



FIRST PETER

A Letter to Exiles

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As we begin this focus season, our journey will be walking through the book of First Peter. This book is a letter written from a pastor's heart to his people scattered and living in a different culture. These words from Peter encourage and strengthen his people to never lose sight of the hope we have and to live faithfully in the world around us.

Our desire for you during this season is to invest time in studying the Word of God. The Bible provides the truth to thrive. When we spend time in Scripture, the Holy Spirit speaks and molds as we ruminate on these passages. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says,

¹⁶"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

This year, our church will be walking through different books in the Bible, where we will be able to continue to apply the truths gained through a focused approach in studying and soaking in Scripture. We are excited to have you join us on this journey encountering God in the

Word. Our prayer for this year is that we would fall more in love with God and His Word as it changes us to reflect Him more.

The sermons and the focus season book will be a guide in studying the Scripture throughout the week. We encourage you to join a small group to connect and dive deeper into your understanding of the passage. The sermon will provide further context and knowledge to build a greater understanding and letting the truth of Scripture shape us. First Peter is full of promises and challenges to stretch us in living out our faith.

Focus Seasons are critical seasons in the life of Waite Park Church. So, we ask that you be fully-engaged over the next seven weeks.

- Make plans to be in worship service (either in person or online).*
- Join a Community or Connect Group.*
- Engage in the Family Discipleship Resources together.*

We hope you find this season to be life-changing and life-giving. We are excited you're joining us!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This Focus Season Book will guide you through the entire Focus Season. Please set aside time each week to study the book of First Peter. There is Scripture passage to read and questions to guide your study over four days throughout the week. Please use the space provided to write notes and thoughts in this book. Here is an outline for how each week is structured:

Day 1: *What does it say? Study* - The focus is on what you observe in the passage. Please hold off on analyzing or drawing conclusions.

Day 2: *What does it mean? Study* - The focus is understanding what the author intends to communicate. Commentaries and other resources are provided.

Day 3: *How should I respond? Study* - The focus is how to apply the truths from the passage to our lives. Take time to reflect on how areas of your life align with the truths in this passage.

Day 4: *Memorization* - The focus is hiding

the Word in our hearts to guide and integrate into how we live our lives.

Sunday: *Sermon Reflection Questions and Response* - After the service on Sunday, the sermon notes will include reflection questions to dive deeper into the passage and sermon. These notes will be posted on the website if you are watching online.

Family Devotional: Parents, after you've studied the passage each week, we want you to be able to share what you've learned with your kids and dive into the passage with them. The family devotional each week focuses on a verse or two for you to read together, an idea to practice what you've learned, and a fun way to memorize a verse together. And, each devotional includes something for your kids to complete, then turn in on Sunday for a prize!

This Focus Season provides the opportunity for you to dive deeper into the Word on your own, bring your insights and questions to a small group to discuss together, and hear teaching on the passage. The purpose of this Focus Season is to equip you with tools to study the Word and deepen your understanding of who God is and how to live faithfully in the current climate of our world.

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INTRO //

FIRST PETER

The first principle of Bible study is to remember that the Bible was written for us, but it wasn't written to us. Therefore, in order to understand what God was saying through a Biblical writer, there is a bit of cultural translation that needs to happen. This doesn't mean we can't just open our Bible and have God speak to us, but when we are engaging in Scripture study, we want to understand what the writer wanted to communicate to his audience first and foremost. Once we do that, we can then draw out principles, then apply them to our daily life. So, the method we will use is the three-question method. The three questions are:

What does it say? (What was the writer—in this case, Peter, saying to the people to whom he was writing? What would they have understood in their context?)

What does it mean? (What are the principles that transcend time and place that we can draw out from what God says through Peter?)

What should I know/believe/do? (How might this apply to my own life?)

To do this, it is always useful to have in mind, as best we can, the original audience and situation. Any good study Bible will contain an introduction that will address authorship, date, audience and social situation. The Bible Project also has great intros with the overall structure and themes of the book. You can find the video for 1 Peter at <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-peter/>.

For the book of 1 Peter, these can be summarized as such:

Author: The Apostle Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples. He was the first to make the profession that Jesus is the Messiah, Son of the Living God.

Date: Since Peter was martyred at the hands of Nero in 64 or 65 AD, this book was likely written sometime in the early 60s (25 years or so after Jesus' ascension) at the very beginning of Nero's persecution. They were delicate times for the Church.

Audience: Gentile Christians living in Asia Minor under the rule of the Roman Empire. Some believe most of these Gentile believers were first converts to Judaism or what we call God-fearers (Gentiles who worshipped the God of Israel, but didn't

want to convert fully in following the Law, including circumcision). This is why Peter was OK with using so many Old Testament images—since most Gentiles would not have been familiar with the Jewish Scriptures.

Peter addresses them as “resident aliens” in the Empire. It could have been by virtue of their social status as residents but not Roman Citizens. This would have put them in a social category under citizens, but above slaves. Some were even slaves themselves.

In addition, as Christians, their beliefs and lifestyle would have been at odds in many ways with their surrounding culture, which worshipped the Roman gods or even the Emperor! Thus, when Peter talks about them as the household of God or family of God, this would have been a great comfort in a world that was against them. The themes of exile, foreigners, suffering, persecution, community or family, but most of all hope and encouragement, run throughout 1 Peter. Despite the posture of the Empire against them, just as Jesus did during his ministry, Peter tells them not to return their attitude in kind. Followers of Jesus are to return blessings for curses, good deeds for persecution and love for hate. In this way, believers are a faithful

presence in the world that point directly to Jesus.

Reading Schedule:

Pre-Series: Whole Book

September 19-25: 1:1-12

Sept 26-Oct 3: 1:13-2:10

Oct 4-9: 2:11-3:7

Oct 10-16: 3:8-22

Oct 17-23: 4:1-11

Oct 24-30: 4:12-19

Oct 31-Nov 7: 5:1-14

Soaking in the Word

While you will spend an entire week on each section, we encourage you to go to the text daily—preferably in the morning, where you can take a word, a thought, an idea with you to ponder throughout the day. You can even write down or memorize a section and meditate on it throughout your day. The goal is not just to study the Word to get it into your head, but to absorb it into your life.

Studying the Word

While we want to absorb Scripture into our lives, we also want to study it for greater understanding. Thus, we provide these simple questions to help you understand what it says, what it means and what we should do about it? The purpose isn't to

answer all the questions, but use these as guides to help you gain understanding.

What does it Say?

- Summarize the section in your own words.
- What stands out to you from the passage? (i.e. what is convicting, confusing, troubling, powerful, etc.)
- What questions does it bring up?
- What words are repeated or seem important?
- If there is a logical argument, follow the argument. (Hint: Look for connecting or signal words like “if” “then” “because” “for” “therefore”, etc.)
- How might the passages before or after this section help us understand it?
- How might their social situation (their status as the people of God, living as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, etc.) help us understanding this section?

What does it mean?

- What points does the writer seem to be making?

- How is the situation of the audience similar to ours? How is it different?
- Which of his points seem to be bound by their situation? Which might have universal application?
- Is it a universal Principle?
- Is it Practical advice that might apply in that particular situation, but not others?
- Is it a Promise? (that God will always do X)

What should I know/believe/do as a result?

- How does the writer's idea, command or principle apply to people in general today?
- How does this apply to me?
- How does it change my thinking?
- How might it apply to a particular situation I am currently dealing with?
- What does wisdom look like for me?
- What does obedience look like for me?
- What am I going to do about it?

TOOLS AND COMMENTARIES:

Study Bible

I would recommend getting a good study bible for this year. Study Bibles contain notes that act as a built-in commentary to give you introductions to books of the Bible, cultural context, the nuances of words, etc. My favorite is one called The NIV Study Bible.

Bible Dictionary

A Bible dictionary is a topical book that is very helpful with background information. In it, you will find articles about Biblical cities, people, concepts, etc.

Commentary

A commentary is scholarly interpretation of the book, giving background information, the nuances of words as well as options for how other commentators have interpreted a particular passage. They should not take the place of your own study. You should do your study first, then check the commentary for anything you might have missed. I have found all of these are quite accessible for lay-people.

- 1 Peter (The NIV Application Commentary) by Scot McKnight
- 1 Peter (The Story of God Bible Commentary) by Dennis R. Edwards
- 1 Peter (Baker Exegetical Commentary) by Karen Jobes
- The Letters of James and Peter (New Daily Study Bible) by William Barclay

09/19/21

INTRO WRAP UP // SERMON REFLECTION

1. Review your observations, questions, and notes from introduction week reading.
2. Review sermon notes.
3. Reflect and answer questions from the sermon.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 1:1-12

Verse 8:

*Though you have
not seen him,
you love him; and
even though you
do not see him
now, you believe
in him and are
filled with an
inexpressible and
glorious joy,*

09/20/21

WEEK 1 // EXILES SCATTERED

INTRO:

Scripture is clear that God chose one family—the family of Abraham—to be his “chosen people.”

But he didn’t choose them for salvation, while everyone else would be damned. He chose them to be the people through which he brought his blessing to the world. While God expected that they live differently by following the Law of Moses as an example for the nations, that blessing was ultimately fulfilled when Jesus came as God in the flesh to live, die and rise again on our behalf.

While Jesus was in the body, he instituted the church to be the renewed people of God, but this time it was different. Rather than just the people of Israel, anyone could be a part of God’s chosen people through faithfulness to Jesus. What a great privilege!

This is the background for our understanding of Peter’s call to believers throughout the whole book. We are called to be a peculiar kind of people in a world where we reside, but don’t always belong.

DAY 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - Summarize the passage in your own words.
 - What stands out to you from the passage? (i.e. what is convicting, confusing, troubling, powerful, etc.)
 - What questions does it bring up?
 - What words are repeated or seem important?
 - If there is a logical argument, follow the argument. (Hint: Look for connecting or signal words like "if" "then" "because" "for" "therefore", etc.)
 - How might the passages before or after this section help us understand it?
 - How might their social situation (their status as the people of God, living as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, etc.) help us in understanding this section?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - What points does the writer seem to be making?
 - How is the situation of the audience similar to ours? How is it different?
 - Which of his points seem to be bound by their situation? Which might have universal application?
 - Is it a universal Principle?
 - Is it Practical advice that might apply in that particular situation, but not others?
 - Is it a Promise? (that God will always do X)
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 3 // HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - How does the writer's idea, command or principle apply to people in general today?
 - How does this apply to me?
 - How does it change my thinking?
 - How might it apply to a particular situation I am currently dealing with?
 - What does wisdom look like for me?
 - What does obedience look like for me?
 - What am I going to do about it?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 4 // MEMORIZATION

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12.
3. Select verse or phrase to memorize. Pick one that is meaningful to you, maybe one to live out. Here are tips for memorization.
 - Write verse.
 - Read verse aloud.
 - Place verse where you will see it often.
 - Carry the verse with you to review frequently.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read it: 1 Peter 1:6-7

Talk about it: Do you know what it means to be thankful? When we're thankful for something we're saying, "Hey! I'm really glad that happened" or "I'm really glad I have this thing." When everything is going right, those are days that it feels really easy to be thankful. But there are some days when nothing seems to be going right where being thankful can be harder.

1 Peter 1:6-7 says that, even in the middle of hard times, we can be thankful because no matter what we still have Jesus. He died on the cross and rose again so we can be forgiven and be friends with Him. Nothing can take that away – not even the most awful stuff that happens on our worst days. Practicing being thankful even on bad days is hard, but it helps us grow in our relationship with God when we're on the lookout for things to thank Him for.

Practice it: Draw a picture of something you're thankful for. Or, if you're up for a challenge, write all the letters of the alphabet on a piece of paper and think of something that starts with each letter that you're thankful for. Bring your project to the KidsPark check in desk on Sunday for a prize!

Memorize it: Write each word of 1 Peter 1:6-7 on slips of paper and tape those slips to some blocks or Legos. Make a tower out of the words in the right order.

SUNDAY // SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Review your observations, questions, and notes from this week's reading.
2. Review sermon notes.
3. Reflect and answer questions from the sermon.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 1:13-2:10

Verse 15-16:

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

9/27/21

WEEK 2 // BE HOLY

INTRO:

God is continually building his people into a spiritual house—or as some translations say, temple. The cornerstone of the temple is Jesus himself and each believer is a stone. But a temple is more than a building just like house is more than just the materials that make up the structure.

What is the difference between a house and a home? A home is a place where love dwells. It's a place of common culture and understanding. A home is where a family dwells. While a house may take months to build, a home is always in process.

In this section, Peter teaches believers what it means to make the church into more than just a collection of individuals, but a family that was brought together for a purpose—to reflect the glory of God to the world.

DAY 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:10.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - Summarize the passage in your own words.
 - What stands out to you from the passage? (i.e. what is convicting, confusing, troubling, powerful, etc.)
 - What questions does it bring up?
 - What words are repeated or seem important?
 - If there is a logical argument, follow the argument. (Hint: Look for connecting or signal words like "if" "then" "because" "for" "therefore", etc.)
 - How might the passages before or after this section help us understand it?
 - How might their social situation (their status as the people of God, living as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, etc.) help us in understanding this section?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:10.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - What points does the writer seem to be making?
 - How is the situation of the audience similar to ours? How is it different?
 - Which of his points seem to be bound by their situation? Which might have universal application?
 - Is it a universal Principle?
 - Is it Practical advice that might apply in that particular situation, but not others?
 - Is it a Promise? (that God will always do X)
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 3 // HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:10.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - How does the writer's idea, command or principle apply to people in general today?
 - How does this apply to me?
 - How does it change my thinking?
 - How might it apply to a particular situation I am currently dealing with?
 - What does wisdom look like for me?
 - What does obedience look like for me?
 - What am I going to do about it?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 4 // MEMORIZATION

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:10.
3. Select verse or phrase to memorize. Pick one that is meaningful to you, maybe one to live out. Here are tips for memorization.
 - Write verse.
 - Read verse aloud.
 - Place verse where you will see it often.
 - Carry the verse with you to review frequently.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read it: 1 Peter 2:9-10

Talk about it: People who are friends with Jesus and have let Him take charge of their lives have been brought together into God's great, big family. 1 Peter 2:9-10 tells us that God's family is special because the people in it have been chosen to praise Him and show the world how awesome He is. That's a cool job to be chosen for!

How do we do that special job? Well, we can praise God in lots of ways – through singing worship songs, talking to Him about how great He is, or reading the Bible and telling Him that He did a great job. We can show the world how awesome God is by learning about Him through His word, then doing the kinds of things He would do. The more you get to know Him, the more ideas you'll get on what to do.

Practice it: What's one way you can show someone else what God is like this week? Maybe you could show God's kindness by bringing a treat to a neighbor or show God's joy by singing a song for someone who feels lonely. There are lots of things you could try!

Memorize it: Write 1 Peter 2:9-10 in code. You can make up your own code or Google "spy codes for kids" for ideas. After you've written the verse in code, work together to decode the verse. Bring your decoded verse to the KidsPark check in desk on Sunday for a prize!

SUNDAY // SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Review your observations, questions, and notes from this week's reading.
2. Review sermon notes.
3. Reflect and answer questions from the sermon.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 2:11-3:7

Verse 12:

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

10/4/21

WEEK 3 // LIVING GODLY LIVES

INTRO:

The churches to whom Peter was writing had been pushed to the margins of society. Though they lived among the people, they lived differently, thought differently and held different values. Because of this, they faced continual ridicule and were under constant pressure to conform to the patterns of the world. Thus, they were always tempted to either accommodate or set themselves as enemies of the world.

But Peter says there is a different way—the way of faithful presence. To live consistently with who God called them to be regardless of the earthly consequences. This kind of living is so honorable, gentle and respectful that it stops people in their tracks and makes them take note of their own lives.

In this section, Peter employs ancient “household codes” to teach believers how they ought to live in whatever social location they found themselves.

DAY 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-3:7.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - Summarize the passage in your own words.
 - What stands out to you from the passage? (i.e. what is convicting, confusing, troubling, powerful, etc.)
 - What questions does it bring up?
 - What words are repeated or seem important?
 - If there is a logical argument, follow the argument. (Hint: Look for connecting or signal words like "if" "then" "because" "for" "therefore", etc.)
 - How might the passages before or after this section help us understand it?
 - How might their social situation (their status as the people of God, living as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, etc.) help us in understanding this section?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-3:7.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - What points does the writer seem to be making?
 - How is the situation of the audience similar to ours? How is it different?
 - Which of his points seem to be bound by their situation? Which might have universal application?
 - Is it a universal Principle?
 - Is it Practical advice that might apply in that particular situation, but not others?
 - Is it a Promise? (that God will always do X)
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 3 // HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-3:7.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - How does the writer's idea, command or principle apply to people in general today?
 - How does this apply to me?
 - How does it change my thinking?
 - How might it apply to a particular situation I am currently dealing with?
 - What does wisdom look like for me?
 - What does obedience look like for me?
 - What am I going to do about it?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 4 // MEMORIZATION

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:11-3:7.
3. Select verse or phrase to memorize. Pick one that is meaningful to you, maybe one to live out. Here are tips for memorization.
 - Write verse.
 - Read verse aloud.
 - Place verse where you will see it often.
 - Carry the verse with you to review frequently.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read it: 1 Peter 2:12

Talk about it: 1 Peter 2:12 tells us that the words we say, the things we do, and the attitudes in our hearts should show people how much we love God. It should be so obvious that, if someone were to say we did a bad thing, no one else would believe them.

Living that kind of life isn't something we can do on our own. We need the Holy Spirit's help to keep becoming more and more like Jesus. And, even then, we'll still make mistakes sometimes. But God wants to help us do it.

Practice it: Pour some water into a bowl, then sprinkle some ground black pepper onto the water. Stick your finger into the center of the dish. Does anything happen? Next, put a little bit of liquid dish soap on the tip of your finger and stick it back into the dish. What happens to the pepper now? The soap makes a big difference! Pray together and ask God to make a difference in your hearts and make you more like Him. And, if you take a picture or a video of your experiment and show it to the person at the KidsPark check in desk on Sunday, you'll get a prize!

Memorize it: Write 1 Peter 2:12 on a chalkboard or whiteboard. Read it aloud, then erase two words and try to read the verse again. Erase a few more words each round until all the words are gone.

SUNDAY // SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Review your observations, questions, and notes from this week's reading.
2. Review sermon notes.
3. Reflect and answer questions from the sermon.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 3:8-22

Verse 15:

*But in your hearts
revere Christ as
Lord. Always be
prepared to give an
answer to everyone
who asks you to
give the reason for
the hope that you
have. But do this
with gentleness
and respect.*

10/11/21

WEEK 5 // GODLY CHARACTER

INTRO:

“Always be ready to give an answer for the hope you have.” This is probably the most famous verse in the book of 1 Peter. It sounds nice—like you’re out with friends having a nice dinner and talking to them about Jesus. But Peter’s exhortation comes in the context of suffering and persecution. It’s one thing to have hope when things are going well, it’s much different when you are suffering. This is when we find out where our hope truly lies. And the best part is that when we hold out hope in the midst of suffering, we look like Jesus.

DAY 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - Summarize the passage in your own words.
 - What stands out to you from the passage? (i.e. what is convicting, confusing, troubling, powerful, etc.)
 - What questions does it bring up?
 - What words are repeated or seem important?
 - If there is a logical argument, follow the argument. (Hint: Look for connecting or signal words like "if" "then" "because" "for" "therefore", etc.)
 - How might the passages before or after this section help us understand it?
 - How might their social situation (their status as the people of God, living as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, etc.) help us in understanding this section?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to t hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - What points does the writer seem to be making?
 - How is the situation of the audience similar to ours? How is it different?
 - Which of his points seem to be bound by their situation? Which might have universal application?
 - Is it a universal Principle?
 - Is it Practical advice that might apply in that particular situation, but not others?
 - Is it a Promise? (that God will always do X)
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 3 // HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - How does the writer's idea, command or principle apply to people in general today?
 - How does this apply to me?
 - How does it change my thinking?
 - How might it apply to a particular situation I am currently dealing with?
 - What does wisdom look like for me?
 - What does obedience look like for me?
 - What am I going to do about it?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 4 // MEMORIZATION

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22.
3. Select verse or phrase to memorize. Pick one that is meaningful to you, maybe one to live out. Here are tips for memorization.
 - Write verse.
 - Read verse aloud.
 - Place verse where you will see it often.
 - Carry the verse with you to review frequently.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read it: 1 Peter 3:15

Talk about it: When you hear it's going to snow, there are things you do to get ready. You might set out your boots, snow pants, and sled. Your parents might even get out some hot cocoa packets. You would do those things because, if it snows and someone invites you to go sledding, you want to be ready...and be sure there will be cocoa ready to warm you up afterwards!

In the same way, 1 Peter 3:15 tells us that we should be ready to explain why we have hope, even when everything is going wrong. And, when we tell them about the ways Jesus has helped us, we should do it kindly. No one would want a know-it-all to make them feel silly or not-so-smart because they didn't know about Jesus.

Practice it: Think of a time Jesus helped you. Maybe He comforted you when you were sad or helped you to be brave when you were scared of something new. That's a story you can share with someone who asks you why you have hope! Draw or write about this time Jesus helped you, then bring your finished project to the KidsPark check in desk on Sunday for a prize.

Memorize it: Toss a ball to each other. Whoever is holding the ball should say the first word of 1 Peter 3:15, then whoever gets the ball next should say the next word of the verse. Keep tossing until you get through the whole verse.

SUNDAY // SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Review your observations, questions, and notes from this week's reading.
2. Review sermon notes.
3. Reflect and answer questions from the sermon.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 4:1-11

Verse 8:

*Above all, love
each other
deeply, because
love covers over
a multitude of
sins.*

10/18/21

WEEK 5 // LIVING FOR GOD

INTRO:

Jesus, Paul and Peter are consistent in the message that we are to follow Jesus through the downward journey. We live when we die to ourselves. We are great when we make ourselves least. We are happy when we don't seek our own happiness. Of course, this means that we will suffer in this life, but suffering is the path to future glory.

But we should not try to do this alone. This kind of life takes a community. In this section, Peter give practical instructions for how to develop a community where people serve one another and Christ is glorified above all things.

DAY 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - Summarize the passage in your own words.
 - What stands out to you from the passage? (i.e. what is convicting, confusing, troubling, powerful, etc.)
 - What questions does it bring up?
 - What words are repeated or seem important?
 - If there is a logical argument, follow the argument. (Hint: Look for connecting or signal words like "if" "then" "because" "for" "therefore", etc.)
 - How might the passages before or after this section help us understand it?
 - How might their social situation (their status as the people of God, living as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, etc.) help us in understanding this section?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - What points does the writer seem to be making?
 - How is the situation of the audience similar to ours? How is it different?
 - Which of his points seem to be bound by their situation? Which might have universal application?
 - Is it a universal Principle?
 - Is it Practical advice that might apply in that particular situation, but not others?
 - Is it a Promise? (that God will always do X)
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 3 // HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - How does the writer's idea, command or principle apply to people in general today?
 - How does this apply to me?
 - How does it change my thinking?
 - How might it apply to a particular situation I am currently dealing with?
 - What does wisdom look like for me?
 - What does obedience look like for me?
 - What am I going to do about it?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 4 // MEMORIZATION

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:1-11.
3. Select verse or phrase to memorize. Pick one that is meaningful to you, maybe one to live out. Here are tips for memorization.
 - Write verse.
 - Read verse aloud.
 - Place verse where you will see it often.
 - Carry the verse with you to review frequently.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read it: 1 Peter 4:10

Talk about it: Imagine a big box of tools. If you need to nail two boards together, should you use the hammer or the saw? If you need to measure a wall, should you use the screwdriver or the tape measure? Every tool does a different job and having all those tools together in the box means you're ready for any job that comes your way!

The church is kind of like a big box of tools. Some of us are good at making people feel welcome and others are good at saying encouraging things. Some of us are good at teaching and others are good at creating things. God has made each of us good at something – what 1 Peter 4:10 calls our “gift” – and our church needs your gifts! We wouldn't be the same without you.

Practice it: What are you good at? How can you use what you're good at to serve other people? Talk about it together as a family, then ask God to help you use your gifts to serve others.

Memorize it: Memorize 1 Peter 4:10 by reading it aloud in a different voice each time. You could try whispering it, then saying it in a robot voice, then maybe an opera voice! Take a video of one of your “silly voice” versions of 1 Peter 4:10, then show the video to the person at the KidsPark check in desk on Sunday to get a prize.

SUNDAY // SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Review your observations, questions, and notes from this week's reading.
2. Review sermon notes.
3. Reflect and answer questions from the sermon.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 4:12-19

Verse 19:

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

10/25/21

WEEK 6 // SUFFERING FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN

INTRO:

The people of the churches of Asia Minor were experiencing persecution and marginalization. But Peter tells them to not be surprised by it, but instead embrace it because their suffering proves their solidarity with Christ. Anyone can suffer for behaving badly, but those who suffer for doing good are blessed by God. And even better, it is evidence to unbelievers of the truth of the gospel.

DAY 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - Summarize the passage in your own words.
 - What stands out to you from the passage? (i.e. what is convicting, confusing, troubling, powerful, etc.)
 - What questions does it bring up?
 - What words are repeated or seem important?
 - If there is a logical argument, follow the argument. (Hint: Look for connecting or signal words like "if" "then" "because" "for" "therefore", etc.)
 - How might the passages before or after this section help us understand it?
 - How might their social situation (their status as the people of God, living as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, etc.) help us in understanding this section?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - What points does the writer seem to be making?
 - How is the situation of the audience similar to ours? How is it different?
 - Which of his points seem to be bound by their situation? Which might have universal application?
 - Is it a universal Principle?
 - Is it Practical advice that might apply in that particular situation, but not others?
 - Is it a Promise? (that God will always do X)
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 3 // HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - How does the writer's idea, command or principle apply to people in general today?
 - How does this apply to me?
 - How does it change my thinking?
 - How might it apply to a particular situation I am currently dealing with?
 - What does wisdom look like for me?
 - What does obedience look like for me?
 - What am I going to do about it?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 4 // MEMORIZATION

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.
3. Select verse or phrase to memorize. Pick one that is meaningful to you, maybe one to live out. Here are tips for memorization.
 - Write verse.
 - Read verse aloud.
 - Place verse where you will see it often.
 - Carry the verse with you to review frequently.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read it: 1 Peter 4:19

Talk about it: Let's say your family decides to go on a hike. Your parents tell you ahead of time, "At the very top of this mountain, we'll enjoy an incredible view. But it's not going to be an easy hike. Some parts are steep and it's going to get hot. But remember, the view in the end is beautiful." You might feel a little nervous, but you can stick with the hike because you know that, even when it's hard, you'll have your family with you and the view at the end will be amazing.

1 Peter 4:19 tells us that's what it will be like as Christians. It won't always be easy to follow Jesus. But we can choose to keep on doing good, knowing that He is faithful and will be with us every step of the way.

Practice it: When we say someone is faithful, it means they're trustworthy, someone you can depend on. And God is more faithful than anyone you can imagine. Create the word "faithful" using Play-Doh, macaroni noodles, markers, or whatever you'd like. Bring your finished project (or take a picture of it) and show it to the person at the KidsPark check in desk on Sunday to get a prize.

Memorize it: Memorize 1 Peter 4:19 by writing each word on a different index card. Flip over the cards and mix them up. Flip the cards right-side up and see if you can put them in the right order.

SUNDAY // SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Review your observations, questions, and notes from this week's reading.
2. Review sermon notes.
3. Reflect and answer questions from the sermon.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 5:1-14

Verse 6:

*Humble
yourselves,
therefore, under
God's mighty
hand, that he
may lift you up in
due time.*

11/1/21

WEEK 7 // INSTRUCTIONS TO LEADERS

INTRO:

The final chapter of his letter giving believers some final instructions for living in the church. He writes, first to elder, then to younger people in the congregations and then to everyone—encouraging them to stand firm because in the end will be the eternal glory of Christ.

DAY 1 // WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-14.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - Summarize the passage in your own words.
 - What stands out to you from the passage? (i.e. what is convicting, confusing, troubling, powerful, etc.)
 - What questions does it bring up?
 - What words are repeated or seem important?
 - If there is a logical argument, follow the argument. (Hint: Look for connecting or signal words like "if" "then" "because" "for" "therefore", etc.)
 - How might the passages before or after this section help us understand it?
 - How might their social situation (their status as the people of God, living as a persecuted minority in the Roman Empire, etc.) help us in understanding this section?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 2 // WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-14.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - What points does the writer seem to be making?
 - How is the situation of the audience similar to ours? How is it different?
 - Which of his points seem to be bound by their situation? Which might have universal application?
 - Is it a universal Principle?
 - Is it Practical advice that might apply in that particular situation, but not others?
 - Is it a Promise? (that God will always do X)
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 3 // HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-14.
3. Write using these questions as guide.
 - How does the writer's idea, command or principle apply to people in general today?
 - How does this apply to me?
 - How does it change my thinking?
 - How might it apply to a particular situation I am currently dealing with?
 - What does wisdom look like for me?
 - What does obedience look like for me?
 - What am I going to do about it?
4. Close with Prayer. Spend time listening for God's voice.

DAY 4 // MEMORIZATION

1. Start with Prayer: Ask God to open your heart and mind to hear from Him.
2. Read 1 Peter 5:1-14.
3. Select verse or phrase to memorize. Pick one that is meaningful to you, maybe one to live out. Here are tips for memorization.
 - Write verse.
 - Read verse aloud.
 - Place verse where you will see it often.
 - Carry the verse with you to review frequently.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Read it: 1 Peter 5:7

Talk about it: Fill a backpack with heavy things – maybe some books, a pot, or some rocks. Put on the backpack and feel how hard it is to walk around with. Our worries can feel heavy, just like all that stuff in your backpack. But we don't have to carry all that! 1 Peter 5:7 tells us we can give God all our worries.

When you start to feel worry in your heart, you can say something like this to God: "God, I'm really worried about going to sleep in the dark. The dark is scary. I don't like it. But I trust you to take care of me." When we give our worries to God like that, it's like taking something heavy out of our backpack. It can help us feel so much better!

Practice it: With your family, take the heavy things out of the backpack one by one and talk about things you're either worried about now or have worried about before. Pray and give God those worries as you unpack the backpack.

Memorize it: Write 1 Peter 5:7 onto a sticky note or a piece of paper. Hang it someplace where you'll see it a lot – maybe the mirror in the bathroom where you brush your teeth. Practice seeing it every time you see it! Take a picture of where you've hung your verse and show it to the person at the KidsPark check in desk on Sunday to get a prize.

SUNDAY // SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Review your observations, questions, and notes from this week's reading.
2. Review sermon notes.
3. Reflect and answer questions from the sermon.

APPENDIX //

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Discuss what the passage says and the other observation questions.

2. What meaning did you find in studying the passage?

3. How should we respond to the passage? Is there one that has been the most impactful to you?

4. What insights did you gain from the sermon?

5. What learning would you like to carry into the next week of studying?



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