

FOLLOWING JESUS

IN A WORLD THAT DOESN'T

A STUDY ON 1 PETER

STUDY TOOLS

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Teaching: *Living Hope*

Key Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1–12

5-DAY READING PLAN WITH QUESTIONS:

Monday: 1 Peter 1:1-12

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 15:12-34

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Friday: 1 Peter 1:1-12

1. What does this passage tell you about God?
2. What does this passage tell you about people?
3. If this is God's Word (The Bible), what do I need to do?
4. What is your takeaway?
5. Who would you tell?

CEDAR VALLEY

Memorizing Scripture provides spiritual strength, guides your daily life, and equips you for ministry in everyday moments. For the rest of the year, we're switching things up! Each week, we encourage **you** to choose one verse from the weekly Key Scripture that stands out to you and commit it to memory. Before you choose your verse, ask God to reveal the one you most need to hide in your heart. Over time, you'll be amazed at how God brings that verse to mind—whether to strengthen and encourage you or to help you encourage someone else.

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION: In 1 Peter 1:1–12, Peter writes to Christians who are struggling, feeling rejected, and living in a world where following Jesus can make life more difficult, not easier. He reminds them that they are chosen by God and have a secure identity that circumstances and rejection cannot take away. Their hope is not wishful thinking or blind optimism; it is a confident expectation grounded in the resurrection of Jesus. Those who trust in Jesus experience new life through Jesus' resurrection and have received an inheritance that cannot be taken from them. Peter acknowledges that suffering is real, but reminds them that God can use trials to deepen, refine, and reveal genuine faith. Even when they cannot see what God is doing, they can trust Him because their faith is built on the reality of the empty tomb. Our hope is alive because Jesus is alive. See Note for background on author, the apostle Peter.

Questions: Ice Breaker: What is the furthest you have ever lived or traveled from home? How did it feel to be an "outsider" or a stranger in that place?

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1-12 together as a group. What language does Peter use to describe the recipients of this letter, who are mostly Gentile believers? Why might it be important for all believers to remember this identity? (For further background, read Deuteronomy 4:37 and 7:6-8. Gentile comes from the Greek word ἔθνος (*ethnos*) which means nation or people group. Essentially Gentiles are non-Jews)
2. In verse 2, all three members of the Trinity are mentioned. What role does each play in our salvation?
3. What does Peter say is the reason Christians can have "great expectation" or living hope? Why is the resurrection of Jesus so central to Christian hope?
4. What does Peter say is being kept for believers? What does he say God is doing for believers in the meantime? How might these promises give someone confidence during a difficult season?
5. Peter acknowledges that Christians will experience trials. What does he say trials can accomplish in a person's faith? How does this change the way we might understand suffering?
6. Verses 10–12 describe the prophets and even the angels looking forward to and marveling at God's salvation. What does this tell us about the significance of what we have received through Jesus?

7. What is one situation in your life right now where you need to practice trusting what you cannot see because you know Jesus is alive?

NOTES | Background on Peter in the Gospels from Pastor Neal's sermon:

When Jesus first met Peter, he was a fisherman.

Matthew 4:18-19 - One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

And Peter followed Him. For three years Peter had a front-row seat to Jesus. Peter watched Jesus heal sick people, feed thousands, calm storms, raise the dead, and Peter even walked on water (sort of!). One minute he's walking on water; the next minute Jesus is fishing him out.

One minute, Peter gets things exactly right. Look at Matthew 16:15-16:

Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, [a] the Son of the living God."

And then, just a few verses later, Peter starts correcting Jesus, and Jesus has to tell him:

Get away from me, Satan! (Matthew 16:23)

That's a tough day. He went from "Blessed are you, Simon" to "Get behind me, Satan" in the same conversation. That's Peter. Bold, impulsive, passionate, sometimes brilliant, sometimes completely wrong.

But Peter's greatest failure came on the night Jesus was arrested. Jesus told Peter in Matthew 26:34:

This very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me.

Peter basically says – "maybe these guys but never me!" Hours later, Jesus has been arrested. Peter is standing outside. Someone recognizes him. Peter denies Jesus three times and weeps bitterly. Peter failed Jesus at the very moment Jesus needed him most.

But in John 21:15-19, Jesus restores Peter by asking him, "Do you love me?" three times. Peter certainly failed, but he also received grace, mercy, and forgiveness from Jesus. Just like Peter, your worst failure is not the final chapter of your life!

DIGGING DEEPER | For a helpful overview of the letter of 1 Peter, please watch this Bible Project video as a group:

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/1-peter/>

The New Testament talks about salvation as past, present, and future. This is very prominent in 1 Peter. See this chart below from the work of Theologian Roger Olson's, *The Mosaic of Christian Belief*.

Past	Justification	We have been saved from the <i>penalty</i> of sin. This is our initial conversion, where God forgives our sins and declares us righteous by faith through Christ's work on the cross.
Present	Sanctification	We are being saved from the <i>power</i> of sin. This is an ongoing, conditional experience where the Holy Spirit actively transforms our hearts, thought lives, and behaviors to conform to Christ.
Future	Glorification	We will be saved from the <i>presence</i> of sin. This is the final consummation of our salvation on the Last Day when Christ returns, restoring creation and raising us in perfected, resurrected bodies.