

The **First Letter of Peter**

This Bible study examines what the Apostle Peter wrote to the early churches about living out their faith in a world often opposed to Christians and their beliefs; instruction as relevant today as it was millennia ago.



Session	Text	Pages
1	1 Peter 1:1-25	2 – 4
2	1 Peter 2:1-25	5 – 7
3	1 Peter 3:1-17	8 – 10
4	1 Peter 3:18 – 4:11	11 – 12
5	1 Peter 4:12 – 5:14	13 – 14

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Session 1: 1 Peter 1:1-25

The Apostle Peter, likely writing from Rome around A.D. 62-63, addressed 1 Peter to believers living in Roman provinces in Asia Minor, north of the Taurus Mountains, which is modern-day Turkey. The recipients were primarily Gentiles, but there would also have been some Jewish Christians. Much of the letter addresses suffering, and Peter encourages his readers to endure by giving themselves entirely to God and modeling their lives after Christ, who suffered for us and died before entering into glory.

1. Get to know Peter: What do the following verses tell us about Peter?

Scripture	What Do We Learn About Peter?
Matthew 4:18-20	
Matthew 14:25-33	

2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-9 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

3. We all go through trials and sufferings due to our health, relationships, finances, and many other issues. Fill in the table below for the purposes the Scriptures give us for suffering as Christians.

Scripture	Purposes of Suffering
1 Peter 1:6-7	
Romans 5:3-4	
2 Corinthians 4:17-18	

4. These verses talk about rejoicing in our sufferings. How is that even possible? Why would suffering be an occasion to rejoice?
5. Are we to act happy and perky when we have a chronic ailment, a loved one passes away, our AC unit conks out in August, or any other suffering or trial? What does this rejoicing look like?
6. How can knowing we have an inheritance in heaven affect our behavior and attitudes when we face trials?
7. Read 1 Peter 1:10-12 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

8. What did God reveal to the Old Testament prophets, and for what purpose?

9. Read 1 Peter 1:13-21 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

10. What does it mean to be holy, and how is that even possible?

11. Take a close look at verse 17. The ESV translation uses the words “your exile,” the NASB says “your stay here on earth,” and the NIV uses the word “foreigners” to address the Christians to whom Peter is writing. What concept is Peter trying to get across?

12. Read 1 Peter 1:22-25 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

Session Two: 1 Peter 2:1-25

1. Get to know Peter: What do the following verses tell us about Peter?

Scripture	What Do We Learn About Peter?
Mark 8:27-30	
Mark 8:31-33	
Mark 9:2-8	

2. Read 1 Peter 2:1-8 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

3. Verse five tells us to offer “spiritual sacrifices.” What are those according to the following verses?

- Psalm 51:17

- Psalm 107:22

- Romans 12:1

- Hebrews 13:15-16

4. Read 1 Peter 2:9-12 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

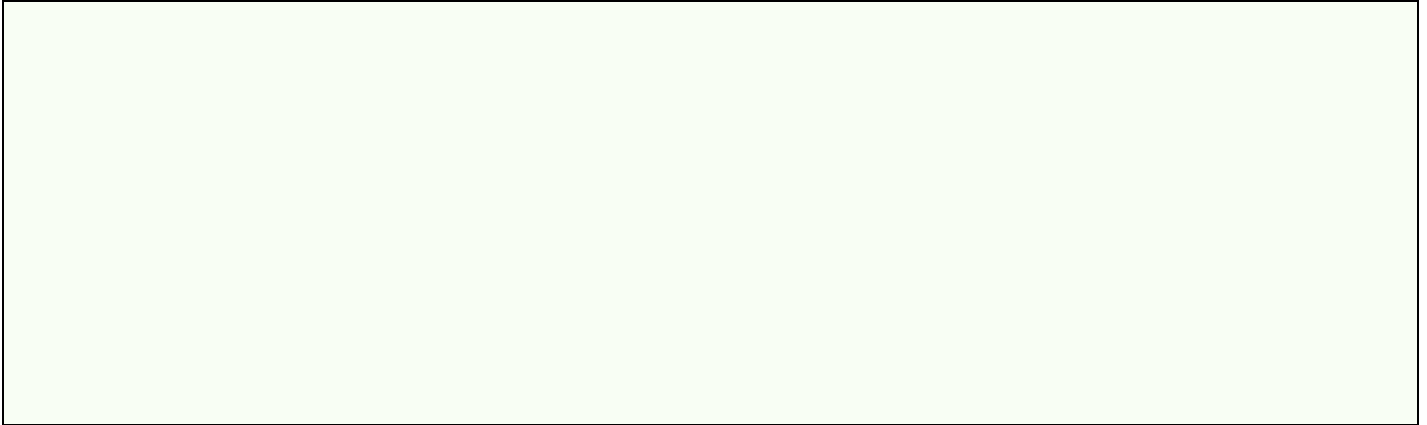
5. In the table below, list the four roles Peter says we have in verse nine, and what each role implies.

Role	What the Role Implies

6. Verse nine also tells us the purpose of having these roles. What is that?

7. Read 1 Peter 2:13-17 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

8. Verse 13 says to submit to the government for the Lord's sake. What good does it do God if we obey the government?
9. Read 1 Peter 2:18-25 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.



10. Verse 19 says it is a gracious thing when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. In what way would this be called a gracious thing?
11. Have you, or have you known anyone who endured sorrows while suffering unjustly? What was the situation?

Session Three: 1 Peter 3:1-17

1. Get to know Peter: What do the following verses tell us about Peter?

Scripture	What Do We Learn About Peter?
Mark 14:66-72	
John 21:15-19	

2. Read 1 Peter 3:1-6 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

3. The Apostle Paul also wrote about how wives and husbands are to relate to each other. Read Ephesians 5:22-24 and write below additional things Paul wrote about wives and any thoughts or questions you have.

4. Read 1 Peter 3:7 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

5. Read Ephesians 5:25-33 and write below additional things Paul wrote about husbands and any thoughts or questions you have.

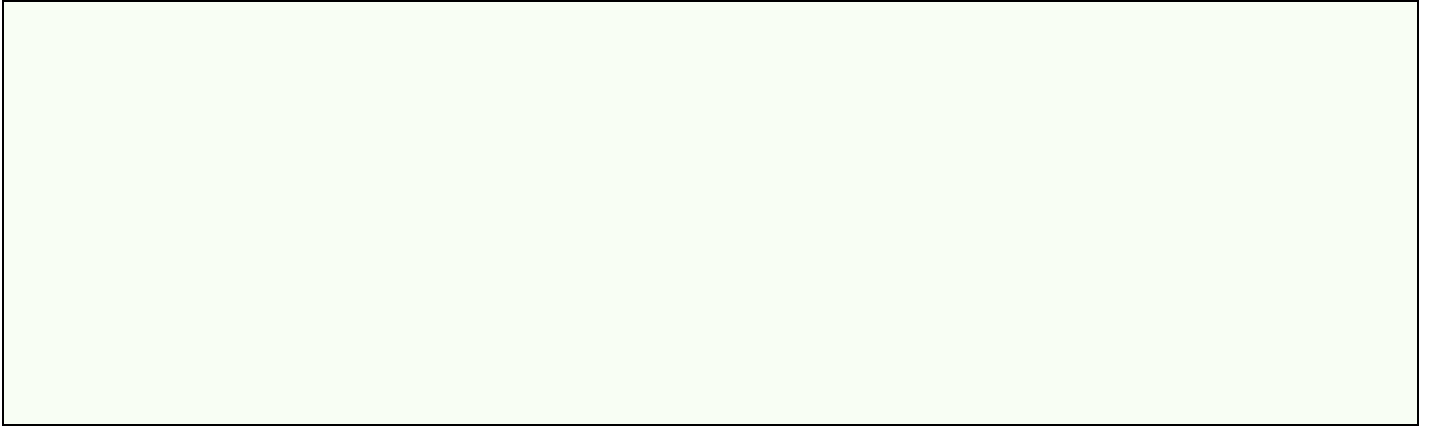
6. Are these exhortations to wives and husbands relevant today? Explain your answer below in detail.

7. Read 1 Peter 3:8-12 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

8. In this section, Peter tells us to behave in ways that differ from our modern culture. List at least three of these things below, and how our modern culture would propose we behave.

How to Behave According to 1 Peter 3:8-12	What our Culture Says

9. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.



10. If someone asked you to give a reason for the hope that they see in you, or to make a defense as to why you believe in Christ, what would you answer?

Session Four: 1 Peter 3:18 – 4:11

1. Get to know Peter: What do the following verses tell us about Peter?

Scripture	What Do We Learn About Peter?
Acts 2:14, 2:22-24, 2:36	
Acts 10:1-20	

2. Read 1 Peter 3:18-22 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

This section in Scripture has produced much debate among theologians through the centuries. Even Martin Luther said, “A wonderful text is this, and a more obscure passage perhaps than any other in the New Testament, so that I do not know for a certainty just what Peter means.”

3. Reading this passage (not just focusing on one or two sentences) and considering what we have read before in his letter, what do you think Peter is trying to get across?

4. Does baptism alone save us? What is needed to be saved, and what is a Scripture that supports your answer?

5. Read 1 Peter 4:1-6 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

6. Verse six says that the gospel was preached even to those who are dead. The Bible clearly teaches that there is no second chance for salvation after death for those who rejected Christ (e.g., Luke 16:26, Hebrews 9:27), so what do you think this verse means?

7. Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

8. Verse 10 says we are stewards of God's grace. What does it mean to be a steward, and according to these verses, in what ways are we to be stewards of God's grace?

Session Five: 1 Peter 4:12 – 5:14

1. Get to know Peter: What do the following verses tell us about Peter?

Scripture	What Do We Learn About Peter?
Acts 12:1-11	
Acts 15:1-11	

2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

3. Is the “judgment” in verse 17 that begins at the house of God the same as the judgment of the wicked? To answer this question, look at the context of this verse in chapter four, Romans 8:17, and 1 Corinthians 11:32.

4. Read 1 Peter 5:1-5 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

5. In the table below, describe how elders are to lead and how this differs from the reasons and methods leaders in our culture often use to lead.

Biblical Reasons and Methods for Leading	Worldly Reasons and Methods for Leading

6. Read 1 Peter 5:6-14 and list below all the things that stood out to you, connected with your spirit, and any questions you have.

7. Who is our adversary, and what does Peter compare him to?

8. Modern American culture does not give much credence to the existence of Satan, much less that he has us in his cross-hairs. What do the following verses say about this, and what our defense should be?

- Ephesians 6:11-12

- James 4:7

9. In 1 Peter 5:10, Peter concludes his letter by summarizing his main points. What are those?