

1 Peter
Leader Guide
(NASB and ESV)

HOW TO STAND FIRM
WHEN TESTED

1 Peter Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)
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1st Edition (1/2019)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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1 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis

- Overview of 1 Peter

To begin your first discussion, you might ask your group if there was anything in 1 Peter that spoke to them, or questions they might have. Give a brief time for them to share.

Direct them to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid for this discussion.

AUTHOR

How does 1 Peter begin? Who is the author?

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ

What does the rest of 1 Peter tell about Peter, the author?

He witnessed Christ's sufferings.

He was also an elder, shepherd, over the church.

Peter said in 5:1 he was a partaker of the glory to be revealed.

Also in the last chapter, Peter named Silvanus and Mark.

Silvanus was probably the scribe for this letter dictated by Peter.

Mark was Peter's son in the Lord.

What do the cross-references in Day Five add to the information about Peter?

John 1:40-42; Mark 1:4-18

Andrew, Peter's brother, told him about finding the Messiah—Christ—and brought Peter to Jesus, who gave Simon the name Peter or Cephas.

Simon and Andrew were fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. He told them that He would make them fishers of men, and they followed Him.

Matthew 14:22-33

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, Peter asked that Jesus command him to go to Him on the water. Jesus commanded, and Peter walked on the water until he saw the wind. He was frightened and started to sink. But when he called to Jesus to save him, He did. Jesus commented about Peter's little faith and doubting.

Matthew 16:13-19

Peter was the disciple who answered Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am?" The Father revealed to Peter that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the living God. Jesus' response to Peter was about building His church on the rock. He gave Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 17:1-8

Peter saw Jesus transfigured and heard the voice out the cloud say to listen to Him, the Father's beloved Son.

Matthew 26:69-75

After Jesus was arrested, Peter denied three times that he knew Him. Then when the rooster crowed, he remembered Jesus said it would happen. Peter wept bitterly.

John 21:1-11, 15-19

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the eleven disciples at the Sea of Galilee. When one recognized that it was Jesus, Peter dove in the water and got to Jesus before the others.

Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him, and Peter responded that he did. Jesus commanded him to tend His lambs, shepherd His sheep, and tend His sheep. Then He told Peter how he would die, glorifying God. His last command to Peter was to follow Him.

Acts 2:1, 14-24, 37-41

On Pentecost day, after Jesus was taken to heaven, Peter preached to a crowd in Jerusalem. He told the men of Israel to listen and take heed to his words. He quoted from Joel to explain that God had poured forth His Spirit on believers. Then he gave the gospel of Jesus Christ to them, and 3,000 souls were saved.

Lead your discussion back to the 1 Peter overview.

RECIPIENTS

Who did Peter write this letter to? Who were the recipients? Where were they?
Tell your group to look at "Recipients" page and the map as visual aids also.

They resided as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. (ESV—those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in...)

2:12 says they lived among the Gentiles.

They were chosen and born again, had an imperishable inheritance in heaven.
God's power protected / guarded them.
Although Peter had seen Jesus, the people addressed in this letter had not, 1:8.
1:12 seems to indicate that they had heard the gospel from someone other than Peter.

They were going through various trials and sufferings—part of the historical setting.

1:6-7

3:14

4:12-13

5:9-10

2:9-10 gives a list about these scattered believers

Chosen race

Royal priesthood

Holy nation

A people for God's possession

Once not a people, but now people of God

Once not received mercy, but now received it

Others slandered / spoke against them as evildoers.

2:12

3:16

4:4

Give a brief time to discuss any relevant application for believers now and how 1 Peter speaks to believers, especially your group.

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Why did Peter write to those scattered believers? What did he want them to know and to do?

1 Peter 5:12 states Peter's purpose for writing this letter.

It was written as an exhortation, and in it Peter testified to what the true grace of God is.
He told them to stand firm in the true grace of God.

What does 1 Peter say about "grace"? Tell your group to look at the list they made on Day Four.

1:2, Peter asked that grace and peace be theirs in fullest measure

1:10, prophets prophesied about grace to come to the believers

1:13, and grace will be brought to believers at Christ's revelation

3:7, wives are fellow heirs of the grace of life

4:10, God's grace is manifold

5:5, He gives grace to the humble

5:10, He is the God of all grace

5:12, the message in 1 Peter is the true grace of God. Believers are to stand firm in it.

How does that relate to believers now?

This letter still has the same purpose for the church.
Believers need to understand God's true grace and grow in it, stand in it.

KEY WORDS

At this point, you can ask what your group observed in each chapter as they marked Key Words. You can tell them to look at the list of topics they made on Day One as well as their Observation Worksheets.

NOTE: The following information is for your benefit. It's not necessary to bring up anything your group doesn't. Just stay with what they observed because this is only the overview lesson.

1 Peter 1

- grace and salvation—both Key Words in this letter
- trials, a Key Word
- commands
- conduct
- God's Word
- glory, a Key Word

1 Peter 2

- spiritual growth
- living stones and Jesus the stone
- believers and unbelievers
- behavior and conduct
- submission and suffering

1 Peter 3

- wives and husbands
- “doing good,” “right,” “good”
- spirits in Noah's days
- baptism and salvation

1 Peter 4

- suffering and lifestyle
- gifts for serving one another
- suffering, glory, and God's judgment

1 Peter 5

- elders
- humility
- the devil

To end this discussion, ask how the Lord spoke to any of your group.

1 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 1:1-5

REVIEW

Begin with a review from the overview lesson. Ask what your group remembers about the recipients, the author, and his purpose for writing. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart.

It's a letter written to believers.

They suffered trials, and the apostle Peter wrote to exhort them to stand firm in the true grace of God. That grace includes suffering and trials.

1 PETER 1

Verses 1-2

Tell your group to look at the map, and ask what they learned about those believers.

Scattered throughout: Pontus
Galatia
Cappadocia
Asia
Bithynia

Then ask what they learned from the cross-references about others who were scattered.

Acts 8:1, 4; 11:19-21

There was a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and all but the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. They preached the word and the church spread.

The persecution of Acts 8 was when Stephen was stoned in Jerusalem. Some of the Jewish believers in Jesus Christ made their way to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch in Syria. They witnessed to Jews.

Then some others came to Antioch and preached the Lord Jesus to Greeks also.

James 1:1

James wrote his letter to the twelve tribes of Israel in the Dispersion. They were also believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.

How did Peter describe those scattered / dispersed, suffering believers?

He told them they were chosen. (ESV—he addressed them as elect exiles)

According to God's foreknowledge
By the Spirit's sanctifying
To obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood

You might list the above on a visual aid. See the end of this lesson's guide.

Ask your group what they think hearing these things would do for those scattered believers?

What do the cross-references about "chosen" add to what verses 1 and 2 say?

1 Peter 2:4 and 6

This refers to Jesus as a living stone rejected by men, but chosen by God.

1 Peter 2:9

This is believers—a chosen race. As such, they proclaim His excellencies.

Colossians 3:12

As God's chosen ones, here are other commands for believers. Put on. . . .

Ephesians 1:3-4

Believers were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.
Chosen to be holy and blameless before Him

There is a purpose and responsibilities for believers, for those chosen / elect by God.

John 15:16

Jesus told His disciples He chose them and appointed them to bear fruit that remains.

Romans 8:33

None can bring a charge against God's elect.
Relate this to 1 Peter; those believers were slandered although righteous in God's sight.

2 Timothy 2:10

Paul spoke of those who had not yet been saved, although they were chosen.

Paul endured sufferings, as did Peter, for the sake of those who would hear the gospel through him and be saved. But God had chosen them before the foundation of the world. The result is eternal glory for those chosen by God.

Titus 1:1

Paul was an apostle for the sake of those chosen, but not yet believing in Jesus Christ.

You might ask your group how knowing God chose them relates to their individual lives.

Ask what they learned about foreknowledge.

1 Peter 1:1-2 “chosen / elect...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...”

1 Peter 1:20

Jesus was known before the foundation of the world, but appeared / was manifested in human form in the last times.

2 Peter 3:17

“...knowing this beforehand...”

People can have foreknowledge as Peter warned these believers.

Acts 2:23

Jesus was delivered to the cross by God’s foreknowledge. It was His plan before it happened.

Romans 8:29-30

Those foreknown are predestined to be conformed into Jesus’ image. Believers are also the called, justified, and glorified.

First Peter says a lot about glory. It seems that there is a connection with suffering, being conformed to Jesus’ image, and the glory to be revealed at His coming.

Romans 11:2

God also foreknew His people Israel. He has not rejected them.

NOTE: Caution regarding “foreknowledge.” The Bible does not teach that God chose because He knew beforehand who would accept Jesus. The choice and foreknowledge are God’s, not man’s.

What else does verse 2 say? Ask what they learned about sanctification.

The Spirit does the sanctifying work. It’s connected to how believers are chosen.

Sanctification is “separation unto God”¹; “holiness”²; “consecration, purification.”³
It’s from the same root word as “holy.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Paul said a similar thing: God chose believers for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit. The Spirit of God sets apart the chosen, sanctifies them.

Hebrews 10:9-14 and 1 Corinthians 1:30

Believers are sanctified initially by Jesus’ sacrifice for sin.

¹Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1992), G38.

²Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 566.

³James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G38.

Give time for your group to discuss how this affects their lives.

What is next in the list in verse 2? Ask about the cross-references also.

Believers are chosen to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood

Romans 1:5 and 16:25-26

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, proclaimed the gospel to bring about the obedience of faith among the Gentiles / all the nations.

Acts 6:7

Many priests became obedient to the faith.

The obedience in these verses is obeying Him by believing in Him.

Then ask what they learned about being sprinkled with Jesus' blood.

Believers were chosen by God to be sprinkled with Jesus' blood. This happens when they are saved, born again.

1 Peter 1:18-19

Redemption is by His blood.

Hebrews 12:24 and 10:22

Believers are sprinkled with Jesus' blood, cleansing the heart to serve Him.

Ask how this applies to your group. Give them time to discuss how it relates to them.

What else did Peter say in verse 2? What was his prayer or encouragement in their circumstances?

Grace and peace in fullest measure / multiplied

Verses 3-5 and 22-23

What are these verses about? Ask about the definition of hope.

At this point you can add to your visual aid list.

Being born again

God caused believers to be born again according to His great mercy.

New birth is caused by Him and brought about by the resurrection of Jesus Christ—life from the dead. It's a living hope—a living, "confident expectation."⁴

⁴W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger and William White, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1996). 2:311-312.

To obtain an inheritance—imperishable, undefiled, won't fade, reserved in heaven. The inheritance is for those protected / guarded by God's power.

Verse 23 says new birth is not of perishable seed, but the living Word of God.

Ask what your group learned about being born again from the cross-references.

John 3

A person must be born of water—flesh, physical—and the Spirit to enter God's kingdom.

Entering His kingdom—life eternal, not perishing spiritually—is given to those who believe in the name of Jesus.

And there will be results, practicing the truth. No one can see the Spirit, but there will be results of the Spirit in believers' lives, just as no one can see the wind, but the results of wind.

1 John

Practices / continues to practice righteousness, not sin

This is a result of God's seed—the Holy Spirit—abiding within.

If a person practices sin, he is of the devil.

Loving brothers, the children born of Him

It's obvious / evident that the one who hates his brother is a child of the devil.

Believes Jesus is the Christ

Loves the Father

Keeps God's commandments

Overcomes the world by faith

Kept / protected by God and the evil one doesn't touch Him

Encourage your group to examine their lives. Do their lives show they are born again?

Lead the discussion back to 1 Peter 1. What does verse 5 say about believers?

Protected by God's power, resurrection power

through faith

for a salvation to be revealed in the last time

Ask what they learned about the salvation revealed in the last time from the cross-references.

Philippians 1:6

God will perfect (ESV—bring to completion) the good work He began in believers until the day of Christ.

1 John 3:2-3

Believers will be like Him when He appears.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

God will sanctify believers entirely to be complete and blameless at Jesus' coming.

1 Peter 1:13

There is a grace to come for believers when Christ is revealed. Believers are to fix their hope on that grace to come.

How secure is salvation? Give your group time to think about this.

God began it and He will complete it. Believers are protected / guarded by His power.

NOTE: Since your group observed 1 Peter 1, you can ask about their observations on the rest of this chapter. But it will be studied more in the next lesson.

Verses 6-12

Ask what your group observed in these verses.

Verses 6-9

Rejoicing

Trials—the proof / tested genuineness of one's faith

Faith in Jesus

Glory

Salvation

Verses 10-12

Salvation prophesied—Christ's sufferings and glory

Verses 13-16

How do these verses differ from verses 1-12?

1-12 are about salvation

Verse 13 begins with "therefore"

13-16 tell those who are saved what to do

- Prepare minds
- Keep sober / be sober-minded
- Fix / set hope on grace at Jesus' revelation
- Don't be conformed to former lusts / passions
- Be holy in all behavior / conduct

Verses 17-21

Ask about observations on these verses.

God is the judge, so believers are to conduct themselves fearing Him during their lives. This section is also about redemption / ransom by Jesus' blood.

Verses 22-25

What are some key words in these verses?

Love fervently / earnestly for Christian brothers, something else believers are to do
Born again
God's Word

Ask what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for this chapter.

Chosen, born again, salvation; therefore prepare minds for action
or
Salvation; prepared minds and holy conduct

To close your discussion, ask what your group learned from this chapter about salvation, true grace, and about standing firm in it.

chosen / elect

according to God's foreknowledge
by the sanctifying work of the Spirit
to obey Christ and be sprinkled with His blood

born again

God caused according to His mercy
to a living hope
through living word

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 1:6-25

REVIEW

To begin your discussion, ask your group why Peter wrote this letter.

5:12—It should be memorized by the time the course is finished.

How do 1 Peter 1:1-2 introduce the author and the recipients of this letter?

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ
To those who reside as aliens / exiles, scattered
Chosen /elect
According to God's foreknowledge
By Spirit's sanctifying
To obey Jesus Christ

What are verses 3-5 about?

God caused believers to be born again through Jesus' resurrection.
An imperishable inheritance is reserved / kept in heaven.
God's power protects / guards believers.

NOTE: Watch your time as there is a lot to discuss from this lesson.

1 PETER 1:6-25

Verses 6-9

How does "in this" in verse 6 relate to verses 1-5?

"This" is salvation protected by God's power.

What are verses 6-9 about?

trials

What do these verses say about trials? And ask about the word study.

Believers can rejoice even though distressed by trials—now for a little while.
Trials are designed to prove one's faith.

proof / genuineness—“that by which something is tried or proved”¹; “approved after trial”²; “a crucible, a test”³

Trials are like tests by fire.
The results are praise, glory, and honor at Jesus’ revelation.
The outcome of one’s faith is his soul’s salvation.

How do the cross-references relate to trials? Discuss application when relevant.

James 1:2-4, 12

This compares with 1 Peter 1:6—joy because faith is proven.
Testing . . . produces . . . approved (ESV—stood the test) . . . receive the crown of life

Romans 5:1-5

Exult in tribulations / sufferings . . . knowing . . . it brings about—perseverance / endurance, proven character, and hope.

Christians can have this attitude while being tested because of God’s love poured out in their hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 1:27-30

Sometimes trials come from opponents, those opposing the gospel. Believers shouldn’t be alarmed by these kinds of trials. Suffering for Christ’s sake is granted by God to all believers.

Romans 8:16-18

Believers suffer with Christ now and will be glorified with Him.
This suffering isn’t worthy to be compared with that glory.

Verses 10-12

Who and what are these verses about?

The prophets who prophesied about salvation—the grace to come, the grace to stand in.
Through them the Spirit of Christ predicted His sufferings and glories.

They searched to find out who and when they prophesied about, but it was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves. They served believers, the church.

¹James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G1383.

²Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 567.

³W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), p. 492.

How does 2 Peter 1:20-21 compare?

Men moved by God's Spirit spoke from Him. No prophecy is of one's own interpretation.

Who or what did Isaiah and Daniel prophesy about?

Isaiah 53

This chapter is about Jesus on the cross.

Daniel 7:13-14

This tells what happens in the future. One like a Son of Man receives a kingdom from the Ancient of Days. The Father gives the Son dominion forever.

Verses 13-16

What are the first commands in this letter? How do they relate to 1 Peter 5:12?

Prepare your minds for action

Keep sober

Fix / set your hope on grace...at Jesus' revelation

Don't be conformed to former lusts / passions

Be holy

These commands tell believers how to stand in the true grace.

You might briefly note those on a visual aid. Then ask what your group learned about the first command.

2 Corinthians 10:3-7; Romans 12:2

The believer's mind must be renewed in God's Word to be prepared to recognize false teaching that is raised up against the true knowledge of God.

Philippians 4:6-8

Think on things that are true, honorable, right / just, pure, lovely, of good repute / commendable.

Give your group time to discuss how and why they should prepare their minds.

Why do you think Peter started with this command?

Relate this to the fact that the believers of 1 Peter were going through trials, tests of their faith.

What is next? Also ask about the word study.

Keep sober in spirit

"to be calm and collected in spirit"⁴; "the word generally denotes self-control and the clarity of mind which goes w[ith] it"⁵

⁴James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G3525.

1 Peter 4:7 and 5:8

Be sober for prayer.

Be sober because the devil wants to devour.

Let your group discuss how they can keep sober.

Then move to the next command and ask what they learned about it.

John 14:1-3

When He comes, He'll take believers to the place He prepared for them to be with Him.

Revelation 22:12-15

His reward / recompense is with Him. He'll render to everyone according to his deeds (ESV—repay each one for what he has done).

They'll enter the holy city, the new Jerusalem, with the tree of life there.

Everlasting life with Him

2 Corinthians 4:8-12, 16-18

Don't lose heart. The trials and things seen are temporal.

Fix hope on the eternal.

Ask your group how this passage relates to their lives and fixing their hope on the grace Jesus brings to them.

What is next in 1 Peter 1:14? Ask what your group learned about it. How does it fit with the previous commands?

Do not be conformed to the former lusts... (ESV—passions of your former ignorance)

Prepare minds, then keep sober, then fix hope

If one does those things, then he won't be conformed to the former lusts.

Romans 12:2

Paul also wrote—don't be conformed.

But be transformed by renewing the mind.

Colossians 3:5-8

Consider

Put aside

⁵Cleon L. Rogers Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), p. 568.

What is the next command in 1 Peter 1? Ask your group what they think about it.

Be holy because God is holy.
Holiness, sanctification, is the opposite of being conformed to the world.
Holy behavior is different from the world's behavior.

Verses 17-21

Ask about the flow of thought or logic in these verses. What are the reasons for the command?
Add it to your visual aid list.

Conduct yourselves in fear...

Believers need to remember that they'll be judged by God for how they lived while here on earth.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11 and Romans 14:10-12

At the judgment seat of Christ or God, Christians will give an account to Him.

Another reason for respectful conduct is that Christ's blood bought redemption for all believers.

redeemed—*"to release by paying a ransom, to redeem"*⁶; *"be set free"*⁷

Why is Jesus referred to as an unblemished, spotless lamb?

Mark 10:45; Exodus 12:2-14; 1 Corinthians 5:7

Jesus was the lamb of sacrifice to pay the price for sin.
He's the Passover.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Peter 1, and ask how verses 20-21 relate to verses 17-19.

Jesus was foreknown and appeared for believers.
God raised Him and gave Him glory, so believers' faith and hope are in God.

Verses 22-25

What are these verses about, and what is the last command? Add it to your visual aid list.

Believers are to love one another fervently / earnestly from the heart.
It's a command, so it's something that can be done, not an emotion.

⁶Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998), G3084.

⁷Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker's Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 249.

The first use of “love” in verse 22, is *philadelphia*, “brotherly love.”⁸

Believers can love their brothers because of a purified soul.

The second use of “love” is *agape*, “show love, demonstrate love.”⁹ It is used “especially of love as based on evaluation and choice, a matter of will and action.”¹⁰

How does 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 relate to the command in 1 Peter 1?

The list in these verses tells how believers are to love.

Ask your group how this chapter about salvation and obedience relates to them.
Give them time to discuss application.

⁸Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981), G5360.

⁹James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), DBLG 26, #2.

¹⁰Timothy Friberg, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*, Baker’s Greek New Testament Library (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), p. 30.

1 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 2:1-12

REVIEW

As with previous lessons, ask your group what they remember to briefly review Peter's purpose for writing and how he began this letter.

5:12 says that he exhorted and testified / declared the true grace of God—salvation. Then he said, “Stand firm in it.”

This letter is for all Christians—how to stand firm in salvation.

Peter began with the scattered believers' salvation and trials, and then told them how to stand firm in them. He gave a list of instructions for godly living.

1 PETER 2

What is the connection of chapters 1 and 2? What is the flow of thought?

“Therefore / So”—in light of what he's told them about begin born again of the imperishable Word of God. It's living and enduring forever.

Or maybe “therefore / so,” in light of all the truths in chapter 1

Those born again should long for the pure milk of the word like newborn babies, so they will grow in salvation. (ESV—does not say “word.”)

Ask what they learned from the cross-references about God's Word and spiritual birth and growth.

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Even Old Testament Scripture gives the wisdom leading to salvation. All the Bible is inspired by God and profitable for Christian growth.

Matthew 4:4

Jesus said man lives on every word from God.

Hebrews 5:11-14

Spiritual growth is connected to God's Word in this passage. It's the solid food for the mature to be trained. And it's the milk for those who are infants in the faith.

Ask your group how they've experienced God's Word leading to their spiritual growth.

Lead your discussion to 1 Peter 2.

Verses 1-3

What are believers to do according to verse 1?

Give your group time to discuss application relevant to this verse.

Putting aside all malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander.

Believers growing in the grace of salvation obey the truth and sincerely love their brothers (1:22). The list in verse 1 affects relationships.

How does verse 3 relate to verses 1-2?

“if”

True believers, those born again because of God’s mercy, have tasted His kindness.

Verses 4-8

What are these verses about and how do they relate to new birth in Christ?

Believers are living stones being built up as a spiritual house.

Jesus is the cornerstone.

Ask what your group learned about Jesus as the corner stone.

Tell them to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid.

- A living stone
- Rejected by men
- Choice / chosen and precious in God’s sight
- Cornerstone
- Stone of stumbling
- Rock of offense

What do the cross-references say about Jesus as the stone?

Psalm 118:22-24

- The builders, the leaders of Israel, rejected Him.
- He became the cornerstone.

Isaiah 8:13-16 and 28:16

- A stone to strike
- A rock to stumble over
- A tested stone
- A costly / precious cornerstone for the foundation
- God laid the stone in Zion

Acts 4:8-12; Romans 9:30-33; and Ephesians 2:19-22

God planned for Jesus to be the foundation stone and put Him in Israel.

Even though Israel as a whole rejected Him, those who believe in Him will not be disappointed. They're no longer strangers and aliens, but God's household.

Luke 2:34

Simeon told Mary that her Son was appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Peter 2:5-10. What did Peter say about those who rejected Jesus?

Israel, the builders, rejected their cornerstone.

All who stumble over Him as the stumbling stone do so because they're disobedient to God's Word. The disobedient are appointed to doom because of this.

(ESV says, "They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.")

How do 1 Peter 2:5 and 9-10 describe believers?

A royal priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus
All believers, all living stones, all who are part of God's household are priests now.

A chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession
To proclaim God's excellencies
His people who received His mercy

Those who come to Jesus as to a living stone become living stones themselves.
They're being built up as a spiritual house.

There is a drawing at the end of this lesson's guide which you can use as a visual aid for the rest of this discussion.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about believers as a spiritual house.

Hebrews 3:6; 10:21

Christ is called the great high priest and a faithful Son over God's house. Evidence that believers are part of that house is holding fast their confidence and hope firm until the end.

Ephesians 2:19-22

The house is God's holy temple, a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 6:19-20

Corporately and individually, believers' bodies are God's temple, a temple of the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 3:14-15

Paul told Timothy that the church is the pillar and support of the truth and the household of God.

Give time for them to share what this means to them or how it exhorts them to stand firm in their salvation.

Ask what they learned about priests and sacrifices.

- Offering spiritual sacrifices to God
- The ministry of the gospel
- Thanksgiving, praise
- Service of faith and worship
- Broken spirit and contrite heart=humility
- Giving
- Doing good and sharing
- One's body, a living and holy sacrifice

Give your group time to share what they learned and how they can better make sacrifices.

How does 1 Peter 2:11-12 relate to the rest of this lesson?

Priests are to be holy; therefore, abstain from fleshly lusts / passions.

Keep your behavior / conduct excellent among the Gentiles, so that they might glorify God instead of slandering / speaking against His priests.

Why might Peter have referred to believers as aliens and strangers / sojourners and exiles? How does Philippians 3:20 relate to this?

Believers are citizens of heaven living as strangers on earth.

Verses 13-25

Ask what your group observed in these verses.

NOTE: This will be studied more in the next lesson, so don't spend much time here.

Verses 13-17 are about submission to human authorities

Verses 18-20 are also about submission, servants to masters.

Verses 21-25 present Jesus as an example of submission.

You can end this discussion by asking what your group noted on their At a Glance chart as a possible theme for chapter 2.

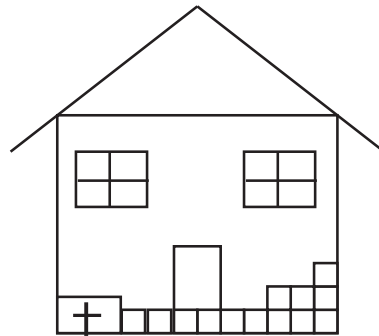
Living stones, Cornerstone; submit

Living stones

Priests

built up

offer sacrifices



Spiritual house

**1 PETER
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5**

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 2:18–3:6
- Submission / subjection

REVIEW

Ask your group to review the setting for Peter’s letter.

Peter stated his purpose for writing his letter in 5:12.
He exhorted and testified / declared the true grace of God, which is salvation.

He describes in the letter what true salvation is.

Then he tells his readers to stand firm in that true grace.

The believers he wrote to were suffering.

1 PETER 2:13-25

Verses 13-17

What is the main subject in these verses?

Submission / subjection

What is the definition for submit/subject?

Submit / subject—*hupotasso*—*hupo* means “under” and *tasso* means “to arrange.”¹

What do these verses say about submission? Who is to submit to whom?

Tell your group to look at the chart in the lesson as a visual aid for this discussion.

It’s directed to all the believers.

Submit / be subject

- Yourselves
- For the Lord’s sake
- To every human institution

¹W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), p. 606.

It is the responsibility of the believer to arrange himself or herself under authorities.
This is one way of keeping one's behavior excellent among unbelievers.
In doing what's right / good, believers silence any accusation from people of the world.
Honor and love other people. Fear God—this is His will.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about this.

Romans 13:1-7 and Titus 3:1-2

Paul said the same thing that Peter did in 2:13-17
—submit / be subject to governing authorities

God establishes authorities.

How do these principles apply to believers now?

Verses 18-20

What do these verses say about submission / subjection?

Servants are commanded to submit / be subject to masters—with all respect.
It doesn't matter if the master is a good one or not.
Suffering might be a part of serving an unreasonable master.

Patiently enduring the suffering that comes from doing what is right finds favor with God.

How does the cross-reference add to this?

Titus 2:9-10

Bondslaves / bondservants are to submit by being well-pleasing and not argumentative.

How does this apply now? Give time for application discussion.

Verses 21-25

Who and what are these verses about?

Christ suffered for doing what is right and left believers an example to follow.

- He committed no sin.
- He had no deceit in His mouth.
- He didn't revile when He was reviled.
- He uttered no threats.
- He kept entrusting Himself to God who judges righteously.
- He bore our sins in His body.

He suffered the cross so believers can live to righteousness.
His wounds healed believers from sin.

What did Isaiah write about this?

Isaiah 53:4-6
Healed from sin

1 PETER 3

Verses 1-6

How do these verses continue from the end of chapter 2?

“In the same way...”

Who are these verses directed to? What did Peter write? Compare with cross-references.

Peter said wives are to submit / be subject to even disobedient husbands.
Jesus’ example is the way wives are to submit / be subject.
The result can be that the husband who is disobedient to the Word will be saved.

Wives are to do this with respect and proper behavior / pure conduct. The reason they can, as well as for the servants, is that they are first submitted to the Lord. He is over all authority and is in ultimate control. If He chooses to put an unreasonable authority over a believer, then it is the believer’s responsibility to obey His commands regarding that authority.

Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:3-5

Again Paul wrote in agreement with what Peter said; wives are to submit to, to obey, their husbands.

The wife’s attitude

Respect is used in this situation, too.
It’s to be from the heart with a gentle and quiet spirit.
She’s to have no fear.

What is a wife to do if her husband tells her to do something contrary to God’s word, to sin?

An important point regarding this is in 1 Peter 3:6. Wives, as well as servants, are to submit in doing what is right.

If a disobedient master or a husband tells the servant or wife to sin, then that is not doing what is right. Paul said, “as is fitting in the Lord” and “as to the Lord.” In Titus he said, “so that the Word of God will not be dishonored.”

Acts 5:17-42

God commanded the apostles to speak the whole message of life to the people in the temple. The authorities told them to stop teaching in Jesus’ name.

The response was that they needed to obey God rather than men.

NOTE: Caution your group that they need to be very certain about what God's Word says if they are considering not submitting to a human authority. They need to have clear understanding that what the authority says to do or not do is sin.

Discuss application.

NOTE: The rest of chapter 3 will be studied more in the next lesson. But if you have time you can ask about your group's observations of verses 7-21. If not, ask about subjection in verse 22.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Peter 3:7. Who and what is this verse about?

This is addressed to husbands and tells them to have understanding and honor for their wives. If they don't, their prayers will be hindered.

Verses 8-12

Who is next?

All are to live harmoniously / in unity, sympathy, brotherly love, kind / tender heart and humble mind toward one another.

Bless instead of returning evil for evil. Peter quoted from the Old Testament that God is against those who do evil.

Verses 13-17

How does the flow of thought continue?

Doing what is good
Even if one suffers for it, that one is still blessed.

Don't fear people, but sanctify / honor Christ.
Keep a good conscience by good behavior. That will shame slanderers.

Verses 18-22

How does this chapter end?

Christ suffered for doing what is right. By doing so, He brought believers to God.

He proclaimed to spirits now in prison who were disobedient in Noah's days. Only eight people were saved at that time.

Now salvation is connected with a good conscience through Christ's resurrection.

After Jesus' resurrection, He went to heaven and is now at God's right hand with angels, authorities, and powers subject to Him.

Ask about the related cross-references.

Ephesians 1:18–22 and James 4:7

All things are in subjection to Him, therefore as believers submit to God, they resist the devil.

1 Corinthians 15:27-28

There will be a time in the future when all things will be put in subjection under Jesus' feet. Then He'll submit Himself to the Father.

Hebrews 12:9

Be subject to the Father.

What is a possible chapter theme for 1 Peter 3? Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart.

Wives, husbands: all do what is right

To end your discussion you might ask your group how they are doing in their various roles of submission.

1 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 3:7-22

REVIEW

Ask your group what they remember about 1 Peter. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help remembering.

Peter's purpose for writing—5:12

The believers he wrote to were scattered, aliens / exiles, and suffering.

They were suffering because of righteousness, and Peter encouraged them to continue in doing what is right / good.

Ask your group what they learned about “doing what is right / good.” Tell them to look at where they marked the phrase on their Observation Worksheets.

Submission / being subject to authorities sent by God is doing what is right / good.

Doing right / good will silence the ignorance of foolish men.

Good conscience

When a believer suffers and endures for doing right / good, it finds favor / grace with God. Finding favor with God is the same as grace—the true grace of God.

What else does 1 Peter say about righteousness? Tell your group to look at their notes from the list of passages in the lesson.

God judges righteously.

Jesus died, the just—righteous—for the unjust—so believers might live to righteousness.

The Lord's eyes are toward the righteous.

Believers are blessed even if they suffer for righteousness.

The righteous are the saved.

Who and what are 1 Peter 3:1-6 about?

Just as Christ submitted / was subject to the unreasonable / unjust, and just as Peter told servants to submit / be subject to unreasonable / unjust masters, so are wives to submit / be subject to unreasonable / unjust and disobedient husbands.

1 PETER 3:7-22

Who and what is verse 7 about? Also discuss related cross-references.

Husbands do right / good by living with their wives in an understanding way—as with a weaker vessel.

They are also to show her honor as a fellow heir of grace.
If not, their prayers are hindered.

Ephesians 5:25-33

A husband is to love his wife.
As Christ loved the church
As he loves himself

Colossians 3:19

Husbands are not to be embittered against their wives.
(ESV—do not be harsh with them)

Give time for your group to discuss doing right / good within marriage.

Verses 8-12

Who and what are these verses about? Ask about relevant application also.

All believers

- Harmonious / unity of mind
- Sympathetic
- Brotherly love
- Kindhearted / tender heart
- Humble in spirit / mind
- Not return evil for evil
- Keep tongue from evil and lips from deceit
- Turn away from evil and do good
- Seek peace, pursue it

Compare the above with Jesus' example at the end of chapter 2.

Verses 13-17

What are God's instructions to the one who suffers for righteousness?

- Don't fear
- Don't be troubled

- Sanctify / honor Christ as “Lord,” Master, in your hearts
“owner . . . ; ruler, master, lord, one who exercises authority over”¹
- Be ready / prepared to defend your hope with gentleness and reverence / respect
- Keep / have a good conscience

Ask your group to evaluate how they respond to unjust treatment or challenges to their faith.

Verses 18-22

What does this text say about Christ?

Died / suffered for sins once for all, the just / righteous for the unjust / unrighteous
Suffered for doing right to bring people to God
Was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit

Went in the spirit to make proclamation to spirits now in prison

Now at God’s right hand in heaven and all angels, authorities, and powers have been subjected to Him.

NOTE: There is debate over the interpretation of verses 19-21. Therefore, your group might not come to agreement of interpretation.

The word translated “made proclamation / proclaimed”—kerusso—is not the usual Greek word used for proclaiming the gospel, euaggelizo. It simply means some kind of proclamation.

Jesus did not go to spirits of dead people to preach the gospel to them and give a second chance for salvation.

It might have been a proclamation of victory.

The spirits were in prison.

They had been disobedient during the construction of the ark.

They were either spirits of disobedient dead people from that time,

or

they were disobedient, evil spirits from that time who were put in some kind of a prison after that.

The immediate context of this chapter is suffering for doing what is right / good.

Jesus did that and made a proclamation about it.

His resurrection and ascension showed victory over unjust suffering.

His obedience is contrasted with the spirits’ disobedience.

¹James Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*, electronic ed. (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), DBLG 3261.

What does Genesis say about the time of Noah?

Genesis 6:1–7:1

This tells of the time before the flood when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and children were born. Men were disobedient, and only Noah was righteous.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references that might relate to this event.

2 Peter 2:4-9

This might or might not refer to 1 Peter 3:19-20.

There was a time when angels sinned, and God committed them to pits / chains of darkness reserved for judgment. The time of Noah is also mentioned.

Jude 5-7

Jude wrote of angels who are being kept in bonds / chains under darkness for judgment. The comparison is with the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah.

*NOTE: Some think Genesis 6 is what 2 Peter 2 and Jude refer to.
Help your group disagree gracefully with one another if the situation arises.*

Lead your discussion back to 1 Peter 3:20-21. What else is in these verses?

The ark saved eight people from judgment.
They were brought safely through the water.

Baptism corresponds to that.
—not the removal of dirt from the flesh
—an appeal to God for a good conscience through Jesus' resurrection

How does Romans 6 relate?

Romans 6:1-7

Believers are baptized into Christ's death, buried with Him and raised to walk in newness of life.

Water baptism pictures the spiritual baptism.

Review what your group knows about being saved from 1 Peter.

It's a new birth through Jesus' resurrection.
It's by faith.
It cleanses the conscience.

You might end this discussion by asking your group if they understand what Jesus Christ did for them, 1 Peter 2:21-25 and 3:18-22.

1 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis

- 1 Peter 4

REVIEW

Ask for the purpose of 1 Peter and review the flow of thought or main points through chapter 3. Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help remembering.

This letter begins with salvation, then commands for those who are saved. Commands and instructions regarding suffering, submission, and doing right.

Believers are to keep a good conscience by good behavior, 3:16 and 21.

Chapter 3 ends with what Christ did from the cross to being at God's right hand with all subject to Him. He suffered to death for doing right.

Also, tell your group to look at the list they are making on suffering—the page in the Appendix—as a visual aid for this discussion.

1 PETER 4

Verses 1-6

What do verses 1-2 mean?

Jesus suffered in the flesh to bring believers to God and righteousness.

Therefore, believers should have the same purpose. Cease from sin and live righteous lives, live for God's will not one's own.

How do verses 3-5 apply to the context? How does this apply to life?

The believers Peter wrote to had lived in the past like the other people around them. The same is true of all believers.

The unsaved are surprised when believers don't do those things any more, and they malign believers.

But if believers keep their behavior excellent among them, the unbelievers have no basis for what they say.

They'll give an account to God for it.

What does verse 6 mean?

The gospel was preached so those dead in the flesh can live in the spirit.
All people are dead before being saved; faith in the gospel gives life.

Verses 7-11

NOTE: Some in your group might have looked up definitions for some of these words. But you don't need to bring them up unless someone in the group does.

Tell your group to look at the list they made in the lesson on Day Three.

What are these verses about?

Peter said the end is near.

Because the end is near, Peter gave specific instructions to believers.

Be of sound judgment / self-controlled—"be sensible, be clear minded"¹

and sober spirit / sober-minded—"to be calm and collected in spirit"²
"not be in danger of irrational thinking"³

for the purpose / sake of prayer

This is done by focusing on the truth of the Word, which gives a biblical view of circumstances.

Above all, fervently love one another.

It's possible to do this, because of a sound mind and sober spirit. The focus on this kind of love is the highest good of our brothers and sisters and therefore covers sin.

Be hospitable / show hospitality without complaint / grumbling

"Hospitable" is "loving strangers."⁴ In this context, it's a stranger from the body of Christ, because he says "one another."

Employ / use spiritual gifts in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold / varied grace of God.

¹J. Swanson, *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), GK5403.

²James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G5382.

³Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, 2nd edition (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996, c1989), 1:352.

⁴R. L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981), G3525.

The gifts are for serving one another, the body of Christ. And there's a way to do this.

Speak as one speaking God's utterances—not careless words.

Serve by His strength. How tired and dissatisfied one can become serving in one's own strength.

The result is glorifying God.

Ask your group about practical ways God can use them and the difference it can make when they follow these instructions, walking in the Spirit.

Verses 12-19

What subject did Peter go back to in these verses? Discuss related cross-references.

Trials and suffering

Then continues with commands about trials / testing

Don't be surprised. It's not a strange thing.

Keep on rejoicing to the same degree that you share Christ's suffering.

Verse 13 connects suffering with glory.

1 Peter 1:6-7

Trials are the proof of one's faith which results in praise, glory and honor at Jesus' revelation.

1 Peter 5:1 and 10

Peter again connected suffering with glory. Suffering is only for a little while, but the glory is eternal.

Romans 8:16-18

The Spirit helps believers in this life. They suffer, but it's not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed.

John 15:18-22

If the world persecuted Jesus, it will persecute believers.

James 1:2-4, 12

Count it joy when being tested. Once approved, he receives the crown of life.

Matthew 5:10-12

Jesus said there is blessing for it.

The reward in heaven is great.

The prophets were persecuted in the same way.

2 Timothy 3:12

All desiring to live godly will be persecuted.

Suffering for Christ's name means blessing because of the Spirit of glory on believers. They are not to be ashamed of this kind of suffering.

What are verses 15-19 about? Ask about the cross-reference also.

Make sure none suffers as a murderer, thief, evildoer, or troublesome meddler.

Judgment begins with the household of God—that's the church.
The testing by trials seems to be the judgment for believers.
Saved with difficulty—trials, suffering.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-5

Believers endure in persecutions and afflictions to be considered worthy of God's kingdom. That's part of the salvation process.

Then there is a question: what will become of the godless man and the sinner, those who don't obey the gospel? They are not saved. God's judgment awaits them.

What is a possible theme for this chapter? Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart.

Live for God; suffering and glory

To end this discussion, ask what your group learned for strengthening their lives.

1 PETER LEADER GUIDE Lesson 8

LESSON EMPHASIS

- 1 Peter 5

REVIEW

To begin this last discussion, ask your group what they would tell someone about 1 Peter. Direct them to their At a Glance chart if they need help remembering.

1 PETER 5

How does this chapter begin? With what word?

“Therefore / So”

You might ask your group how this chapter relates to 1 Peter 1–4.

Verses 1-4

Who and what are these verses about? Also ask about the definition of elder.

Peter, a fellow elder, wrote to the elders about how they were to shepherd God’s flock.

“elder,” *presbuteros*—“an old man, an elder”¹; “the elder of two people. . . a term of rank or office”²

The lesson says the word translated “shepherd” refers to caring for sheep.

Exercise oversight voluntarily / willingly, not under compulsion, as God would have
Not for shameful / sordid gain, but eagerly
Not lording it over / domineering, but being examples

When the Chief Shepherd appears, they’ll receive the crown of glory.

What do the cross-references about elders add to what Peter wrote?

Titus 1:5-9

He was to appoint elders in every city on the island of Crete.
They are also referred to as overseers in this passage.

¹W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), p. 195.

²James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995), G4245.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

This is a similar list with what Paul wrote in Titus 1. Overseers are to take care of God's household; therefore, they should be managing their own. They are not to be new converts.

Acts 20:17, 28-30

Paul called the elders of the Ephesian church. He warned them and referred to the fact that the Holy Spirit made them overseers to shepherd / care for God's flock, the church.

Lead the discussion back to 1 Peter 5:4. Who is this verse about?
Also ask about the cross-references.

Jesus is the Chief Shepherd.
Peter wrote to tell other elders how to exercise oversight.
The Chief Shepherd will reward them when He returns.

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus felt compassion for people because they were like sheep without a shepherd.

John 10:1-6, 10-16

Jesus is the good shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep.
He knows His own sheep, and they follow Him.
He calls them by name, and they hear His voice.

John 21:15-17

Peter was an elder who shepherded God's flock under the Chief Shepherd.
Jesus Himself called Peter to "tend / feed My lambs" and "shepherd / tend My sheep."

Encourage your group to pray for their elders—the ones who care for their local church body.

Verses 5-11

Who and what are these verses about?

Young men are to be subject to the elders.
This is another group Peter told to submit to proper authority.

All believers are to clothe themselves with humility toward one another.

The reason for humbling oneself is because God gives grace to the humble.
The contrast in these verses is with the proud whom God opposes.

Ask what your group learned about humility and pride from the cross-references.

1 Peter 3:8

All believers are to be humble in spirit.

Matthew 11:28-29

Jesus was gentle and humble / lowly in heart.

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ's example of humility is given in these verses. He began as equal with God and humbled Himself to take the form of a servant to death on the cross.

God exalted Him to the degree that all will recognize the He is Lord.

James 4:1-10

This contains the same quote as in 1 Peter 5.

Lead your discussion back to 1 Peter 5:7. How does anxiety connect with humility?

If a believer truly humbles himself under God's hand, there is no anxiety about what is happening to him or is about to happen.

Believers are to "cast" their anxieties on God.

God cares for Christians. Jesus is their Chief Shepherd.

What do the cross-references say about anxiety?

Matthew 6:25-34

Jesus commanded, "Don't worry / be anxious." His followers are worth more than the birds and flowers which God takes care of.

There is no reason to worry if one knows that his needs are met. Seeking Him is the answer to stress, anxiety, and worry. Relate this to the persecuted believers to whom Peter wrote.

Philippians 4:6-7, 19

Make request to God for whatever the need is instead of being anxious about it. He will answer. He will supply needs.

Romans 8:28-32

God is for His own, the same as Peter said—He cares.

If God didn't withhold His only Son, then He will not withhold any other need a Christian has.

What are the instructions Peter gave in connection with the devil in 1 Peter 5:8-9? And why?

Be sober.

Be on the alert / watchful.

Resist him.

The devil is an adversary to believers, like a roaring lion seeking to devour them.
Knowing this should be sobering.
He can cause some of the suffering believers go through.

How do the cross-references add to this?

Ephesians 6:10-12 and 2:1-3

Put on the full armor of God to stand firm against the devil's schemes.
A believer's struggle is not with other people but with the forces behind the people.

The devil is the prince of the power of the air, the spirit working in the sons of disobedience—unbelievers. Even believers were controlled by him before they were saved, when dead in trespasses and sins.

James 4:7

Submit to God—the same thing Peter said—and resist the devil. He will flee.

What is the relationship among pride, humility, anxiety and the devil?

The devil tempts believer to be proud.
Pride can lead to anxiety.

Humility is the opposite of pride.

According to 1 Peter 5:10-11, what comes after suffering?

Tell your group to look at their list about suffering on the page in the Appendix.

God will perfect / restore, confirm, strengthen and establish those He called to His eternal glory.

Ask your group what encouragement they take from this statement. Give time for discussing application.

Verses 12-14

Ask your group if they have memorized Peter's purpose for writing this letter.

Who was with Peter?

Silvanus, regarded as a faithful brother by Peter
He was the scribe for this letter.
Mark must have also been with them.
Peter's son—probably his son in the faith—Mark sent his greetings.

What do the cross-references say about Silvanus?

Acts 15:22-41

In this passage Silvanus is referred to as Silas, a leader in the church of Jerusalem.

Peter was one of the apostles of that church.

Silvanus was sent with Paul and Barnabas to the church in Antioch.
Verse 32 says he was a prophet and encouraged with a message.
Paul chose Silas to accompany him on his second missionary journey.

Acts 16:11-12, 19-32

Silas and Paul were seized and beaten in Philippi, then thrown in prison.
As they were praying and singing, an earthquake opened the doors.
They witnessed to the jailer.

Acts 17:1-4, 10-15

He travelled to Thessalonica with Paul and was sent away to Berea.
When Paul was sent to Athens, Silas and Timothy stayed there.
Then Paul sent a request for them to come to him.

2 Corinthians 1:19

Silvanus, Paul and Timothy had preached the gospel at Corinth.

1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1

He and Timothy were with Paul when he wrote to the church at Thessalonica, where they had been.

What do the cross-references say about Mark?

Acts 12:12

When Peter was released from prison in Jerusalem, he went to Mary's house.
John, also called Mark, was her son.

Acts 12:25; 13:13; 15:36-39

John called Mark had gone with Barnabas and Saul on the first missionary journey, but he deserted them and returned to Jerusalem.

When Barnabas wanted to take him on the second journey, Paul sharply disagreed.
They went separate ways, and Barnabas took Mark with him.

Colossians 4:10

Mark was Barnabas's cousin. Paul had sent instructions to the church at Colossae to welcome Mark if he went there.

2 Timothy 4:11

This was Paul's last letter written close to the end of his life.
He asked for Mark to be with him because he was useful in service.

NOTE: This was the Mark who wrote one of the Gospels.

What are some lessons for believers from this account of Mark's life?

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Elders, humility, resist the devil

To end your last discussion, you might ask your group what they learned for their lives from this study.