

Note from Pastor Kermit:

As we take a journey through 1&2 Peter let us not only look at the life of Peter and all of the high and low points in his life, let us also examine our lives in light of what Jesus Christ has done for us and where He has brought us from. Peter had experienced his share of difficulties in his lifetime.

His great confession of Jesus Christ at Caesarea Philippi was immediately followed by Jesus' accusation that Peter was sharing Satan's viewpoint by refusing to accept Christ suffering.

Later Peter came face to face with his own shame as God revealed the prejudices of his heart toward Gentiles. To Peter's credit, he obeyed God's vision and preached the gospel to Cornelius and the other Gentiles in his household. How did Peter deal with these struggles? We catch a glimpse as he wrote to Christians facing difficulties in 1&2 Peter.

- ❖ Be engaged
 - Take notes, participate, commit to memorizing the verse of the week
- ❖ Be prayerful
 - Pray that God will open up our understanding of His Word
- ❖ Invite a friend



Taking a Walk through 1st & 2nd Peter

Lesson 1: A Living Hope

Lesson 2: Building Our Faith

Lesson 3: Always Ready

Lesson 4: When Ridiculed

Lesson 5: With Trust

Lesson 6: With Anticipation

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Lesson 1

A Living Hope (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Jesus resurrection gives believers a Living hope.

1 Peter 1:3-4

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, (Ephesians 1:11, Colossians 3:24)

Discussion Question 1

- How does praising God for the new birth help a Christian who is suffering?

1 Peter 1:5

5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Discussion Question 2 & 3

- How does the assurance of God's faithfulness give you encouragement to endure?
- How many phrases in verses 3-5 describe the living hope?

1 Peter 1:6-9

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.

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Discussion Question 4 & 5

- How is Christian joy different from a sentimental feeling of happiness? In what ways is the joy more satisfying?
- Why is it important to celebrate hope when we face difficult trials? How can we celebrate hope?

Obey the Text

Jesus offers a Living hope to all who place their trust in Him. The promise of secure salvation gives believers a reason to rejoice even when facing difficulties. In Christ we discover a clear picture of God's grace and salvation.

- Share with another person how you came to place your trust in Jesus. Emphasize how doing so gave you hope.
- List trials and difficulties you face today. Evaluate your response to the things you listed compared to how you might have responded in the past.
- Spend time in prayer celebrating God's grace and salvation in your life.

Memorize:

"whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,"

I Peter 1:8 NKJV

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Lesson 2

Building Our Faith (1 Peter 2:1-10)

Believers mature both personally and as a community through God's grace.

1 Peter 2:1-3

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.

Discussion Question #1&2

- How do the attitudes and actions that Peter listed inhibit spiritual growth?
- How would you explain the importance of proper spiritual nourishment? What would you include as a balanced spiritual diet for believers?

1 Peter 2:4-8

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.

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Discussion Question 3 & 4

- What role do a church and its members play in the development of a follower of Christ?
- How does knowing that Jesus was rejected by some people give believers courage to face persecution and rejection? Should believers expect to be treated differently by those who reject Jesus?

1 Peter 2:9-10

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.

Discussion Question 5 & 6

- What's the relationship between worship and evangelism?
- How does the gospel break down walls between people?

Obey the Text

We're to crave the spiritual food that leads to maturity. As members of God's family, believers are to serve God in a way that pleases Him. Believers are to declare to others what God has done and is doing.

- List ways you're feeding on God's Word. What do you need to consume God's Word more diligently reading, studying, and reflecting on its truth?
- Evaluate the progress of spiritual life. How are you growing in your relationship with the Lord? What area need more attention? List actions that you'll take to foster your spiritual growth.
- Discuss how belonging to a church and bible study is important in declaring the praises of God to others. How can we encourage one another more consistently through the Word.

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Memorize:

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I Peter 2:9-10 NKJV

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Lesson 3

Always Ready (1 Peter 3:13-22)

Believers honor God by sharing His hope with others.

1 Peter 3:13-17

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 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.

Discussion Question 1-3

- Do you think people are shocked in today's world when they hear about persecuted Christians? Do you think believers are shocked or surprised when they experience persecution or oppression?
- What keeps believers from being prepared to share Jesus with others? How prepared do you think most believers are to defend their faith in Christ?
- Why is suffering for one's faith a powerful witness to those who don't believe in Jesus?

1 Peter 3:18-20

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.

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Discussion Question 4

- How can a good or noble cause become a substitute for pointing others to Christ? How can it become a vehicle for pointing others to Christ? What's the difference?

1 Peter 3:21-22

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.

Discussion Question 5

- How does Jesus' authority bring you comfort and courage to faithfully stand for Christ?

Obey the text

We can face suffering with confidence, knowing we do so to bring honor to God. All life situations provide opportunities to point others to Christ. Christ died on the cross to secure salvation for all who are willing to accept Him.

- Discuss actions you can take to support and encourage one another to share Jesus with others.
- What steps are you taking to better defend your faith against those who don't believe in Jesus? List goals and actions for accomplishing those goals.
- Examine your spiritual life. If you haven't accepted Jesus, discuss this decision with a believer.

Memorize:

"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;"

I Peter 3:15 NKJV

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Lesson 4

When Ridiculed (1 Peter 4:12-19)

Believers honor God by remaining faithful through persecution.

1 Peter 4:12-14

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 glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Discussion Question 1 & 2

- How does suffering help a believer share in Christ suffering? Why does the temporary nature of suffering encourage those who are enduring it?
- How does the presence of the Holy Spirit help Christians who endure insults and ridicule?

1 Peter 4:15-16

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.

Discussion Question 3 & 4

- How can you counsel people who protest as unfair the suffering that results from their own moral lapses?
- How do people try to shame believers into hiding their faith or rejecting their faith in practice? What's the relationship between living unashamed and remaining faithful to Christ?

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1 Peter 4:17-19

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.

Discussion Question 5-6

- How would you define the difference between the purpose of judgement for believers and for unbelievers? Why would this be important for believers to remember?
- Why do you think Peter emphasized God as Creator in verse 19? How does God's relationship to us as the Creator help us trust Him more?

Obey the Text

We can trust the Holy Spirit to provide strength when we face persecution as believers. Believers can faithfully represent God by carrying His name regardless of our circumstances. We can face opposition, ridicule, and even persecution with confidence, knowing God will use our tested faith for His kingdom purposes.

- When you face ridicule as a believer, how do you usually respond? What truth in this passage might help you most in responding to that ridicule? Pray that the Holy Spirit will remind you of the truth you identified.
- How is God testing and refining your faith? What has He taught you about Himself in the process?

Memorize:

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

John 16:33 NKJV

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Lesson 5

With Trust (2 Peter 1:12-21)

God's Word is trustworthy in all ways.

2 Peter 1:12-15

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.

Discussion Question 1-2

- Why is it important to remind even mature believers of the truth? If you knew your time was short, what spiritual reminders would you give to those close to you?
- What are practical ways we can strengthen others in their faith?

2 Peter 1:16-18

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made 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.

Discussion Question 3-4

- How would you respond to critics who question Jesus' divine nature?
- What's the value of having eyewitness accounts when addressing a critic?

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1 Peter 1:19-21

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.

Discussion Question 5

- How would you explain the inspiration of scripture to someone who wonders why they should believe a book written by humans?

Obey the Text

Believers can remind one another of the truth of the gospel and the scriptures. Believers can affirm the power of the gospel through the demonstrations of that power they've witnessed. The Bible is reliable and can be trusted as the Word of God.

- What can we do to help others who are struggling to believe the Bible? List actions that can be taken that demonstrate trust in the Bible.
- How have you seen God demonstrate the power of the gospel in your life? How can you share with others what you've experienced?

Memorize:

"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

II Peter 1:21 NKJV

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With Anticipation (2 Peter 3:1-13, 17-18)

A believer's hope is in the return of Jesus.

2 Peter 3:1-7

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.

Discussion Question 1

- What are some of the reasons people today doubt the second coming of Christ?

2 Peter 3:8-9

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.

Discussion Question 2

- How does the creation account and the flood point to God's grace and mercy?

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2 Peter 3:10

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. [

Discussion Question 3

- What illustrations other than a thief could be used to describe the Day of the Lord?

2 Peter 3:11-13, 17-18

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.

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.

Discussion Question 4-5

- How does the life we're to live in anticipation of the return of Christ reflect the life we'll have after His return?
- If a person is growing in his or her spiritual life, all the other issues faced in this life becomes secondary. Do you agree or disagree?

Obey the Text

Believers can be confident in the return of Christ. We can urgently show God's grace by sharing Christ with all people. Believers demonstrate assurance of the return of Christ by building godly character in anticipation of that return.

- How can you use the truths in this lesson when confronted by a skeptic who denies Jesus return?
- Think of the people you know who are not accepted Jesus as Lord. Thank God for his patience, ask Him to send someone to share the good news with them, and express a willingness to be that person.

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Memorize:

“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.”

II Peter 3:9 NKJV

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Key Doctrines:

1. **Salvation.** Regeneration or new birth all point to the work of God's grace by which believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus.

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:9-10 NKJV

2. **Sanctification.** Holiness means to be set apart to be used by God. Growth in grace should continue throughout a regenerate person's life.

"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV

3. **Evangelism.** It the duty of every child of God to constantly seek to win the lost for Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

"And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Mark 16:15-16 NKJV

4. **God the Holy Spirit.** The third person in the triune Godhead. The Holy Spirit's presence in a Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

John 14:16-17 NKJV

5. **The scriptures.** The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to mankind.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

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II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

6. Last days. Eschatology, according to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth, the dead will be raised, and Christ will judge all people in righteousness.

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