

1 Peter 2:21-25 tells Jesus’ example of submission / being subject.

- It was suffering for Him.
- He committed no sin.
- He had no deceit in His mouth.
- He didn’t revile when He was reviled.
- He uttered no threats.
- He kept entrusting Himself to God who judges righteously.
- He bore our sins in His body.

Ask your group what else they learned about Jesus’ submission from cross-references.

Jesus continued in submission / subjection to His parents while He grew up.

Philippians 2 gives the progression of Jesus’ submission / subjection.

- He existed / was in the form of God.
- He took the form of a bond-servant, of a man.
- He humbled Himself by obeying to the point of death.

1 PETER 3

Ask your group what this chapter is about.

Verses 1-6

Who are these verses directed to? What did Peter write? Compare with cross-references.

Peter said wives are to submit / be subject to even disobedient husbands.

Jesus’ example is the way wives are to submit / be subject.

The result can be that the husband who is disobedient to the Word will be saved.

Wives are to do this with respect and proper behavior / pure conduct. The reason they can, as well as for the servants, is that they are first submitted to the Lord. He is over all authority, and is in ultimate control. If He chooses to put an unreasonable authority over a believer, then it is the believer’s responsibility to obey His commands regarding that authority.

Again Paul wrote in agreement with what Peter said; wives are to submit to, to obey, their husbands.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 5261.

³ W.E. Vine’s, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (electronic edition), published in 1940 and without copyright.

⁴ R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition*, G5261 (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981).

An important point regarding this is in 1 Peter 3:6. Wives, as well as servants, are to submit in doing what is right. If a disobedient master or a husband tells the servant or wife to sin, then that is not doing what is right. Paul said, “as is fitting in the Lord” and “as to the Lord.” In Titus he said, “so that the Word of God will not be dishonored”.

Discuss the attitude of the wife in 1 Peter 3:1-6.

Respect is used in this situation, too.

It’s to be from the heart with a gentle and quiet spirit.

She’s to have no fear.

Ask for anything additional from Paul’s writings. Discuss application.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Peter 3.

Verse 7

Who and what is this verse about?

This is addressed to husbands and tells them to have understanding and honor for their wives. If they don’t, their prayers will be hindered.

Verses 8-12

Who is next?

All are to live harmoniously / in unity, sympathy, brotherly love, kind / tender heart and humble mind toward one another.

Bless instead of returning evil for evil. Peter quoted from the Old Testament that God is against those who do evil.

Verses 13-17

How does the flow of thought continue?

Doing what is good

Even if one suffers for it, that one is still blessed.

Don’t fear people, but sanctify / honor Christ.

Keep a good conscience by good behavior. That will shame slanderers.

Verses 18-22

How does this chapter end?

Christ suffered for doing what is right. By doing so, He brought believers to God. He proclaimed to spirits now in prison who were disobedient in Noah’s days. Only eight people were saved at that time.

Now salvation is connected with a good conscience through Christ’s resurrection.

NOTE: Tell your group that they'll study more in detail the statements in verses 18-21.

After Jesus' resurrection, He went to heaven and is now at God's right hand with angels, authorities and powers subject to Him.

Because of that, Luke 10:17-20 tells of spirits being subject to believers.

Ephesians 1:18-2:6 is similar. Discuss how James 4:7 relates.

1 Corinthians 15:27-28 tells of a time in the future when all things will be put in subjection under Jesus' feet. Then He'll submit Himself to the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

All will confess Him as Lord and bow before His name.

Hebrews 12:9 commands believers to also be subject to the Father.

Ask about the other references to submission / subjection in 1 Peter. Discuss cross-references.

1 Peter 5:1-5

Elders are to be examples to the flock, and the younger men are to submit to their elders.

1 Corinthians 16:15-16

Christians are to submit to those who devote themselves for ministry to the saints.

Philippians 2:12 and 2 Thessalonians 3:14

Paul calls those believers to obey what he wrote to them.

He was a spiritual authority like Peter.

1 Peter 5:5

Peter called all to clothe themselves with humility toward one another.

Ephesians 5:21—be subject to one another “in the fear of Christ.”

To complete the discussion of all that your group studied about submission / being subject, ask for the other relationship of submission they studied.

Ephesians and Colossians

Paul says children are to obey their parents.

Ask your group how they are doing in their various roles of submission.

There might be prayer requests for improvement and growth in these areas.

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 9**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 3:1-17
- Suffering for righteousness' sake

REVIEW

It's best if you help your group to review the context of 1 Peter as the setting for this discussion. By the time of your last discussion of this course, they should be able to recall all of the main points of 1 Peter. This is for help in their lives, but also to share with other people who need their help.

Peter's purpose for writing—5:12

The believers he wrote to were scattered, aliens / exiles, and suffering.

He wanted to exhort them in their salvation.

He began by explaining how it comes about—it's from God.

Then he told them to stand firm in it by

Fixing / setting their hope on the grace to be brought them at the revelation of
Jesus Christ

Being holy

Growing by the Word of God

Keeping their behavior excellent

Submitting / being subject to proper authorities

Ask why the believers Peter wrote were suffering. What did he exhort them to do in their suffering?

They were suffering because of righteousness, and Peter encouraged them to continue in doing what is right / good.

1 PETER 2:13-25

Ask your group what they learned about "doing what is right / good". List the main points of doing right / good as a visual aid. See the last page of this guide for an example.

Submission / being subject to authorities sent by God is doing what is right / good.

Doing right / good will silence the ignorance of foolish men.

When a believer suffers and endures for doing right / good, it finds favor / grace with God. Finding favor with God is the same as grace—the true grace of God.

What was Jesus' example in verses 21-25?

Jesus did what was right while suffering for right.

He entrusted Himself to God, the righteous / just judge.

He suffered so that believers can live righteously.

Ask what believers have died to and been healed of.

Died to sin, and alive to righteousness; healed of sin

Isaiah 53 and Matthew 8

Isaiah 53 is a prophecy about Jesus. Our transgressions and iniquities fell on Him. He didn't suffer for His own sin; He suffered for His righteousness, but our sin.

He took on Himself our infirmities, and by His stripes we are healed of sin.

Those who believe no longer stray like sheep, but have come to the Shepherd and Guardian / Overseer of their souls.

Therefore, it's possible to live a righteous life.

At any point in this discussion, give your group time to talk about application.

1 PETER 3:1-6

What are these verses about?

The subject of submission / being subject continues from 2:13, and “in the same way / likewise” refers to Jesus' example at the end of chapter 2.

Just as He submitted / was subject to the unreasonable / unjust, and just as Peter told servants to submit / be subject to unreasonable / unjust masters, so are wives to submit / be subject to unreasonable / unjust and disobedient husbands.

disobedient / do not obey—to disobey¹; to disbelieve²

¹Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries : Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). G544.

²James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). G544.

“Disobedient / do not obey” is in the present tense and indicates habitual action. They are continually disobedient to the Word, and therefore, not saved.

How is a wife to submit to an unsaved husband? Ask your group what they remember from the previous lesson about submission / subjection.

What do verses 1-6 say about “doing right / good” in this situation?

A desire for the husband to be won to the Lord

Respectful behavior / conduct toward him

A focus on internal qualities, not just external

No fear

Ask what they learned about Sarah as the example used here.

She obeyed Abraham, calling him lord.

Lord” is the same Greek word as in verse 15, *kurios*.

It can mean lord, master, or owner.³ The one has power or authority over another.

Genesis 12

Sarai did as Abram requested, and God delivered her back to her husband.

Genesis 15

Sarai came up with her own plan based on customs of the time, and the results were not good.

Genesis 17

God changed Sarai’s name to Sarah. He chose her to be the mother of Isaac through whom the everlasting covenant passed.

Genesis 18

Verse 6 shows that Sarah obeyed Abraham.

But when she heard of having a son, she laughed just as Abraham had done in the previous chapter. Because of fear, she denied it.

But God knew the truth, and always does.

³ J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK3261). (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

Genesis 20

Again Sarah obeyed Abraham's plan of saying she was his sister.
This time she was taken to Abimelech, but rescued by God.

Genesis 21

This time the Lord told Abraham to listen to what Sarah wanted to do and send away Hagar and Ishmael.

NOTE: Don't let your discussion get off track by dwelling on or speculating about Abraham and Sarah telling Pharaoh and Abimelech that she was his sister. In the previous lesson, it was established that the biblical pattern for submission is in doing what is right, not sin. And Sarah was Abraham's half sister, Genesis 20:12.

Ask what they learned from Acts 5 about obedience to God and submission to human authorities.

The apostles chose to obey God—who called them as Jesus' witnesses and told them to speak the whole message of this life—rather than obeying men who told them to keep silent.

Caution your group that they need to be very certain about what God's Word says if they are considering not submitting to a human authority. They need to have clear understanding that what the authority says to do or not do is sin.

The apostles knew for sure that the Council contradicted a clear command from God to them.

1 PETER 3:7

Ask your group what they learned from this verse and related cross-references.

Husbands do right / good by living with their wives in an understanding way—as with a weaker vessel.

They are also to show her honor as a fellow heir of grace.
If not, their prayers are hindered.

Ephesians 5

A husband is to love his wife.
As Christ loved the church
As he loves himself

Colossians 3:19

Husbands are not to be embittered against their wives.
(ESV—do not be harsh with them)

Give time for your group to discuss doing right / good within marriage.

1 PETER 3:8-12

What do these verses say about doing what is right / good? Who is involved?
Ask about relevant application also.

All believers are to do right / good by being

- Harmonious / unity of mind
- Sympathetic
- Brotherly love
- Kindhearted / tender heart
- Humble in spirit / mind

Relate this to not returning / repay evil for evil but giving a blessing instead.

Being harmonious / united, sympathetic, humble, etc., toward those who give out evil is a way to bless, rather than return / repay evil.

Jesus is the example, 2:22-23.

How do verses 10-13 fit with being called to inherit / obtain a blessing?

- Keep tongue from evil and lips from deceit
- Turn away from evil and do good
- Seek peace, pursue it

Compare the above with Jesus' example at the end of chapter 2.

The Lord's eyes are toward the righteous—those who do right—to hear and answer their prayers. Compare this to 3:7.

His face is against those who do evil. No blessing for them.

1 PETER 3:13-17

What are God's instructions to the one who suffers for righteousness?

- Don't fear
- Don't be troubled
- Sanctify / honor Christ as "Lord," Master, in your hearts
- Be ready / prepared to defend your hope with gentleness and reverence / respect
- Keep / have a good conscience

Ask your group to evaluate how they respond to unjust treatment or challenges to their faith.

Doing what is right / good

Submit / be subject to proper authorities
Respectful behavior / conduct
No fear

Harmonious / unity, humble

No deceit

Sanctify / honor Christ as Lord

Be ready / prepared to make a defense for your hope

Keep / have a good conscience

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 10**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 3:18–4:1-6

REVIEW

Ask for the purpose of 1 Peter and review the main points up to 3:18.

Peter's last exhortation up to 3:18 was to do right / good even though suffering for it.
It is better to suffer for doing right / good than for doing wrong.
Then he goes into an explanation of this, "For . . ." at the beginning of 3:18.

1 PETER 3:18-22

First, ask your group what this text says about Christ and list on a visual aid the main points.
See the last page of this guide for an example.

Died / suffered for sins once for all, the just / righteous for the unjust / unrighteous
Suffered for doing right to bring people to God
Was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit

Went in the spirit to make proclamation to spirits now in prison

Resurrected
Went into heaven
At God's right hand; angels, authorities, and powers were subjected to Him

Ask for the definition of "spirit(s)" from verses 18 and 19.

It's the usual word used often in the New Testament, *pneuma*.
It means a movement of air¹; to breathe²; the wind, spirit.³

Many times the word is used of evil spirits, but it is also the same Greek word for "Spirit" in the Holy "Spirit."

¹ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G4151.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 4151.

³ J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK4460). (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

Although Jesus was put to death in the flesh, His spirit was alive.
In His spirit, He went to spirits in prison and made proclamation.
That was at some point between His death and resurrection, Ephesians 4:8-10.

NOTE: There is debate over the interpretation of verses 19-21. Therefore, your group might not come to agreement of interpretation.

The word translated “proclamation / proclaimed” is not the usual Greek word used for proclaiming the gospel, euaggelizo. It simply means some kind of proclamation, kerusso.⁴

Jesus did not go to spirits of dead people to preach the gospel to them and give a second chance for salvation.

It was probably a proclamation of victory over death.

The spirits were in prison.

They had been disobedient during the construction of the ark.

They were either spirits of disobedient dead people from that time,
or
they were disobedient, evil, spirits from that time who were put in some kind of a prison after that.

The immediate context of this chapter is suffering for doing what is right / good.
Jesus did that and made a proclamation about it.
His resurrection and ascension showed victory over unjust suffering.
His obedience is contrasted with the spirits’ disobedience.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references that might refer to this event.

2 Peter 2:4-9 might or might not refer to this.

There was a time when angels sinned, and God committed them to pits / chains of darkness reserved for judgment. The time of Noah is also mentioned.

Jude 5-7

Jude wrote of angels who are being kept in bonds / chains under darkness for judgment. The comparison is with the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 6

This tells of the time before the flood when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and children were born. Men were disobedient, and only Noah was righteous.

*NOTE: Some think Genesis 6 is what 2 Peter 2 and Jude refer to.
Help your group disagree gracefully with one another if the situation arises.*

⁴ R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries*: Updated Edition, G2784 (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981).

Lead your discussion back to 1 Peter 3:20-21.

Ask your group what they think is the proper interpretation of these verses.

The ark saved eight people from judgment.
They were brought safely through the water.

Baptism corresponds to that.

-not the removal of dirt from the flesh

-an appeal to God for a good conscience through Jesus' resurrection

“immersion, submersion”⁵

Romans 6

Believers are baptized into Christ's death, buried with Him and raised to walk in newness of life.

Water baptism pictures the spiritual baptism.

Review what your group knows about being saved from 1 Peter.

It's a new birth through Jesus' resurrection.

It's by faith.

1 PETER 4

Verses 1-6

Ask about the flow of thought from 1 Peter 3 into chapter 4.

Suffering for doing what is right / good and keeping / having a good conscience.

Jesus is the example. His death and resurrection are the reasons believers can live righteously and keep / have a good conscience.

What do verses 1-2 mean?

Compare verse 1 with 2:17-18.

Jesus suffered in the flesh to bring us to God and righteousness.

Therefore, believers should have the same purpose He had. We should desire to cease from sin and live righteous lives, live for God's will not our own.

Compare this with Romans 6:6-11.

⁵James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996). G908.

How do verses 3-5 apply to the context? How does this apply to life?

The believers Peter wrote to had lived in the past like the other people around them.
The same is true of all believers.

The unsaved are surprised when believers don't do those things any more, and they malign believers.

But if believers keep their behavior excellent among them, they have no basis for what they say.

They'll give an account to God for it.

What does verse 6 mean?

The gospel was preached to the believers who have died.
They're dead according to the flesh. Compare with 3:18.
But they're alive in the spirit. Compare with 3:18.

Verses 7-11

What are these verses about?

Peter said the end is near, so believers need to be self-controlled and sober.
Relate this to 1:13.

He said loving one another covers sins.
Christians should be hospitable with one another without grumbling.

Serve one another with the gifts God gives each believer.
Whoever serves—use God's strength
Whoever speaks—speak His words

The result is God glorified.

Verses 12-19

Ask what your group learned from these verses.

Peter goes back to the subject of trials and suffering.
Suffering for Christ's sake results in sharing His glory.

Judgment begins with God's household—believers.
Those who don't obey the gospel will also be judged.

Believers are to entrust their souls to their faithful Creator.
As Jesus did to the one who judges justly, 2:23

To end this discussion, ask what your group learned for application and strengthening their lives.

CHRIST	BELIEVERS
<p>Died for our sins to bring us to God</p> <p>put to death in the flesh made alive in the spirit</p> <p>Proclaimed to spirits</p> <p>At God's right hand</p> <p>Angels, authorities, powers subject to Him</p> <p>Suffered in the flesh</p>	<p>Arm yourselves with same purpose / thinking</p> <p>-suffer in the flesh, cease from sin</p> <p>Live no longer for lusts / passions</p> <p>Live for God's will</p> <p>Will be maligned</p>

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 11**

LESSON EMPHASIS

- 1 Peter 4:7–5:14
- Stand firm in persecution

REVIEW

Review the main points of 1 Peter as a whole and chapters 1-4.

Peter wrote to scattered / dispersed believers. He wrote to exhort and testify / declare the true grace of God—salvation—and to encourage believers to stand firm in it.

Chapter 1

Peter began by writing about how salvation comes and how trials are a part of it, yet the result of proven faith in trials will be praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Therefore, they were to prepare their minds for action . . . be holy in all their behavior / conduct.

Chapter 2

Peter called them to grow in their salvation through the Word of God. They were being built together on the foundation of Christ to offer spiritual sacrifices to God and were to keep their behavior / conduct excellent among the Gentiles.

Believers are to submit / be subject to human authorities. This includes the obedience of slaves to their masters, even when suffering unjustly. Christ is the example of one who committed no sin, but entrusted Himself to Him who judges righteously.

Chapter 3

Wives are to follow Jesus' example of submission / subjection. After addressing the husbands, Peter told all how to live humbly but without fear, and explained that suffering for righteousness is part of God's will.

Chapter 4

Again Peter gave Christ as the example of suffering and called them to live differently from the Gentiles around them.

Half of this chapter is about sufferings and God's judgment.

1 PETER 4

Verses 7-11

Ask about the content of these verses. Discuss relevant word studies and cross-references.

The end, *telos*, of all things is near.

the result of an event or process; goal¹; termination, completion²

In the context of 1 Peter, the last times seem to be from Christ's first appearing through His second one.

Jesus appeared / was manifest the first time "in these last times," 1:20.

Completed salvation at the return of the Lord will be revealed "in the last time," 1:5.

Mockers / scoffers will come in the last days—those days are here, 2 Peter 3:3.

This is also the description given in Hebrews: God spoke in His Son "in these last days," and John said that the time he wrote 1 John was the last hour.

Peter quoted Joel in Acts 2, saying that those events on Pentecost were fulfillment of God pouring forth of His Spirit "in the last days." Those days go from that time to the events just prior to the day of the Lord when the sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood.

The phrase "the end" is used in 1 Corinthians 15 for the time when Christ hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after abolishing all rule and authority and power. Daniel 12 refers to the end of the age as when Daniel will rise again for his allotted portion.

In light of the fact that the end of all things is near, Peter gave specific instructions to believers.

Be of sound judgment / self controlled—sensible, clear-minded³

and sober spirit / sober-minded—calm and collected in spirit⁴; not be in danger of irrational thinking⁵

for the purpose / sake of prayer

¹ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996) G5056.

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), Greek 5056.

³ J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK5404). (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

⁴ J. Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996) G3525.

⁵ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, electronic ed. of the 2nd edition. (New York: United Bible societies, 1996, c1989). 1:352.

This is done by focusing on the truth of the Word, which gives a biblical view of circumstances.

As a visual aid, you can briefly list some of the instructions as you go. See the last page of this guide for an example.

Above all, love one another.

It's possible to do this, because of a sound mind and sober spirit. The focus on this kind of love is the highest good of our brothers and sister and therefore covers sin.

Be hospitable / show hospitality without complaint / grumbling

“Hospitable” is loving strangers.⁶ In this context, it's a stranger from the body of Christ, because he says to “one another.”

Employ / use spiritual gifts in serving one another as good managers / stewards of the manifold / varied (many colored⁷) grace of God.

The gifts are for serving one another, the body of Christ. And there's a way to do this. Speak as one speaking God's utterances—not careless words. Serve by His strength. How tired and dissatisfied one can become serving in one's own strength.

Continue to encourage your group to discuss practical ways God can use them and the difference it can make when they follow these instructions, walking in the Spirit.

The end result is that God will receive the glory that belongs to Him.

Verses 12-19

Ask about the next subject in this chapter. As your group discusses it, let them bring in cross-references that give further understanding.

Peter continued by giving instructions about trials / testing.

Don't be surprised. It's not a strange thing.

Keep on rejoicing to the same degree that you share Christ's suffering.

If you suffer much, rejoice much.

Our response in suffering is evidence that His Spirit is in us as His glory is seen on us.

We don't have to be ashamed for suffering as a Christian, but we can glorify God. The world persecuted Christ, so they'll persecute His followers for His name, 2 Timothy 3:12 and Matthew 5:10-12.

⁶ R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries*: Updated Edition, G5382 (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981).

⁷ R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries*: Updated Edition, G4164 (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981).

Judgment begins with the household of God. In this context, that's suffering. The testing is part of our present tense salvation—sanctification. It produces endurance, which results in our being perfect and complete, lacking in nothing, as well as a crown of life, James 1:2-4, 12. Believers will be glorified with Christ after suffering with Him. But the suffering here isn't comparable with the glory in the future, Romans 8:16-18.

1 Peter 4:19 says the suffering is according to God's will, as does 3:17.

Proof of our faith results in praise and glory and honor when Jesus is revealed, 1 Peter 1:7. The contrast is the godless, which would include those who persecute believers.

In light of all this, those suffering should entrust their souls to our faithful Creator in doing right / good, even as Jesus did, 2 Peter 2:23.

Give time for your group to discuss application.

1 PETER 5

You could move into chapter 5 by asking how Peter began.

“Therefore / So”—in light of what he's been telling them.

Verses 1-4

Who and what are these verses about?

Peter, a fellow elder, wrote to the elders about how they were to shepherd God's flock.

Exercise oversight voluntarily / willingly, not under compulsion, as God would have
Not for shameful / sordid gain, but eagerly
Not lording it over / domineering, but being examples

When the Chief Shepherd appears, they'll receive the crown of glory.

Verses 5-11

Who and what is this about?

Young men are to be subject to the elders.

All are to be humble toward one another. Humble yourselves under God's hand.

Be sober and alert / watchful. Resist your adversary, firm in faith.
Relate this to 4:12—don't be surprised at the fiery ordeal.

After you've suffered, God who called you to His eternal glory will perfect / restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Verses 12-14

Paul stated his purpose for writing here. Ask your group if they know his purpose by memory.

How do 4:7–5:14 fit with the purpose?

Peter gave instructions on how to stand firm in the true grace of God.

Peter ended with greetings from himself and others and a blessing.

You could close your discussion by referring to the instructions on the visual aid and asking your group if they are standing firm in the true grace of God.

Sound judgment / self-control

Sober spirit / mind

Love one another

Hospitable

Employ / use gifts in serving one another

Entrust souls to faithful Creator

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 12**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 5

REVIEW

Ask your group to review what Peter said up to chapter 5.

He began by telling about salvation. It's from God and involves testing.

Then Peter started exhorting those who are saved and being tested to stand firm in it.

Let them briefly discuss the main exhortations in this letter. It's a good opportunity for them share what God has done in their lives because of studying this letter.

1 PETER 5

Verses 1-5

Ask what they learned about elders.

“elder,” *presbuteros*—an old man, an elder¹; the elder of two people, a term of rank or office²

“shepherd,” *poimainō*—to feed, to tend a flock, keep sheep³

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, and Peter was an elder who shepherded God's flock under the Chief Shepherd. Jesus Himself called Peter to “tend My lambs” and “shepherd My sheep.”

He wrote to tell other elders how to exercise oversight.
The Chief Shepherd will reward them when He returns.

This section in 1 Peter speaks about church elders.
The Jews of Jesus' day had elders who were their leaders.

After the birth of the church, elders for each local church were appointed by the apostles.

¹ W.E. Vine's, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (electronic edition), published in 1940 and without copyright.

² Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G4245.

³ Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G4165.

People within the churches are to honor their elders, the ones who rule well. When sick they're to call on the elders for prayer. And Peter said that they're to shepherd the flock among them.

John's view into heaven shows that there are 24 elders around God's throne. They are holy and constantly worship Him.

The references in Titus and 1 Timothy show that sometimes the same Greek word is used for a person who is older, not necessarily one in the office of elder.

Ezekiel 34 tells of God's design for the "shepherd" of His people Israel.

- Strengthen the sickly / weak
- Heal the diseased / sick
- Bind the broken / injured
- Bring back the scattered / strayed
- Seek the lost
- Feed the sheep

Compare this with Jesus being the Chief Shepherd and the good shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep.

It makes sense that the elders, those older in the faith, are the ones who shepherd the flock or church. They are the ones who can lead and care for others.

Encourage your group to pray for their elders—the ones who care for their local church body.

What does verse 5 say about elders?

Younger men should submit to their elders in the local church.
This is another group Peter told to submit to proper authority.

Verses 5-11

Ask what they learned about humility and pride from 1 Peter 5:5 and the other scriptures in the lesson.

All believers are to clothe themselves with humility toward one another.

Humility is making oneself low.

The reason for humbling oneself is because God gives grace to the humble. The contrast in these verses is with the proud who God opposes.

Isaiah 14 and 2 Thessalonians 2 give examples of those who are proud.

- "I will ascend"
- Exalts self above . . .
- Be like God

God opposes and brings down the proud.

Jesus humbled Himself and calls His followers to do the same.

God exalts the humble.

Ask your group if they observed a flow of thought from the elders/ shepherds of 1 Peter 5:1-5 to humility and pride of verses 5-7.

Those who willingly submit to God-ordained authority, such as elders, are humble. God opposes those who are disobedient by being proud.

The believers Peter wrote to were suffering, and one of the exhortations to them was to humble themselves under God's mighty hand. He is the One Who is the ultimate authority over all.

At the proper time, He will exalt those who have humbled themselves before Him.

How does anxiety connect with humility?

If a believer truly humbles himself under God's hand, there is no anxiety about what is happening to him or is about to happen.

“anxiety,” *merimna*—worry, care⁴; that which causes drawing in different directions, distract⁵

Believers are to “cast” their cares / anxieties on God.

epirrhipto—throw upon⁶; make responsible for, put responsibility on⁷

God cares for Christians. Jesus is their Chief Shepherd.

Jesus commanded in Matthew 6, “Don't worry / be anxious.” His reasoning is that His followers are worth more than the birds and flowers which God takes care of.

There is no reason to worry if one knows that his needs are met. Seeking Him is the answer to stress, anxiety, and worry. Relate this to the persecuted believers to whom Peter wrote.

⁴Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1990-c1993). 2:408-409.

⁵ W. E. Vine's, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (electronic edition), published in 1940 and without copyright.

⁶ Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (electronic ed.) (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G1977.

⁷ J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK2166). (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

Philippians says to make request to God for whatever the need is instead of being anxious about it. He will answer. He will supply needs.

Romans says that God is for His own, the same as Peter said—He cares.

If God didn't withhold His only Son, then He will not withhold any other need a Christian has.

This is true even when threatened by the devil himself. God is over all and protects His own, 1 Peter 1:5.

Ask your group what they learned about the devil.

He seeks to devour them. Knowing this should be sobering.
He can cause some of the suffering believers go through.

He's a murderer.

Jesus said that the devil is the father of lies.
His followers can disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.
False teaching is one of his main tools.

He's the tempter.
This is another powerful tactic of the devil.

What are the instructions Peter gave in connection with the devil?

Be sober.

Relate this to 1:13. Ask your group what they remember from their study.

Be on the alert / watchful.

Resist him.

How can these instructions be followed? What enables Christians to obey in this area?

Peter knew the tricks of the devil. When he wanted to sift Peter as wheat, Jesus prayed for him. Peter knew what he was talking about as he ended this letter.

Resist the devil because the Holy Spirit within believers is greater than he who is in the world—the devil and his evil spirits.

The surpassing greatness of God's power enables Christians to resist the temptations of the devil.

Knowing and using God's Word is how Jesus resisted the devil when tempted.

Knowing the truth prevents Christians from being deceived by the devil's false teachings.

Resist by being firm in faith. If one knows and believes all that Peter wrote, then that is enough to make him firm in faith.

James says to submit to God—the same thing Peter said—and resist the devil. Then the devil will flee. But be sober and alert because he will return with the same or another tactic. When he does, submit to God and resist again.

Verses 10-14

Ask your group how Peter closed his letter and how it relates to all that they've learned in this course.

The suffering is only for a little while when viewed with an eternal perspective.

Eternal glory is the result.

God Himself is able to

- Perfect / restore
- Confirm
- Strengthen
- Establish

Having studied the whole book in-depth gives us an even greater understanding of verse 12.

Peter did exhort those believers who were suffering.

He told them of the true grace of God.

Let your class share what they learned to be some of the things of grace.

The end verses show the fervent love of the brethren.

Elders	Humility/ Pride	Anxiety	Devil
<p><i>Shepherds</i></p> <p>Voluntarily / willingly not for sordid gain examples</p>	<p><u>Humility</u> toward one another under God's hand God gives grace, exalts example – Jesus</p> <p><u>Pride</u> God opposes example – Satan</p>	<p>cast on God</p>	<p>adversary seeks to devour resist him, firm in faith</p>