

FRESH FAITH



I am
called to
His eternal
glory.
1 Peter
5:10

Fresh Faith

I & 2 Peter

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Fresh Faith
1 & 2 Peter

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Getting Started

Learning how to study the Bible for ourselves is one of the most important skills we can acquire as Christians. This proficiency assists us in developing as true disciples of Christ, equipping us for life. Knowing God's Word and intentionally putting it into action gives us the ability to walk daily in *Fresh Faith* according to His will.

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

~John 14:26~

What you Will Need:

- **The Bible:** We will use the *New King James Version (NKJV)* for this study; however, we also recommend the *New Living Translation (NLT)*, *New American Standard Bible (NASB)*, and the *English Standard Version (ESV)* to aid in your understanding and comprehension.
- **Access to online Bible study helps:** *blueletterbible.org*, *preceptaustin.org*, *biblehub.com*, or *biblegateway.com* are all great study resources. To view a quick Blue Letter Bible tutorial, visit www.youtube.com/reliancechurch "BLB tutorial".
- **Prayer:** Pray before each lesson. Ask God to reveal His truth through His Word and ask His help in understanding and applying it to your life.
- **Access to Lesson Teachings:** Each lesson has a corresponding teaching, which can be found at www.youtube.com/reliancechurch "Fresh Faith Series: 1 & 2 Peter"

What you can expect:

The questions in this study are designed to aid you in learning how to study the Bible on your own. The questions are generally centered around observing, interpreting, and applying the scriptures, but will not cover every theme, truth, or subject in each chapter. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth and take you where He chooses. My hope is that this study creates a hunger and thirst for God's Word that will inspire you to dig deeper.

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all scripture references are in NKJV.

Each lesson includes:

- **The Text**
- **Days 1-5 Homework:** Questions are centered on Observing, Interpreting, and Applying the scriptures. Allow 15–20 minutes per day.
- **Reduced Homework:** For those unable to complete the entire Homework section each week, please focus on the one “**Reduced Homework Question**” each day. These questions will be covered in group. Allow 5 minutes per day.
- **Days 1–5 Challenge:** The challenge section will include 1–3 questions for those who wish to dig deeper. Allow an extra 15 minutes per day.

Introduction to 1 Peter

Are you impulsive or impassioned, perhaps an “8” on the Enneagram test? Is your motto, “Ready, Shoot, Aim?” Let me introduce you to Peter. Peter was bold, impulsive, a risk taker, and at times down right aggressive. Yet, God mightily used the better part of his strong personality and aggressiveness to build His kingdom.

Peter was raised in the small coastal town of Capernaum, on the sea of Galilee, where he and his brother, Andrew, grew up fishing. In this very town, Jesus came and said to Peter, “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). Peter did follow Jesus and became an apostle, part of Jesus’ inner circle, along with James and John. He was one of the first chosen and commissioned to be an early church leader in Jerusalem. Peter is usually named first among the twelve disciples.

The letters of 1 & 2 Peter were written after the epistles to the Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians (written by Paul), somewhere around AD 62–64 (a late date—AD68) through the scribe, Silvanus (Silas). As a reference, that would’ve been approximately 30 + years after Peter heard the rooster crow. Peter, the author (1:1), gives hope to “the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia” (1:1, modern-day Turkey). Scholars differ on where Peter wrote the letters from. Some arguing that his use of the word “Babylon” was literal, not figurative, while others (most) assert he was in Rome.

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.

Luke 22:31–32

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Having no formal rabbinical training, Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit and trained at the school of Jesus, astounded his listeners with the mighty power of God alone. As an eyewitness to Christ's sufferings (5:1), Peter was called upon not only to inspire his own generation, but future generations (including us) as well. He wanted to encourage believers in their suffering and help them live out their salvation, even in difficult circumstances, all the while submitting to Christ, with a hope and focus on eternity. Peter reminds us what the power of God can do in and through our lives.

With persecution spreading rapidly under the rule of Nero the Caesar, according to historians, Nero's soldiers led Peter and his wife out from the Maritime prison in Rome to crucify them¹ (around the same time as the apostle Paul, AD 64–68). Peter's wife was crucified first, inflicting undue pain upon Peter. Peter was then crucified upside-down.

Though Peter may be best known for his shortcomings and impulsive behavior, the Lord counted him as one of His own and considered him a man He could use powerfully. Peter was a man with godly potential, assigned to do great things, and trusted to share God's Word with the world. Maybe today you feel disqualified and don't see how God can use you. Maybe you feel "less-than," not enough, or a misfit. Let Peter's life encourage and strengthen you for your incredible journey in the power of God—by grace alone.

¹ Fotch, J. (2019) *1 Peter 1:6–12, Faith here and hereafter*. Retrieved at: https://s3.amazonaws.com/calvary-chapel-streaming/teaching/versebyverse/B60_I_Peter/SAM112524.mp3

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Lesson One
1 Peter 1

1 Peter 1—The Text:

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. 10 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you, 11 searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into. 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope

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fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, 16 because it is written, “*Be holy, for I am holy.*” 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because “*All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,* 25 *But the word of the LORD endures forever.*” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Day One: Homework

Read the entire chapter once through as one who received a letter from a dear friend. Then re-read 1 Peter 1:1–2.

1. Who is Peter writing this letter to (v.1)? Do you think it's the Jews, Gentiles, or both? (See 1 Peter 1:18, 2:10, and 4:3).

2. Define the word *Pilgrim* and list a few synonyms and antonyms. Note: the KJV uses the phrase “strangers scattered” to describe the “pilgrims of the Dispersion”; this helps bring clarification to the thought.

- Pilgrim—
 - Synonyms:
 - Antonyms:

3. What does “sprinkling of the blood” mean (v.2)? There were 3 circumstances where blood was sprinkled on people in the Old Testament; name them below. (See David Guzik’s commentary in BLB for help). How does each relate to Jesus?

Reduced Homework Question:

4. Read the scriptures listed below, then note what it means to you for be a pilgrim or stranger on this earth. How does that effect how you live your life and what hope do these verses bring for your future?

- **1 Chronicles 29:15–**
- **Hebrews 11:8–13–**
- **Psalm 39:12–**
- **Philippians 3:20–**
- **Matthew 19:27–29–**

5. How can we maintain a healthy “stranger to this world” attitude while dealing with “real life” issues? What is the balance? With this thought in mind, what do you struggle with the most personally in wanting to hold on to this present world?

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Day One: Challenge

1. What event or circumstance caused the people to be “foreigners” or “pilgrims of the Dispersion” in this land (v.1)?

2. Peter is mentioned more than any other apostle in the Gospels. Through some research, list some things you find out about Peter. What were some of his biggest accomplishments and, likewise, his failures?

3. Peter uses the terms “elect” and “foreknowledge.” What do these terms mean?

Day Two: Homework

Read I Peter 1: 3–7.

1. In verse 5, it says that “we are kept by the power of God through faith.” Explain what this means:

2. Peter makes it clear that we will be “grieved” in this life; by what (vs. 6–7)? How are we to respond, meaning what attitude are we supposed to have?

3. What have you learned about God in the midst of some of your past trials? Look at verse 7 again. There are some very specific things our faith today should produce when the Lord appears. What are they? What is required of our faith (Psalms 66:10–12, Jeremiah 9:7, Zechariah 13:9)?

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4. God has blessed us with an inheritance far beyond what we deserve as He pours out His mercy upon us. He has given us an opportunity to be “born again”; what does that mean to you? Have you shared this hope with others recently? Why or why not?

Reduced Homework Question:

5. Think of your last big trial. Then, note if you were able or unable to keep a strong faith all the way through it. Share what practices or habits kept you solid during such rough times. Also, if you feel you blew it, what practices or habits can you plan to do next time to help? (See Job 23:10, Romans 5:3–4, James 1:3–4).

Day Two: Challenge

1. Read Matthew 16:21–28. What lessons can we learn from this account? Is Jesus done with Peter after this account?

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2. Look up the following verses: Ephesians 1:13–14, Hebrews 6:3–6, John 10:28, Matthew 7:21–23, Hebrews 10:26–28). Is it possible for a person to lose their salvation? Why or why not?

3. God made Peter unique and used his talents and tendencies for His purpose. How is God using you with your unique personality and tendencies? What are some ways God has used you or can use you in the future, specifically because of your unique personality and tendencies?

Day Three: Homework

Read 1 Peter 1: 8–12.

1. Why do you think trusting in God, who you cannot see, produces “inexpressible joy” (v.8)?

Reduced Homework Question:

2. Believers have pondered and studied the mysteries of Christ for centuries, longing to know the truth about His sufferings and His return. What message was given to the prophets, not for them, but for us and how and who delivered that message to us (vs. 10–12)?

3. Peter records that even the angels desire to lean in and look into God’s wisdom and eternal plan. Read Ephesians 3:10–13. Define the word “manifold.” Then, describe what “God’s purpose” is according to these verses?

- Manifold–

4. According to the above verses, who does God use to reveal His wisdom, and to whom does He reveal it? What is meant by “the church”?

Day Three: Challenge

1. Based on our studies today, explain the purpose of the church. Use scriptures to back up your answer.

2. What other information and scriptures can you study and then share regarding angels.

3. What does the importance of keeping the end goal in mind have on exercising our faith today? Is it difficult to continue to love someone you “can’t see?” How do you keep Him in your vision?

Day Four: Homework

Read 1 Peter 1:13–21.

1. Verses 13–17 have much to say about our conduct once saved, share what you learn from these verses as you study them.

Reduced Homework Question:

2. Using a Bible dictionary, define the word *ignorance* and then list a few synonyms and antonyms. What kind of implied instruction or prescription does it give us?

- **Ignorance–**
 - **Synonyms–**
 - **Antonyms–**

3. God is just and fair. He will judge or reward us based on what (v. 17)? How are we to live according to this verse?

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4. Jesus was God's plan before the foundations of the earth and He reveals Himself to us. What is the reason we can have faith and hope and put our trust fully in Christ now (v. 20–21)?

Day Four: Challenge

1. Often we think, "I can't change, that's just the way I'm wired. I was born that way" and those thoughts can leave us feeling defeated in our attempts to live holy. Reflecting on the phrase, "not conforming yourselves to the former lusts" (v. 14), would there be any reason someone would be forced to be stuck in their old sin? Think of some real-life examples and some correlating scripture.

2. When the Lord says, "Be Holy as I am Holy," what exactly does He mean (v. 16)? List other places in the Bible where God says something similar.

"When the Lord says, 'Be Holy as I am Holy,' this is an apostolic injunction that we dare not ignore."

A.W. Tozer

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3. The Lord has a lot to say about being “set apart” for His kingdom. Share some verses you find on the subject and then share what that practically looks like in your life.

Day Five: Homework

Read 1 Peter 1:22–25

1. Look up the following verses and note what each says about the “enduring Word of God.”

- Psalms 119:89–
- Isaiah 40:6–8–
- Matthew 24:35–
- John 1:1–

Reduced Homework Question:

2. There is a key ingredient that is required for Holy living; what is it (v. 22)? Why is this important?

3. Personal: Think about those you still struggle to love. Maybe one has hurt or offended you deeply, maybe you don’t agree with the way another lives their life, or maybe several just irritate you. Whatever the case, what is at the core issue? What keeps you from truly loving that person/s? Is it unforgiveness, hatred, jealousy, bitterness, pride or arrogance? Pray and ask God to reveal truth to your particular situation. Are you willing to obey Him? Journal your thoughts below:

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“God’s Word never dies; God’s Word never changes. There are some who think we ought to get a new gospel every few years or even every few weeks, but that was not Peter’s notion. He wrote, and he was divinely inspired to write, concerning ‘the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.’”

Spurgeon

Day Five: Challenge

1. Explain the phrase “not of corruptible seed but incorruptible?”

2. Share the love of Jesus using His enduring Word with someone this week: Text a scripture, give a Bible, or share the Gospel through conversation. Journal how God used you.

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Lesson Two
1 Peter 2

1 Peter 2–The Text:

1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” 7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” 8 and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. 13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence

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the ignorance of foolish men— 16 as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. 18 Servants be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. 19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 22 “Who committed no sin Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Day One: Homework

Read the entire chapter once through as one who received a letter from a dear friend. Then re-read 1 Peter 2:1-3.

1. In verse 1, what does Peter literally mean when he says to “lay aside” these things?

2. Define each of the words below. Share how keeping these sins “on” hinders us from growing in our faith (v.1).

- Malice—
- Deceit—
- Hypocrisy—
- Envy—
- Evil speaking—

Reduced Homework Question:

3. We are encouraged to “desire pure milk as newborn babes.” Explain what that means to you, and why it is so vital to your growth (vs. 1-3).

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4. Personal: God has designed the church body to be one of community, where believers are equipped through the teaching of His Word, where the fellowship of the saints is a priority and where spiritual gifts are discovered and used. All of these are to be done both corporately and in smaller groups. Taking these truths to heart, are you rightly engaged in community with God's people? Below, circle all that are true; then, note any "weak points" and prayerfully consider if God would have you make any changes. See Hebrews 10:25, Matthew 18:20, and Acts 2:42.

- I attend church weekly.
- I'm involved in a mid-week gathering with other believers.
- I seek out mature believers for advice/wisdom.
- I feel I'm adequately pursuing discipleship.
- I invite others to be "in community" with me.
- I serve in the body of Christ.
- I pray together with other believers.
- I give monetarily to the body of Christ regularly.
- I allow myself to be held accountable by the leadership of my church and the community of believers.

Journal your thoughts:

Day One: Challenge

1. Give a definition for the word *community*. Describe the key ingredient necessary in identifying a community.

2. What is “therefore” there for in verse 1?

Day Two: Homework

Read 1 Peter 2:4–10.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. What does it mean to be a “living stone” (vs. 4–5) and what gives us the access or admittance to become living stones? See Revelation 3:20, Ephesians 2:20–22, 1 Corinthians 3:16, and Hebrews 3:6.

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2. In verse 6, Peter refers to Isaiah 28:16. What will “never” happen if we place our trust in Jesus, the “chief cornerstone”? This is foundational to our Christian walk.

3. What happens to those who “reject” Christ (vs. 7–9)? Read in NLT for help in comprehension.

4. What are we to show others once we become God’s possession (v. 9)? See 2 Corinthians 5:20, 6:1, Ephesians 4:1, and Romans 12:1–2.

5. Personal: Based on the above questions, is there personal conviction the Holy Spirit is revealing to you today? Is there a truth you need to heed?

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Day Two: Challenge

1. Is the Word of God for believers and non-believers alike? Why or why not (v. 8)?

2. Why does Peter give the titles “a holy priesthood” and “a chosen people” to us as believers? Why would these terms be familiar to Peter and what are the implications for us now?

Day Three: Homework

Read 1 Peter 2:11–12.

1. What wages war against our souls, and what is the antidote to this war (v. 11)?

2. Give a definition for the word *abstain* (v. 11). Then, give a few synonyms and antonyms.

- Abstain –
 - Synonyms–
 - Antonyms–

Reduced Homework Question:

3. Why is it so important for us to have “honorable conduct” (v. 12)? If we fake good conduct, does that matter when witnessing to others? How can we truly evaluate our own hearts in the matter? Journal your thoughts:

4. The Bible has much to say about our conduct. Read Ephesians 4:17–32. Below, note your observations, interpretations, and applications:

Observation (What does the text say?):

Interpretations (What does the text mean?):

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Application (What does this text mean to me?):

5. Personal: If you could change one thing about your conduct today, what would it be and why?

Day Three: Challenge

1. What does Peter mean by “the day of visitation” (v. 12)? See Isaiah 10:3.

2. Jesus is our ultimate example for conduct. List a few specific ways Jesus has been an example to you through His conduct (i.e. He turns the other cheek in Matthew 5:39.)

Day Four: Homework

Read 1 Peter 2:13–17.

1. Why should we obey those in authority over us? Peter shares two reasons why God appoints rulers over people; what are they (v. 13–14)?

2. What will our “honorable” lives do for those around us (v. 15)? According to this verse, what is the best defense when someone is making accusations against you?

3. Look up the following verses and note what each says about obeying God rather than men.

- Acts 4:18–21 -
- Acts 5:29 -
- Exodus 1:17 -
- 1 Kings 22:14 -
- Hebrews 11:23 -

Reduced Homework Question:

4. Personal: We are called to submit to the law of the land except when the higher authority of God's law supersedes it. We enjoy this obedience when it's personally beneficial, but what about when conformity to God or the law of the land costs us personally? Do we obey with the same fervor? Journal about the struggles of having to submit to: 1) God's higher law, and 2) the laws of the land (especially, when it's inconvenient or we're tempted to turn a blind eye for our own gain). Give some personal examples (i.e. politics, taxes, personal finances, sharing our faith when forbidden, cultural issues). Optional: How will our conduct in these matters be a witness to those around us?

5. We are "free" in Christ, but Peter tells us we are not to use that freedom for what (v. 16)?

Day Four: Challenge

1. Verse 17 tells us to honor (or respect) all people, to love our brothers and sisters, and to respect authorities over us. How is that possible?

2. How can we remain tenderhearted towards those who have wronged us, or have sinned against us? What are some godly boundaries we can set?

3. What should be our behavior in an anti-God political climate? How can we remain loving towards other believers who share different political views than we do?

Day Five: Homework

Read 1 Peter 2:18–25.

1. According to verse 18, we are to submit to our employers even when they are harsh, is this true or false? What purpose does this serve?

2. The word *commendable* is used twice in this passage (v. 19, 20). What is the word in Greek and what does it mean? When we submit to a “harsh” master (boss, employer) what is the hope behind this type of response?

Greek word: _____

Definition:

Our hope:

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3. God is not simply asking us to endure abusive behavior from an employer or boss. In verse 19, Peter gives us the reason or guideline by which “we endure grief, suffering wrongfully.” Our “conscience” toward God distinguishes between what is morally good or bad. Our suffering is for doing what is “right” in the eyes of God. Define *conscience*:

- Conscience—

Reduced Homework Question:

4. Share about a time when you suffered or were treated unfairly for doing the right thing according to the truth of God’s Word. Did you patiently endure? What was the outcome? Remember, the Lord is pleased with you!

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5. We are to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Make a list of what Jesus exemplified for us (vs. 22–23).

His example:

Day Five: Challenge

1. Explain what verses 24–25 mean and what they mean to you personally.

2. Read Isaiah 53 and Romans 6. Which verses stand out to you the most?

3. Do you use every opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others? Consider the following:

- While talking with someone I pray for wisdom, and an opportunity to share.

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- I listen to the Lord's prompting for an open door to share.
- I invite others over for a meal with the specific purpose of sharing the Gospel.
- I invite others to coffee, or to meet up, with the intention of sharing the Gospel.
- I look for opportunities to plant seeds with anyone and everyone.
- I ask God to bring opportunities to me to share His Word.
- I am aware that no one comes into my presence by accident.
- I am aware that spiritually lost people are in front of me every day.
- I agree that it is my responsibility to share with the lost.
- I agree to open my mouth when God says to.
- I am committed to sharing my faith even when it is embarrassing or costs me something.

Pray and ask God to show you His divine appointments daily, and then commit to opening your mouth on His behalf whether you're rejected or not. Let's see what God will do!

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Lesson Three

I Peter 3

I Peter 3–The Text:

1 Wives, likewise, *be* submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct *accompanied* by fear. 3 Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel— 4 rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with *them* with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as *being* heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. 8 Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For “He who would love life. And see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.” 13 And who *is* he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, *you are* blessed. “*And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be*

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troubled.” 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For *it is* better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. 21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Day One Homework:

Read the entire chapter once through as one who received a letter from a dear friend. Then re-read 1 Peter 3:1–4.

1. What does it mean to be in “subjection” (submissive) to our own husbands (v. 1)? What is the word for “subjection” in the Greek and what does it mean?

Greek word –

Definition:

2. Peter uses the word “likewise” in verse one, referring to wives submitting to husbands in the same way as we submit ourselves in other area of our lives. Looking back at chapter two, what are the other areas in life where we must submit just as we are to submit to our husbands?

3. When husbands are not saved or are disobedient to the Word of God, what is the one thing that may win them over (v. 1)? What kind of “conduct” are these disobedient husbands supposed to observe (v. 2)?

Define *chaste*:

- Chaste –

4. Why is inner beauty much more “precious” to the Lord than outer beauty, according to verses 3–4?

Reduced Homework Question:

5. Define *feminine*. List synonyms and antonyms. How does this relate to a “gentle and quiet spirit?” How has the world corrupted the definition of feminine?

- **Feminine –**
 - **Synonyms -**
 - **Antonyms -**

Day One Challenge:

1. What is the idea behind “without a word” from verse one?

2. Why is a wife’s “chaste” behavior to be “accompanied by fear” (v. 2)?

3. Personal: What areas in your marriage do you still struggle with submitting to your husband?

Is there any truth from the Word that would help? If so, what is it?

Day Two Homework:

Read 1 Peter 3: 5–7.

1. Submission is one of many characteristics of a godly woman. Peter talks about “holy women” who trusted God and “adorned” themselves with submission to their own husbands (v. 5).

Define *adorn*.

- Adorn –

Reduced Homework Question:

2. Look up the following verses. Then, list some godly characteristics you find for women who trust in God:

- **Proverbs 31:10 -**
- **Proverbs 31:30 -**
- **Luke 8:3 -**
- **Acts 1:14 -**
- **Acts 9:36 -**
- **I Timothy 2:9-10 -**
- **I Timothy 5:9-10 -**
- **Titus 2:3-5 -**

3. In verse 7, Peter gives a word to the husbands. What is it? Why are husbands to treat their wives this way?

4. Personal: In your own words, describe how your relationship with your husband *is* or *is not* in compliance with the verses we've studied in Day One and Day Two. If not, is there anything you can do to bring about a deeper obedience to God in this area of your life? Pray and ask God to intervene in your marriage where needed.

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Day Two Challenge:

1. Look again at verse 6 and define *lord*. Share what you find in your study of this verse. (See Genesis 12:10–20.)

2. When Peter exhorts husbands to dwell with their wives with understanding, what do you think he means? Likewise, what doesn't this mean?

Day Three Homework:

Read 1 Peter 3: 8–12.

1. We are blessed when we are a blessing to others. Why is compassion towards others an important component of unity (v. 8)?

2. What is the difference between being *tenderhearted* versus being *passive* (v. 8)?

3. Peter states that we are “called to this” (being a blessing). What does he mean (v. 9)?

4. In vs. 10–12, Peter refers to Psalm 34:12–16. What is expected of those “who would love life and see good days?”

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5. Personal: Share about a time this week when you wanted to use your words for evil, but refrained, or pursued peace instead of conflict? How did it make you feel?

Day Three Challenge:

1. We are to be of “one mind”; however, the Bible leaves room for diversity. What would you consider as “essentials” of our faith? Can we fellowship/minister with others who hold to a different doctrine? Why or why not?

2. What does Matthew 5:44–47 mean to you personally? If you were asked to bless, do good, and pray for your enemy this week, would you do it?

Day Four Homework:

Read 1 Peter 3:13–17.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. Peter says in verse 14 that, “...even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed.” Read Matthew 5:11–12 and list how specifically we are blessed when we suffer for righteousness?

2. Read verse 15. The word *sanctify* means “to set apart as sacred.” What are some ways that we can practice this?

3. What things can you do in the present to prepare to give a defense of your faith in the future?

4. Meekness carries the idea of gentleness. Why is meekness important when defending your faith?

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5. If someone were to ask you what the reason is for the hope you have within you, what would you say to them? (See 1 Peter 3:15.)

Day Four Challenge:

1. Look up the following verses and share how each speaks to you personally:

- Proverbs 16:17 –
- Romans 8:28 –
- Romans 13:3 –
- 3 John 1:11 –

2. How is it possible to allow your good to be spoken evil of and not defend yourself? Use scripture to back up your position.

Day Five Homework:

Read 1 Peter 3:18–22.

1. Who did Jesus preach to in verses 19–20? In other words, who were the “spirits in prison?” Do we know whether Jesus preached the gospel or a message of judgment? Were the “spirits” demonic or human?

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2. Note some similarities between baptism and Noah's Ark in the flood (vs. 20–21).

3. What do you learn from each of the scriptures below regarding baptism? What do these scriptures mean to you personally?

- Acts 2:38 -
- Acts 22:16 -
- Romans 6:3–6 -
- I Corinthians 12:13 -
- Galatians 3:27 -
- Colossians 2:12 -

Reduced Homework Question:

4. What does baptism represent for us (v. 21)?

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“Let not his church tremble, let her not think of putting out the hand of unbelief to steady the ark of the Lord. The history of the church is to be the history of Christ repeated: she is to be betrayed, she is to be scourged, she is to be falsely accused and spitted on; she may have her crucifixion and her death; but she shall rise again. Her Master rose, and like him she shall rise and receive glory. You can never kill the church till you can kill Christ; and you can never defeat her till you defeat the Lord Jesus, who already wears the crown of triumph.” (Spurgeon)

Day Five Challenge:

1. Name the two sacraments commanded in scripture. Are these required of every believer?

2. If everything is subject to Christ, why does He give us the choice to choose or reject Him?

3. Read David Guzik’s commentary on this section of verses and note the correlation Charles Spurgeon makes between Jesus being in Heaven and the priest behind the veil.

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Lesson Four

I Peter 4

I Peter 4–The Text:

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. 4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*. 5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh but live according to God in the spirit. 7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore, be serious and watchful in your prayers. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “*love will cover a multitude of sins.*” 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 12 Beloved do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of

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glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part, He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. 16 Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. 17 For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 Now "*If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?*" 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Day One Homework:

Read the entire chapter once through as one who received a letter from a dear friend. Then re-read 1 Peter 4:1–2.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. After studying verse 1, use your own words to note what “arm yourselves also with the same mind” means.

2. Look up the following scriptures and share how they relate to 1 Peter 4:1-2.

- Romans 13:14 -
- Philippians 2:5 -
- Romans 6:2 -
- Romans 6:11 -
- Galatians 5:24 -

3. Personal: In his commentary, David Guzik says, “Many of us are defeated in our battle against sin because we refuse to sacrifice anything in the battle. We only want victory if it comes easily to us.” What sacrifices are you unwilling to make when waging war against sin? See Matthew 5:29–30.

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4. In verses 1 & 2 there is a connection between suffering in the flesh and wanting to live in the will of God. Why do you think this is?

Day One Challenge:

1. What are some things we should contemplate when considering how to live the “rest of our lives” in the will of God? Some categories to consider are marriage, finances, parenting, career, friendships, legal issues, personal sin issues, etc. In other words, how do you plan to walk in the will of God all your days, and what are you doing to ensure that you will finish well?

2. Read Psalm 143 and share how the Lord speaks to you personally.

Day Two Homework:

Read I Peter 4:3–6.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. In 10 words or less to describe who you were prior to meeting Christ. Then, use 10 words or less to describe who you are now in Christ (v.3).

If you have never accepted this free gift of salvation the Lord offers to everyone, now is the time. Do you desire a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you wish to be forgiven of your sins, by the grace of God? Ask Jesus now for His forgiveness, thank Him for dying on the cross, in your place, and do your best to walk in the newness of life. Life eternal!

2. Personal: Share about an experience when someone got angry with you or slandered you simply because you are now trying to walk uprightly according to God's Word (v. 4). This can be something that happened in the past, or something presently happening. Why do you think this happens?

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3. Will these “friends” be held accountable for their actions (v.5)? How can we best handle such situations?

4. Define *dissipation* (v. 4). See David Guzik’s commentary for help.

- Dissipation:

Day Two Challenge:

1. In verses 4 & 5 we see that the “dead” will be judged, but also will have the opportunity to hear the Good News. Were these, believers or non-believers? Explain. See also Luke 16:22.

2. Look up 2 Corinthians 11:1–4 and note what you learn. How can this teaching keep us from falling back into our old habits of sin?

Day Three Homework:

Read I Peter 4:7–11.

1. Peter gives us a prescription of sorts in verse 7. What are we to do?

Reduced Homework Question:

2. Look up the words *serious* and *watchful* in the Greek. The KJV uses “sober” and “watch.” Explain what this verse means (v. 7). See also I Thessalonians 5:6, 8, and Titus 2:12.

- **Sober – in Greek:**
 - **Definition –**
- **Watch – in Greek:**
 - **Definition –**

3. Loving others deeply covers a “multitude of sins” according to verse 8, both for the giver and the receiver. How can we love this way by opening our homes to those in need (v. 9)? Discuss the difficulty of this in our current cultural climate. Should we invite others over with the express purpose of sharing Jesus? Why or why not?

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4. What do you learn about “spiritual gifts” according to verse 10? What is the purpose for God giving you a spiritual gift?

5. Personal: Peter makes it clear that our “gifts” are given by God’s grace, and He alone supplies the strength and power needed to use them. Our job is to use them to serve others well.

What does this truth mean to you in this season of your life?

Day Three Challenge:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, Romans 12:3–8, and Ephesians 4: 7–16. List what stands out to you from these teachings on spiritual gifts. What is God speaking to you personally?

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2. In the passages from question 1, list as many spiritual gifts as you can find. Then, circle those God has given specifically to you and explain how you are using them to serve others.

Day Four Homework:

Read 1 Peter 4:12–16.

1. Peter shifts to trials now in verse 12. Are we to be surprised when we face trials? What is the purpose of our trials?

2. In verse 13, Peter tells us to “rejoice.” Why should we?

3. It’s one thing to suffer as a follower of Christ, but Peter gives a list of things we are not to suffer for; what are they?

Reduced Homework Question:

4. Define *busybody* (v. 15). Then, give some synonyms and antonyms.

- **Busybody –**
 - **Synonyms-**
 - **Antonyms-**

5. Personal: Are you being a “busybody” in someone else’s life. Or is someone being troublesome in your life this way? What boundaries can you set to stop this behavior?

Day Four Challenge:

I. What are we to experience if we suffer for being a Christian (v. 16)? Why is this an important truth for us?

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2. Read Isaiah 50:7, Isaiah 54:4, and 2 Timothy 1:12. What do you learn from these passages?

3. How does not being ashamed of Jesus play out in your daily life? Give some real-life examples.

Day Five Homework:

Read 1 Peter 4:17–19.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. After studying verse 16, in your own words, explain what you think it means.

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2. Look at Luke 12:35–48. With 1 Peter 4:17–19 in mind, what do you learn?

3. Personal: Reflecting on question 2, being “ready for the Lord’s coming” starts now, not in the future. What will happen to those servants who are “ready” when He comes? How do these verses speak to you? Do they bring comfort or a warning to you today?

4. We receive some incredible encouragement from verse 19; what is it? How does this verse encourage you personally today?

Day Five Challenge:

1. What is the overarching theme, or big idea of 1 Peter 4?

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2. Look back at verse 17. What is meant by “those who do not obey the Gospel of God?” Is this referring to disobedient believers or the unsaved?

3. Define the word *commit* from verse 19. What does it mean to commit our souls to Jesus in doing good, as to our faithful Creator?

- Commit –

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Lesson Five
1 Peter 5

1 Peter 5–The Text:

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: 2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to *your* elders. Yes, all of *you* be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*” 6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*. 11 To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 12 By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. 13 She who is in Babylon, elect together with *you*, greets you; and so *does* Mark my son. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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Day One Homework:

Read the entire chapter once through as one who received a letter from a dear friend. Then re-read 1 Peter 5:1–4.

1. Give the Greek words used for *elder* and *partaker*. Then, define each word.

- elder (in Greek) -
- definition -
- partaker (in Greek) -
- definition -

2. According to verse 1, “elders” are to be among the people. Why is this important?

3. Look up the following scriptures, and note what you learn through each verse. Can a woman be an “elder” in the church? Explain why, or why not. (Use scripture to back up your answer.)

- 1 Timothy 5:17 -
- Titus 1:5 -
- James 5:14 -
- 1 Timothy 3:1–7 -
- Acts 14:23 -
- Acts 20:28 -

Reduced Homework Question:

4. What does Peter exhort the elders to do (v. 2)? How does he instruct them to accomplish this office in the church (vs. 2–3)? What will they receive for shepherding the flock (v. 4)?

Day One Challenge:

1. What does it mean “nor as being lords over those entrusted to you?” What is the difference between this and ruling as an overseer (v. 3)?

2. The shepherd’s job is to feed and tend the sheep. In John 10:11–14, what does a “good shepherd” do for his sheep? What is a “hireling?”

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”

John 10:11

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Day Two Homework:

Read 1 Peter 5:5–7.

1. In verse 5, what is Peter’s exhortation for “younger” believers? Why is this important?

Reduced Homework Question:

2. In Hebrews 13:17 there is an exhortation to every believer on how to treat elders within the church, what is it? Why are we to submit in this way?

3. According to verse 5, and Proverbs 3:34, how does God treat the “proud,” and the “humble?”

4. Personal: In your own words, what does it truly mean for you to be *humble* personally? What do you have to give up? What is your struggle with humility?

Day Two Challenge:

1. What does the phrase “under the mighty hand of God” mean (v. 6)?

2. Verse 7 declares that God may exalt us in due time. What does that mean, and what does it have to do with humbling ourselves?

3. Why do you think God is so resistant to pride?

Day Three Homework:

Read 1 Peter 5:8.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. Define the following words from verse 8:

- Sober -
- Vigilant -
- Adversary -
- Seeking -
- Devour -

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2. Verse 8 says the devil “walks about”. Using the interlinear tab from www.blueletterbible.org what exactly does this mean?

3. Verse 9 instructs us to resist the devil. What comfort can we draw from this verse?

4. Personal: It’s one thing to say “resist the devil,” but often we find ourselves falling into his traps so easily. What can we do to be more aware of his tactics? Share scriptures we can memorize to help us resist the enemy.

Day Three Challenge:

I. What does it mean to be “steadfast in faith?” Find some other verses in scripture that talk about being steadfast in faith.

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2. What are the differences between God being described as a “lion” and the enemy being described as a “roaring lion?”

Day Four Homework:

Read 1 Peter 5:10–14.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. Why do you think suffering is an important part of our Christian experience (v10)?

2. Personal: How has God used suffering in your life? What fruit did it bear? Be specific.

3. What comfort can we take from verse 10?

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4. Another word for suffering is pain. Pain can be beneficial when it warns us that something is wrong physically. However, we try to avoid pain at all cost. What negative things do people do/use to avoid pain? What can we turn to while suffering instead?

Day Four Challenge:

1. How do you answer a non-believer who asks, "If God is a God of love, why does He allow suffering?"

2. Do you believe that suffering will "perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you" (v10)? Use scripture to support your answer.

Day Five Homework:**Reduced Homework Question:****1. What was your biggest takeaway from this study?**

2. Watch the overview of *1 Peter* on *The Bible Project* again. (www.thebibleproject.com). Do you have a better understanding of this letter now? Journal your thoughts.

3. Review your homework for chapters 1–5 and note the main themes for each chapter.

- 1 Peter 1:

- 1 Peter 2:

- 1 Peter 3:

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- 1 Peter 4:

- 1 Peter 5:

Day Five Challenge:

I. In your own words, what is the book of 1 Peter about?

Introduction to 2 Peter

In Peter's first letter he consoles suffering believers by encouraging them to remain faithful in the midst of their grief knowing they have a living hope in Jesus Christ. This second letter penned approximately 3 years later, comes as a warning of the dangers from within the church, namely false teachings. Deceptive doctrines and sullied lifestyles have been, and will forever be, a problem for the church. Peter was not as concerned about writing a book on theology as he was with reminding believers of the truth of the gospel, which they had received. We see this constant desire of Peter's spelled out in verses 12–15, *"12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, 14 knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease."* Carelessness was escalating among God's people and with Peter's departure looming (1:14–15, John 21:19) he found it imperative to warn the very same believers he comforted in 1 Peter. Just like the apostles and early church leaders, true biblical leaders desire their followers to know, and live out, the truth of God's Word. Standing up for biblical truth is difficult in any climate but especially true where oppression and persecution exist. Yet, as believers it's our duty to do and say what is right and appropriate in the sight of God. Peter contends that knowing and understanding the truth of God's Word is the best way to overcome false doctrine and corrupt living.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

~Proverbs 9:10~

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Lesson Six

2 Peter 1

2 Peter 1–The Text:

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 11 for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 12 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding *you*, 14 knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. 16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made

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known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

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Day One Homework:

Read the entire chapter once through as one who received a letter from a dear friend. Then re-read 2 Peter 1:1–4.

1. Who is Simon Peter writing to (v. 1)? Why were they able to receive “this faith”?

2. Verse 4 says, “He has given us exceedingly great and precious promises.” What do these promises enable us to do?

Reduced Homework Question:

3. What do the following verses tell us about God’s divine nature and how it works in and through our lives?

- **2 Corinthians 12:9 -**
- **Ephesians 1:19–21 -**
- **1 Timothy 4:8 -**
- **1 Corinthians 1:9 -**

4. Personal: Peter tells us God has given us everything we need to live a godly life (v. 4). With this truth in mind, how should this affect your daily obedience to Him?

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Day One Challenge:

1. The Word of God brings us to the knowledge of God, which results in the grace and peace of God. What can you share about the Word of God related to this truth?

2. In your own words, explain how knowing and understanding God is the key to having all things that pertain to life and godliness:

Day Two Homework:

Read 2 Peter 1: 5–11.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. **Because we are partakers of God’s divine nature, with all diligence, what are we to supplement (list all) our faith with (v. 5–7)? Include everything listed in these verses.**

2. Choose two words from the list above and give definitions.

- _____ -
- _____ -

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3. Peter states that if these things (the list above) are ours and abound, we will neither be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 8). What does this mean?

How can you apply this truth to your life today?

4. Why do you think concentrating on “these things” (v. 8) will result in a fruitful knowledge of God?

5. What does verse 9 say about those who lack these things?

Day Two Challenge:

1. What does it mean “to make your call and election sure” (v. 10)?

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2. Can our salvation ever be revoked by God; why or why not? Can we revoke our salvation by denying what we once believed?

3. Name some benefits of knowing and understanding the Lord through His Word. Re-read 2 Peter 1:5–11 in the NLT for help.

Day Three Homework:

Read 2 Peter 1: 12–15.

1. Peter reminds the believers of “these things” again and again. Why is it so important to Peter that we stay attentive to these biblical matters (v. 12)?

2. In verse 12, he uses the phrase “for this reason.” For what reason?

Reduced Homework Question:

3. Peter states that as long as he is here on earth, he will stir up these things in believers. It's his life's work. What will you be known for stirring up in others?

What will your legacy be?

4. Personal: Are the decisions you're making right now going to produce the outcome (legacy) you want in the future; why or why not? If not, what do you need to change to make this happen?

Day Three Challenge:

1. After reading verses 12–15 again, is there anything God is bringing to light for you personally? What is it?

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2. What would you consider to be *the basics* of the Christian belief (not doctrine, but practices)?

Day Four Homework:

Read 2 Peter 1: 16–18.

1. Peter was an eyewitness to the majesty of the Lord. What did he witness (v. 17)? Also, see Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, and Luke 9:35.

2. Does this mean experience is more reliable than prophecy, or is prophecy confirmed by our experience? Explain.

Reduced Homework Question:

3. Personal: Journal about an experience you had when Christ, and His Word became real to you?

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4. Peter doesn't want believers to base their Christianity on feelings, but upon facts found through the Word of God. What decisions are you making this week? Are you basing them on feelings or on the facts found in the Word of God?

Day Four Challenge:

1. After reading Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, and Luke 9:28–36, what do you learn about this historic event? What is it commonly known as? Where was its location?

Day Five Homework:

Read 2 Peter 1: 19–21.

1. Seeing really is believing. What resulted because of this eyewitness account (v. 19)?

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2. What does Peter encourage us to do because of his experience on the Holy Mountain (v. 19)?

Reduced Homework Question:

3. According to verses 20–21, what do we need to understand about prophecy?

4. In verse 19, we are told to heed the prophetic word “as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” What does this mean?

Day Five Challenge:

1. Do you know how many prophecies are in the Old Testament regarding Jesus? Choose one and explain when the prophecy was given, and when it was fulfilled.

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2. We know the Holy Spirit inspired holy men to speak on His (God's) behalf. How else does the Holy Spirit work in and through our lives?

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Lesson Seven

2 Peter 2

2 Peter 2—The Text:

1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, *one of eight people*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, *who* was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)— 9 *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, 11 whereas angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption, 13 *and* will receive the wages of unrighteousness, *as* those who count it

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pleasure to carouse in the daytime. *They are* spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices and *are* accursed children. 15 They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. 18 For when they speak great swelling *words* of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "*A dog returns to his own vomit,*" and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Day One Homework:

Read the entire chapter once through as one who received a letter from a dear friend. Then re-read 2 Peter 2:1-3.

1. Peter warns about false prophets infiltrating the church. How did Peter tell us they would do this (v. 1)? What will be their result?

2. What false doctrine have you come up against? What is the motivation of these false teachers? What are they really after?

Reduced Homework Question:

3. Define the following words. Then, note what you learn.

- **Heresies (v. 1) -**
- **Blasphemed (v. 2) -**
- **Covetousness (v. 3) -**

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4. Personal: Why do we have to stay awake and alert when possibly dealing with false teachings (vs. 1–3)? Do you regularly check what you hear and read with scripture? See Acts 17:11, Psalm 18:21, Jeremiah 6:16.

Day One Challenge:

1. In what ways do you see false doctrine infiltrating the church today?

2. What false doctrine have you come up against?

3. Respond to the statement “I will correct false doctrine...” by circling all that apply:

- When talking with friends over coffee
- With a Pastor or church leadership
- When discussing books and authors
- When receiving recommendations for speakers, authors, books, podcasts, sermons, pastors, etc.
- Casual conversations with strangers
- With family members
- With my spouse/children/grandchildren
- School professor, teacher, or the like
- Bible study leader

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4. In your opinion, what is the best way to correct false doctrine?

Day Two Homework:

Read 2 Peter 2:4–9.

1. Peter uses 3 examples of judgment and/or deliverance; what are they (vs. 4–8)? Where do you find each in the Bible?

2. What does verse 9 tell us about how God executes judgment and deliverance? How can we apply this to our temptations today?

Reduced Homework Question:

3. Look up the following verses and note the application for each. In other words, what are they saying to you personally?

- **1 Corinthians 15:33–34 -**
- **Psalm 1:1 -**
- **Proverbs 13:20 -**
- **1 Corinthians 5:11 -**
- **Proverbs 1:10–11 -**

4. In verse 7, Peter tells us that Lot was *oppressed* (or *vexed* in the KJV) by the filthy conduct of the wicked. What does this mean?

5. Personal: Do you have any “filthy conduct” in your life, whether through family, friends, or even co-workers? Does it weary you? How can you be delivered from it?

Day Two Challenge:

1. What does “tormented his righteous soul” mean (vs. 7–8)?

2. Why does God judge the *ungodly*?

3. Can people repent once they've been judged eternally? Why or why not? Use scripture to back up your answer.

Day Three Homework:

Read 2 Peter 2: 9–11.

1. What is the “day of judgement” (v. 9)?

Reduced Homework Question:

2. Who is the Lord is particularly hard on (v. 10)? What does Peter say about such people's character?

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3. Define *presumptuous* and *self-willed* from verse 10.

- _____

- _____

4. Look up the following verses and note how they relate to our text today:

- Romans 8:1 -
- Hebrews 13:4 -
- Romans 1:18–32 -
- Ephesians 4:17–24 –
- I Thessalonians 4:7 -

Day Three Challenge:

1. In your own words, explain verse 10 and 11? Who are the *supernatural beings* (*dignities* in KJV) and the *angels*?

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2. In verse 10, we read about the character of “those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority.” In what ways do we see our culture turning towards these behaviors?

Day Four Homework:

Read 2 Peter 2:12–17.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. What does Peter liken these false teachers to (v. 12)? Why do you think he uses such strong language to describe them?

2. In your own words, what is Peter saying in verse 13?

3. It’s interesting that Peter pinpoints such sinful behavior within the life of a false teacher.

Personal sin. Do you think their sin leads them into false teaching or that false teaching leads them into sin (vs. 12–17)? Explain.

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4. Look up the words *enticing* (beguiling in NKJV) and *unstable* in verse 14 using a Bible dictionary. Then, list a few synonyms and antonyms.

- Enticing (beguiling) –
 - Synonyms –
 - Antonyms –
- Unstable –
 - Synonyms –
 - Antonyms –

5. According to verse 14, what kind of individual is enticed into sin by a false teacher?

Day Four Challenge:

1. According to verse 15, what causes someone to go astray?

2. Personal: Think about an area of sin in your personal life that you struggle with. Then, note what the Bible has to say about that particular issue? Do you believe what it says?

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3. What mistake did Balaam make and how does it relate to false teachers (vs. 15–17)? See also Numbers 22–24.

Day Five Homework:

Read 2 Peter 2:18–22.

1. What do these false teachers use to appeal to the people and who is at risk to fall for their lies (v. 18)?

2. These false teachers promise freedom, but they themselves are enslaved to sin and corruption. You are slave to whatever controls you (v. 19). What controls you? What is the remedy? See Proverbs 28:13, Acts 3:19, Revelation 3:19, and 1 John 1:9.

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3. Personal: In your own words, explain what Peter is saying in verse 20. How has this played out in your own life?

4. There is a danger in following false teachers. According to vs. 20–22, what is it? Peter uses two examples to illustrate this danger; he likens a “rejecter of God” to what two things? How does this personally speak to you?

Day Five Challenge:

1. Read John 9:35–41. In your own words, explain what it means and how it could relate to our text today.

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Lesson Eight
2 Peter 3

2 Peter 3—The Text:

1 Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both of* which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.” 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these

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things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures. 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Day One Homework:

Read the entire chapter once through as one who received a letter from a dear friend. Then re-read 2 Peter 3: 1–3.

1. Peter reiterates why he writes these two epistles to the believers. What is the purpose of his letters (v. 1)?

2. Peter repeats the words and phrases “stir up,” “reminder,” “remember,” and “that you may be mindful” often throughout his letters. What does Peter want us to keep in the forefront of our minds and why is it so important (vs. 1–3)?

Reduced Homework Question:

3. According to verse 3, what causes people to *scoff* at Jesus and His Word in the last days? Why do people mock the Lord at all? Why don't they just leave Him alone and live their own lives? Is it possible to consider these *scoffers* false teachers? Why or why not?

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4. What are some practical ways we can keep God’s Word in the forefront of our minds?

Moms, what practical things can you do to keep God’s Word in front of your children?

Day One Challenge:

I. Look at Psalm 119 (the entire Psalm) and note:

What I will do:

What we ask the Lord to do:

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What the Lord does:

Day Two Homework:

Read 2 Peter 3:4–8.

1. How do these *mockers* scoff (v. 4)? What do you think is at the core of their question?

2. Peter says, “they willingly forget,” or “they are willingly ignorant of (KJV).” In your own words, what were they forgetting (vs. 5–6)?

3. What are our “present heavens and earth” being preserved for (v. 7)? See the NLT for help.

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4. Peter tells us not to forget “one thing”; what is it (v. 8)? Also, see Psalm 90:4.

5. Personal: Knowing that the Lord’s judgment is coming to all mankind in the end, how does that minister to you today? What does it make you prioritize as important?

Day Two Challenge:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1–15 and note how the Lord speaks to you in relation to today’s lesson.

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2. Explain what "with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" means.

Day Three Homework:

Read 2 Peter 3:9–13.

Reduced Homework Question:

1. The scoffers of the Lord do not understand the Lord's *slackness*. However, what do we know about why the Lord is being slow to come (v. 9)?

2. The Lord is longsuffering, but what does it mean that He "will come like a thief in the night" (v. 10)?

3. Look up the following verses and note what they say about His coming and how they speak to you personally:

- Habakkuk 2:3 –
- Luke 18:7–8 –

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- Hebrews 10:37 -
- Romans 9:22 –
- 1 Timothy 1:16 -

4. Peter alludes to us being pilgrims, saints just passing through a world that will end. In light of this, he asks, “What manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness (vs. 11–12)?” While we are waiting for His return, how are we supposed to be living (vs. 13–14)?

Day Three Challenge:

1. How can we “hasten” the Lord’s coming (v. 12)? Also look at Daniel 9, Revelation 22:20, and Romans 11:25. Define *hasten*:

2. What will the new heavens and the new earth be like (v. 13)? See Revelation 21:1.

Day Four Homework:

Read 2 Peter 3:14–18.

1. How does Peter describe those who twist the Word of God (v.16)?

2. Peter gives us a warning in verse 17. What is it? What is the antidote for falling away (v. 18)?

3. Personal: What are you most looking forward to in spending your eternity with the Lord?

Tell Him through prayer here:

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1 & 2 Peter

4. Personal: Make a list of those family members and friends you are still waiting for to come to the Lord. Then pray Hebrews 10:39 over them

Day Four Challenge:

1. What are the differences between the “return of the Lord (the rapture),” the “Second Coming,” and the “Millennial Kingdom”?

2. What does it mean to “grow in grace and knowledge”?

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Day Five Homework:

1. Watch *The Bible Project: 2 Peter Overview* again. (www.thebibleproject.com). Do you have a better understanding of this letter now? Journal your thoughts:

Reduced Homework Question:

2. Review your homework for Lessons 6–8 and share something significant the Lord showed you in each chapter.

- **2 Peter 1:**

- **2 Peter 2:**

- **2 Peter 3:**

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1 & 2 Peter

Day Five Challenge:

I. In your own words, what is the book of 2 Peter all about?
