

1 & 2 Peter



MENS + WOMENS STUDIES

CALLED TO BE HOLY

A study through the books of 1 & 2 Peter

1 & 2 Peter

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This book belongs to

GOSPEL CITY CHURCH

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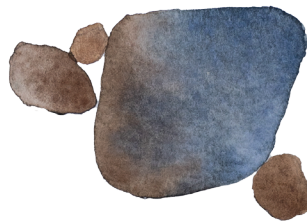
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Overview

The goal of everything we do at Gospel City is to make disciples of Jesus in the context of the local church for the fame of the name of King Jesus. A disciple is a learner, a follower, and a student. And when it comes to being a disciple, the goal of learning/following is not simply to affirm or intellectually agree with the one we follow; the goal is to become like the one we follow. We want to think like he thinks, believe what he believes, love what he loves, and do what he does so that we can be who he is. Everyone is a disciple of someone, the question is who? As Christians (i.e. “little Christs”) we are called by Jesus to follow Jesus so that we become like Jesus for the glory of Jesus.

But this begs the question, how can we (sinners saved by grace) become like Jesus (the perfect, sinless God-man)? No amount of effort, good works, or law keeping could possibly enable a fallen sinner to become like Jesus. But this is where the good news of the gospel comes in. For through the gospel God has promised to recreate sinners into the image of Christ, not through our effort or works but through faith in Christ’s work. And this faith is fed and nurtured by hearing/studying/learning the Word of God. As Paul says in Romans 10:17, “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

That is where these Bible studies come in. If the aim of everything we do is to be disciples and make disciples of Christ, and if disciples of Christ are made by hearing and believing the Word of Christ, then we at Gospel City must study the Word of God and be lifelong learners, lovers, and obeyers of the Word of God! The goal of these Bible studies is to equip you to do just that. For God’s Word is to the soul what food is to the body. It is sweeter than honey and more precious than gold. It contains all we need for life and godliness. It is holy, perfect, and all together true. It has the power to raise the dead and sanctify sinners into the image of Christ. And as you are better equipped to study, love, and obey God’s Word you will not only grow in your personal discipleship, you will be better equipped to make disciples of all nations by teaching others to obey all that Christ has commanded so that they too can be transformed into the image of Christ by receiving the gospel promises in faith.

Participant User Guide

UNDERSTANDING
HOW TO USE THIS
WORKBOOK

With this goal in mind, we have divided each week's personal study time into three steps: (Step 01) Observe, (Step 02) Interpret, and (Step 03) Reflect & Apply. Each of the three steps will include guidance in how to pray over what you *will* study and how to respond to what you *did* study. Here are some tips for how to approach each step:

Step 01 — Observe

Before we try to observe, we need to pray. Psalm 119:18 should be the posture of our hearts every time we open our Bibles. Bible study is so much more than an intellectual exercise. Apart from God's grace we will not have eyes to see or a heart that understands.

With that said, good readers are good question-askers. So as you read, be asking questions of the text. Every word is inspired. Every detail matters. The goal of the observation questions is not to get you to answer the question; the goal is to act as a diving board that helps to get you thinking about the text.

Therefore, allow the observation questions to guide you into more questions. Rest assured that you will never observe everything that there is to observe. The wisdom and glory of the Word of God is a bottomless ocean. Keep looking. There is always more to see.

Step 02 — Interpret

This might be the longest step in your study each week—but that is a good thing. A microwave easy button for understanding the Word of God does not exist. Interpreting the Bible requires prayerful critical thinking in reliance upon the Holy Spirit, just as Paul encouraged Timothy, “Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.” (2 Timothy 2:7)

With that said, the goal in this step will be to start to interpret the passage in its proper context. When it comes to Bible interpretation, context is king. Therefore, always be asking, “How does it fit?” How does this sentence fit with the one that comes before it? How does this paragraph/chapter fit in the context of the letter as a whole? How do the doctrines and themes in this passage fit in the metanarrative of Scripture? Asking these interpretive questions is the key to beholding the glory of the divine logic of the Word.

In order to guide you in these interpretive questions each week we will provide *zoom out* and *zoom in* questions. Zoom out to see how the author is drawing upon themes and doctrines in the one unified story of the Bible, then zoom back in to see how what the author is saying fits in the immediate context and develops the overall argument. Just as climbing mountains gives one epic views of the vast countryside, each *zoom out* section will provide “observation decks” that overlook the grand narrative of the epic story of the Bible so that we can have perspective regarding how each specific passage fits into the whole.

In order to help you do this, we have provided you with a copy of cross references and highlighted important connections. This will help you interpret Scripture with Scripture so that you can discern the one intended meaning of the divine Author.

Step 03 — Reflect & Apply

Reflecting encourages us to be curious about what this particular scripture means in the context of our own journey. We have seen how the passage fits into the story of Scripture, but now we take time to consider how our lives fit into the story. We'll consider questions like "What is God telling me about Himself here?" and "What is God telling me about myself here?" Reflecting is a step toward allowing the Word of God to change us. We take the truth and personally interact with it.

It is tempting to skim through reflection, but we want to encourage you to give this step time. Reflection is meant to give you space to sit with the Word in a personal way. Reflection often exposes us, bringing us face to face with our own sin or stirring up new convictions we've never had. Be prayerfully intentional with this time—you've carved this space out to meet with the Lord.

Reflection should also lead us toward change. As we take what we have learned from the Word and hold it up next to our own lives, we are likely confronted with opportunities to grow. Though it may be uncomfortable, conviction is always an invitation to lean into where the Lord is leading you. You'll be asked in Step 03 to consider what God is asking you to do, and you'll be asked to do it. We open God's Word so that by the power of His Spirit we can be changed. Let's embrace the work He is doing.

Respond (after each step) —

It is not natural for us to sit still and set our minds on anything intentionally. After every step you will find a response prompt. This is an opportunity for you to set aside your study and meditate on what you have uncovered. You'll be asked to meditate on a section of the passage, or to respond in prayer in a specific way. Peter writes often about preparing our minds and setting our minds on Christ. These prompts will ask you to put this to practice.

Respond will often lead to prayer. As we open our Bible and read the words God has for us, our response should be reflection, worship, and prayer. We suggest that prayer be done with an open Bible whenever possible. What better vocabulary to use when talking to God than the very words He inspired!

During this time, find what works best for you. You may want to keep a prayer journal or write out a few specific things you want to remember to pray over. You might want to review what you are praying over and take a walk as you respond.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WEEKLY GATHERING

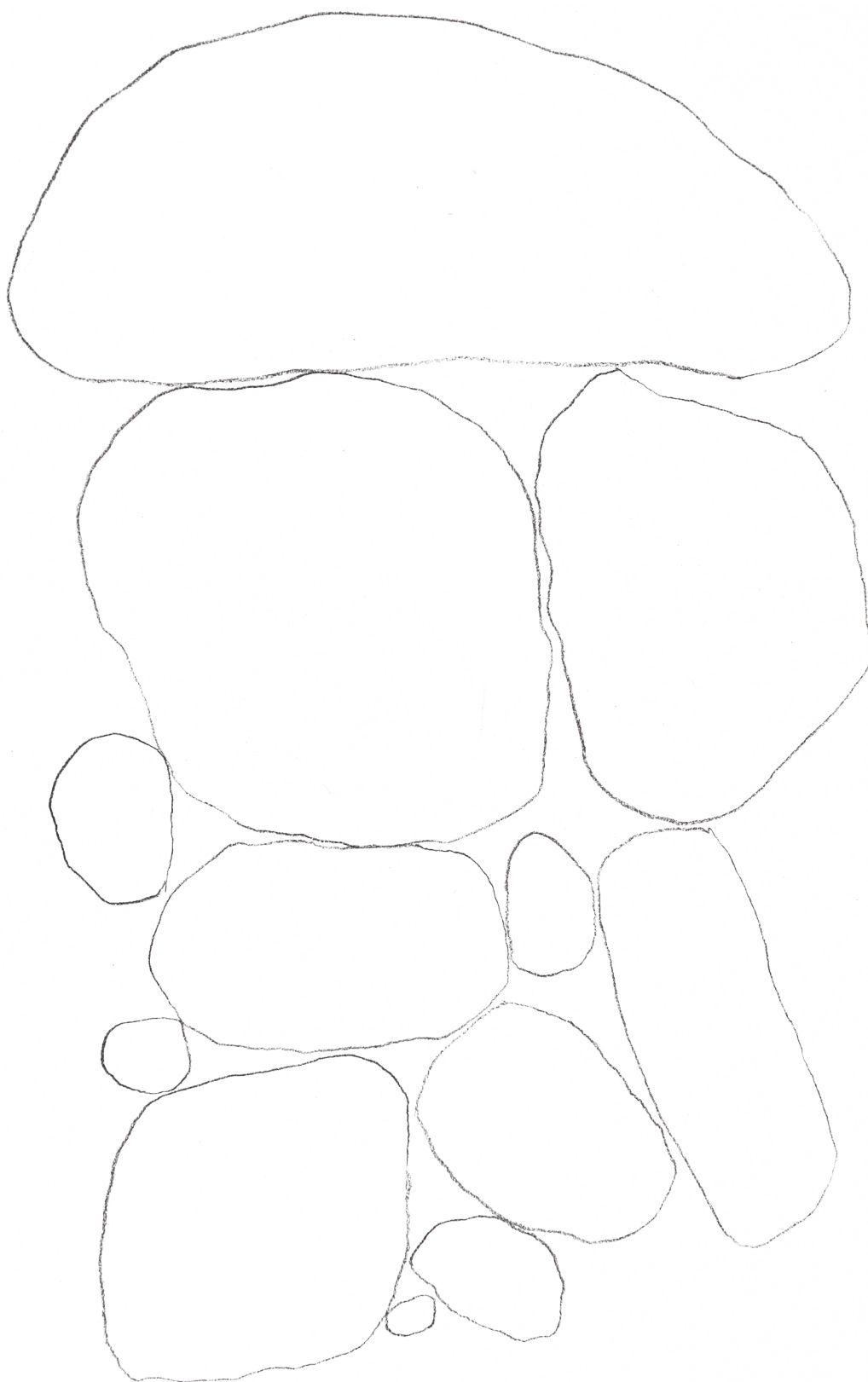
Every week, following your dedicated personal study of the Word, we will gather together with a shared purpose—to “stir up one another to love and good works” (Hebrews 10:24-25). Our collective aim during these gatherings is to minister the Word to each other so that we can collectively grow in maturity toward Christ who is our Head.

TEACHING / We will begin each week with a time of dedicated teaching, sitting under the authority of the preached Word. Our teaching times will model how to faithfully exposit and apply the Word.

TABLE DISCUSSIONS / One of the best ways to grow in what you are learning is by telling others. There is much we can learn from each other’s walk with Jesus. After each teaching time, we will break into table groups for applicational discussion and prayer.

These will be active spaces to engage each other with what was gleaned in your personal study and to respond to what was taught that day. It will also be a time to encourage obedience and accountability to what the text is teaching and reproving us in. Be open and vulnerable. Anchored in the scriptural text, share what God is doing in your life. Everyone is expected to participate, but be mindful to not dominate the conversation.

We’ll close each time in prayer together. Praise God for who He is, repent to one another, ask the Lord to continue to work in you, and yield the results to Him.



Introduction to 1 & 2 Peter

The call toward holiness can easily feel impossible. God's desire for us is that we are to be holy. But if you've spent even a few moments with yourself you might be thinking, "I am anything but holy! And I am not sure I have what it takes to be righteous and blameless before God." And beyond that, life is hard, and you might be walking through trials or temptations that are taking up all your focus and energy. How can anyone pursue holiness at such a time? If you are thinking this, you're not alone. None of us have what it takes in ourselves to be holy, and we all walk through difficult times.

1 & 2 Peter is written to the early Church during a time when things were uncertain—they had been run out of their homes, persecuted, and had lost so much. Peter is writing to them to encourage them to hold fast to the promises of God, and to remind them of who they are, and whose they are. Peter offers clear instructions on how to be obedient to the call to holiness, he offers warnings to be vigilant in holding fast to the truth, and he offers the most encouraging reminder to the people of God, we have a living hope.

This is what Peter greets us with in 1 & 2 Peter, an anticipation of a future hope rooted in our unshakable foundation, Christ Jesus. We are not only called to be holy, but we are reminded that it is only through the power of His Word and His Spirit that we can be obedient to the call. God has given us all we need for life and for godliness, we must only look to Him. And we can turn to Peter's encouragement and stand firm alongside our brothers and sisters in the early Church because we have been given the same calling, the same hope, and the same promises.



 *1 Peter*
1:1-12

Called To Be Holy (Week One)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 1:1–12

WEEK 01

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 1:1-12

O1 | What does 1:1-2 say about:

- a | The author? Who is he and why does it matter what he says?
- b | Those to whom the author is writing? Who are they and why is Peter writing to them?
- c | About God? What does it tell us about who He is and what He has done?

O2 | What does 1:3-5 say about:

- a | God the Father?
- b | Salvation (past, present and future)?
- c | Praising (or blessing) God? According to this section, why is God worthy to be praised?

O3 | What does 1:6-9 say about:

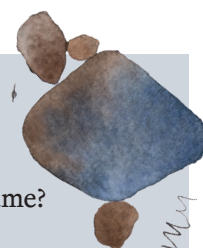
- a | Trials and suffering?
- b | Faith?
- c | Jesus?

O4 | What does 1:10-12 say about:

- a | Salvation?
- b | The Holy Spirit?
- c | You (the reader)?

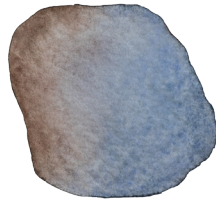
RESPOND

The prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring of the Spirit the things of Christ. As you begin this study of 1 & 2 Peter, would you do the same? Take a few moments to journal or sit quietly in seeking and inquiring carefully from the revealed written Word and the Spirit within you. What does searching and careful inquiry look like for you?



STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 1:1-12

Zoom Out:

Read 1 Peter 1:1 / 2:4-6, 9 (looking for the word *elect* or *chosen*).

Read 1 Peter 1:1, 17 / 2:11 (looking for the word *exile*).

O1 | **According to these passages, what does it mean to be an *elect exile*?**

Zoom Out:

Read John 3:1-8 / 1 Peter 1:3, 22-25.

O2 | **What does it mean to be *born again*?**

O3 | **What are the causes and results of being born again?**

Zoom In:

- O4 | According to 1 Peter 1:1-12, what distinct roles do each member of the Trinity play in salvation (see 1:2, 3-5 for the Father, 1:2, 3-5, 10-12 for the Son, and 1:2, 1:10-12 for the Spirit)?

Going Deeper:

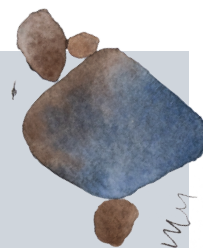
- O5 | What is the logical connection between 1:3-5 and 1:6-9?

- a | Why does Peter go from talking about future hope and future reward to present sufferings and trials?

- b | According to Peter, how are these seemingly unrelated topics actually connected?

RESPOND

In response to what you have uncovered about trinitarian work for your salvation, thank God (Father, Son and Spirit) for the intricate work of your salvation. Express your gratitude for the status as an elect exile born again to a living hope.



STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 1:1-12

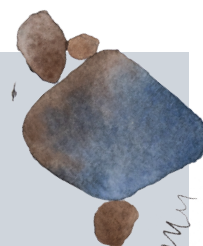
- O1 | Consider what you have learned about “elect exiles.” How do you see your identity as a Christian as an “elect exile” in today’s context?
- O2 | Reflect on the ways that faith is described in 1 Peter 1:3-9. What is encouraging to you about faith from this passage?
- O3 | What various trials are you facing today? How can you view these trials through the lens of hope and joy? How has your faith been tested through various trials?

O4 | **How can you intentionally express hope and joy throughout your day? Think of one action you could take, and be sure to follow through. Consider reaching out to a friend to hold you accountable.**

O5 | **Write out 1 Peter 1:3-5 on a note card or sticky note and place it somewhere you will see throughout your day. Consider committing it to memory or reading it out loud every time you see it.**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Setting aside your workbook and journal, take a few moments to sit with the Lord and meditate on a portion of the passage that stands out to you. Invite the Spirit to minister to your heart from the Scripture, and respond to Him through prayer.





 *1 Peter*
1:13-25

Called To Be Holy (Week Two)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 1:13–25

WEEK 02

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 1:13-25

O1 | What does 1:13-16 say about:

- a | Our hope? What *hope* is Peter referring to (see 1:3)? What are we supposed to do with this hope? And how are we supposed to do it?
- b | Our holiness? Why should we be holy? How can we be holy?
- c | Our calling? Who calls us? What are we called to (also see 1 Peter 2:9)?

O2 | What does 1:17-21 say about:

- a | How we should live throughout the time of our exile? What is the motivation to live this way?
- b | What God has done for us through Christ? What has He saved us from? How has He saved us?

- c | For further study, compare Peter's use of the words: *exile* in v.1 and v.17 / *inherit* and *perishable* in v.4 and v.18 / *gold* in v.7 and v.18 / *blood* in v.2 and v.19 / *foreknowledge* in v.2 and v.20 / *resurrection* in v.3 and v.21. How do these repeated words and themes help us further understand what God has done for us through Christ?

O3 | What does 1:22-25 say about:

- a | Loving one another? Why should we love each other? How can we love each other?
- b | Being born again?
- c | The Word of God?

RESPOND

What does it look like to prepare your mind for action? Scripture has a lot to say to us about what we set our minds on. Take some time to set your mind on the instructions you've read from today's passage.



STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 1:13-25

Read the commentary and cross references before answering the questions.

Zoom In:

COMMENTARY

1 Peter 1 is full of exodus imagery and themes. Consider the numerous parallels:

Just like Israel, the Church is chosen by God and sojourning in a land that is not our home. Just like Israel we are sojourning to our inheritance (i.e. the greater promised land/heaven. We were redeemed/ransomed *from* slavery (slavery to Egypt vs. slavery to sin). We were ransomed *by* the blood of a substitutionary spotless sacrificial lamb, and upon being saved by grace we are both called to be holy.

- O1 | **According to Peter, what are the parallels between how God saved the Israelites through the Exodus and how He saves us through the gospel?**

02

Why does Peter emphasize the parallels between the Exodus and the gospel so much? How do the parallels help us better understand what Christ has accomplished for us through the gospel?

CROSS REFERENCES

Exiles

Genesis 15:13 // Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.

1 Peter 1:1 // Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion.

1 Peter 1:17 // And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.

Inheritance

Numbers 26:53-56 // “Among these the land shall be divided for inheritance according to the number of names. ⁵⁴To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance; every tribe shall be given its inheritance in proportion to its list. ⁵⁵But the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit. ⁵⁶Their inheritance shall be divided according to lot between the larger and the smaller.”

Joshua 11:23 // So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments.

1 Peter 1:3-4 // Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Redeemed/Ransomed

Exodus 15:13 // You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode.

Deuteronomy 15:15 // You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today.

1 Peter 1:18 // Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold.

Sacrificial Lamb Without Blemish

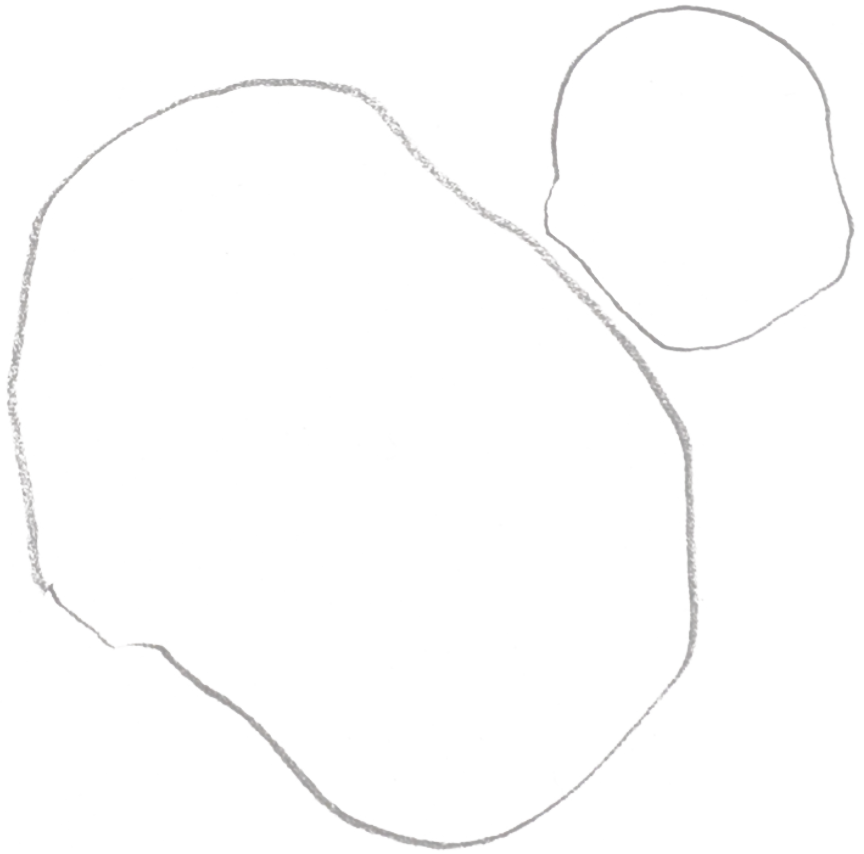
Exodus 12:5-6, 13 // Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight... ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

1 Peter 1:19 // You were ransomed... with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

You Shall Be Holy As I Am Holy

Leviticus 19:2 // Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

1 Peter 1:15-16 // But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”



Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

Slavery in Egypt was not the only time that God's people were exiled living in a foreign land. As judgment on their sin they were also exiled in Babylon for 70 years. But the prophets wrote to encourage Israel that God would save them again, just like He did through the Exodus. They wrote to give hope that there was going to be a new and greater Exodus. And Peter helps us see that these promises are ultimately fulfilled through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The main text we will look at in this section is Isaiah 40:1-10. Isaiah 40 is a prophecy about the good news (i.e. gospel) that God is going to pardon Israel's sin—which is the reason why they were in exile in the first place—and bring them home. And even though this promise sounds too good to be true, no human being will be able to hinder God from accomplishing His purposes,

because humans wither like grass, but the Word of God stands forever.

Peter draws upon this text and others to help his readers see that God is ultimately fulfilling these promises through the gospel. Consider the numerous parallels: Just like Israel, the Church needs a spiritual resurrection in order to be brought home from exile (see Ezekiel 37:13-14 / 1 Peter 1:3, 23). Like Israel, the Church needs to be forgiven and purified in order to be brought home from exile (see Isaiah 40:1-2 / 1 Peter 1:22). Like Israel, the Church's hope for salvation is in the eternal Word of God that stands forever no matter how impossible the circumstances make it seem (see Isaiah 40:6-8 / 1 Peter 1:23-25). The good news that there is hope for salvation is the gospel (see Isaiah 40:9 / 1 Peter 1:25), and what was prophesied by the prophets to Israel is ultimately fulfilled through the Christ (1 Peter 1:10-12).

03 | According to Peter, what are the parallels between what God promised to do for Israel in exile and what He has accomplished for believers through the gospel?

04 | Isaiah 40 is a prophecy meant to comfort God's people in exile. Peter echoes and quotes the same prophecy to comfort the elect exiles he is writing to. What do you find in this passage that is comforting for an elect exile to hear?

CROSS REFERENCES

Spiritual Resurrection/Spiritual Birth

Ezekiel 37:13-14 // And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord."

1 Peter 1:3 // Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:23 // Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

Forgiveness/Purity/Cleansed

Isaiah 40:1-2 // Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

1 Peter 1:22 // Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart.

Also see 1 Peter 1:13-16, 18 for more evidence that those whom God is bringing home from spiritual exile are no longer living under the dominion of sin.

The Certainty Of God's Gospel Promises

Isaiah 40:6-8 // A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

1 Peter 1:23-25 // Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

The Good News That Is Being Proclaimed Is The Gospel

Isaiah 40:9 // Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

1 Peter 1:25 // And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Zoom In:

Consider the word *therefore* in v.13.

- O5 | **What is the connection between what Peter said in 1:3-12 about the gospel with what he is about to say in the following verses?**
- O6 | **Why is it important that the good news of salvation, which is a free gift of grace, comes before the command to be holy?**
- O7 | **If we are saved by grace, why are we still commanded to be holy?**

Zoom In:

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25.

08 | Consider the connecting word *since* in v.23. What is the connection between being born again and the command to love others?

09 | What does the invincible nature of the Word of God have to do with it?

RESPOND

Meditate on 1 Peter 1:20-21 and the hope Christ has offered for your sake. Consider setting a timer for a few minutes and with your eyes closed, settle your breath and focus your attention on the life you have because of the living and abiding Word.



STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 1:13-25

O1 | **Reflect on 1 Peter 1:13-16 and consider the three areas in which we are to pursue holiness.**

a | What does it look like to pursue holiness in your thoughts?

b | What does it look like to pursue holiness with your emotions?

c | What does it look like to pursue holiness by your actions?

O2 | **Why do you think it is so important to conduct yourself with fear throughout this time of exile?**

- O3 | **Consider some of the passions of your former ignorance and the futile ways you have been ransomed from. What perishable inheritances has the precious blood of Jesus rescued you from?**
- O4 | **How does pursuing personal holiness affect the way you love others? Reflect on the connection and write a few thoughts down.**
- O5 | **Are there areas in your life—whether it be your thoughts, passions or actions—that are still “conformed to the passions of your former ignorance?” What needs to change in your life for it to exhibit the holiness Christ has called you to?**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Take a few moments of quietly sitting with the Lord. Invite the Spirit to reveal to you areas of personal holiness that need growth. Seek His guidance for a specific action plan toward your holiness. It doesn't have to be a massive change, but a small shift toward obedience in pursuit of living the life He has given you. Write this action plan down, and share it with someone in your small group for accountability.





 *1 Peter*
2:1-10

Called To Be Holy (Week Three)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 2:1–10

WEEK 03

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 2:1-10

O1 | What does 1 Peter 2:1-3 say about:

- a | What believers should “put away”? What is the connection between obeying verse 1 and the command to love one another back in 1:22?
- b | Spiritual milk (i.e. the Word of God)? Consider the connection between the Word being the means by which we are born again (1:23) and the Word being the means by which believers grow (2:2) for more insight.

O2 | What does 1 Peter 2:4-8 say about:

- a | God?
- b | Jesus?
- c | Believers?

d | Unbelievers?

e | Stones?

03 | **What does 1 Peter 2:9-10 say about:**

a | Our identity as believers?

b | Our purpose/mission as believers?

c | God?

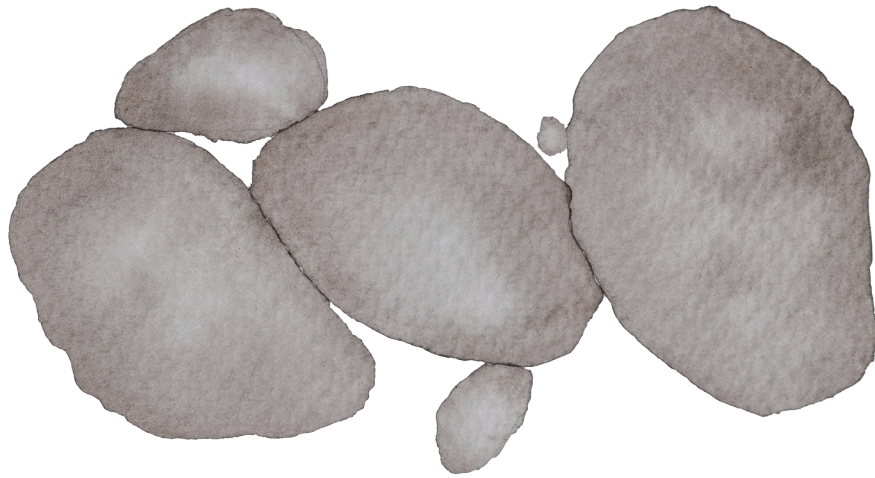
RESPOND

Take a few moments to still your mind—take a few breaths—and consider how you have tasted that the Lord is good. We have access to the living, enduring, nourishing Word of God to help us to grow into maturity. How has this brought sweet nourishment to your life? Thank God for His goodness.



STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 2:1-10

Zoom Out:

O1 | **According to 1 Peter 2:4-8, who rejected Jesus? Who chose Jesus?**

O2 | **Why is Jesus compared to a rejected stone that has become the cornerstone?**

CROSS REFERENCES

Psalm 118:22-23 // The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

1 Peter 2:7 // So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

1 Peter 2:4 // As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious.

Isaiah 8:13-15 // But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

¹⁴And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁵And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken."

1 Peter 2:8 // "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Isaiah 28:16 // Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'"

1 Peter 2:6 // For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Matthew 21:42-45 // Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

Acts 4:8-12 // Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Romans 9:30-33 // What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. ³²Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

God's dwelling place is a major theme throughout the story of the Bible. God dwelled with man in the Garden of Eden, but then kicked Adam and Eve out of His presence after they sinned. After the Exodus, God dwelled among His people again in the tabernacle and the temple. After dwelling among His people for hundreds of years, God kicked Israel out of the land and removed His presence from the temple (see Ezekiel 10). God's presence did not return to the temple, even after the Israelites returned from exile and rebuilt the temple.

But the prophets promised a day when God would dwell among His people again. These promises have multiple layers of fulfillment. It was first fulfilled through the coming of Jesus, who is Immanuel. It will ultimately be fulfilled in the New Heavens and the New Earth (see Revelation 21:3). But in the meantime, even though Christ ascended back to heaven and has not returned to be with His people, God is still dwelling among us today. And it is in this context which Peter talks about the incredible reality that the Church is the dwelling place of God.

O4 | **Consider 1 Peter 1:4-5. Why does Peter refer to the Church as *living stones being built up as a spiritual house*? What does this mean, and why is it significant?**

O5 | **If Peter is comparing believers to *living stones*, what is the significance of Jesus being the *cornerstone*?**

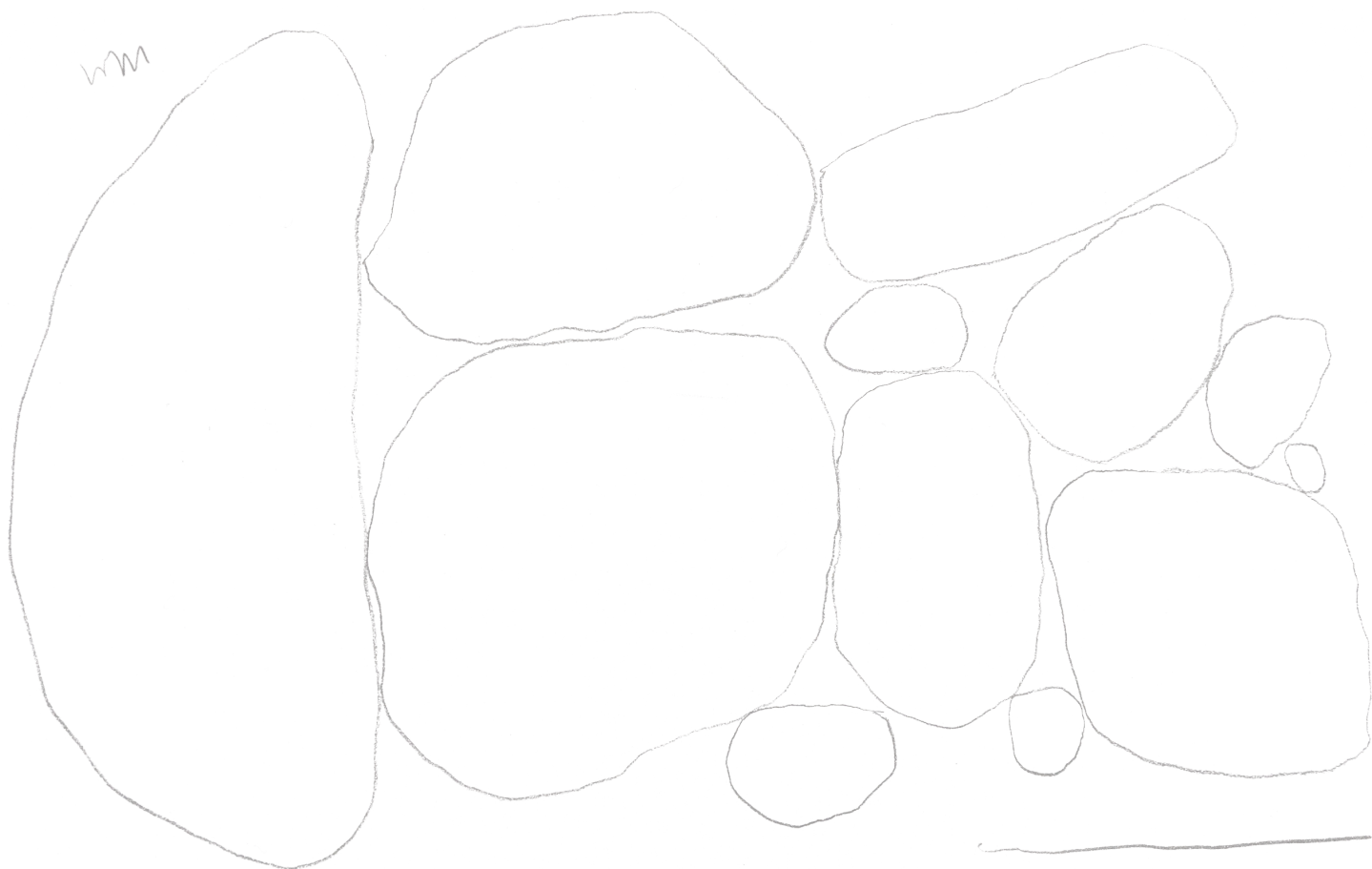
CROSS REFERENCES

John 2:18-21 // So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?”¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”²⁰ The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?”²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 // Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Ephesians 2:19-22 // So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5 // You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.



Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

The Exodus themes continue from chapter 1 into chapter 2 (see the first *zoom out* question from Week 02). Just as God saved Israel from Egypt, constructed a tabernacle so that He could dwell among them, and made Israel a Kingdom of Priests for His glory, likewise God has saved us from slavery to sin, He is building the Church into His dwelling place, and He has commissioned the Church as His holy and royal priesthood for His glory.

O6 | **With the Exodus imagery as background, what does it mean for the Church to be God's dwelling place? What does it mean for the Church to be God's priesthood?**

O7 | **What implications does this God-given identity have for how we as believers should relate to God, each other, and the world?**

CROSS REFERENCES

Exodus 19:4-6 // ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; ⁶and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.

1 Peter 2:5 // You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 // But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

RESPOND

Meditate on 1 Peter 2:4-6. Reflect on life with Jesus as your cornerstone—how has His firm foundation paved a way for you to find security, identity and purpose? What would your life be like without this foundation? Thank God for placing Christ as the cornerstone of His Church.



STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 2:1-10

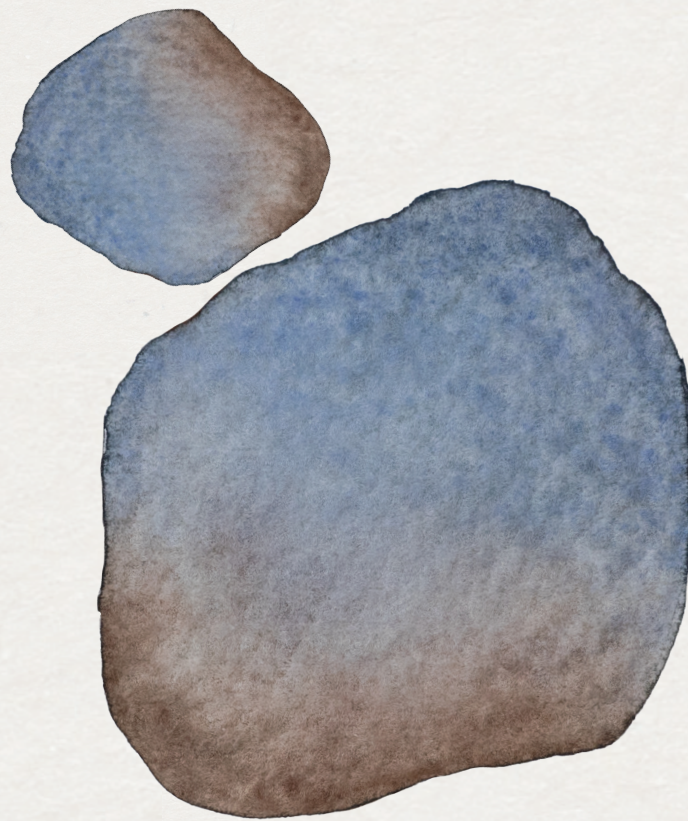
- O1** | **Are you experiencing growth in your personal holiness? How does hunger for the Word grow us in maturity?**
 - O2** | **Imagine what a spiritual house represents, with Christ as the cornerstone and you and fellow believers joined to build it up. What sort of dwelling place have you cultivated for the presence of God?**
 - O3** | **How does living out your God-given identity (1 Peter 2:9-10) affect your relationship with God? With fellow believers? With non-believers?**

- O4 | **What does life look like walking in the marvelous light? How are you proclaiming the excellencies of God?**
- O5 | **What malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy or slander do you need to put away? These behaviors and attitudes don't align with acceptable sacrifices and will cripple your role in the royal priesthood. Jot down anything that comes to mind. Confess it to the Lord, and if you need to, confess to a brother or sister.**
- O6 | **As a chosen and appointed royal priesthood, you have a job in the house of God. Are you contributing to the work and worship of Him who has called you? Take some time to consider your spiritual sacrifices. Is there more God is asking you to do?**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Take some time to reflect on what might need to change for you to fully embrace your God-given identity and role as the dwelling place of God. Consider the opposite descriptions of the things you are to put away from 2 Peter 2:1 to give you some guidance (for example, the opposite of deceit would be honesty). Ask the Spirit to reveal to you any areas that are hindering you from being an effective participant of His house. Are you proclaiming His excellencies or distracting from His glory?





 *1 Peter*
2:11-3:7

Called To Be Holy (Week Four)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 2:11–3:7

WEEK 04

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 2:11-3:7

O1 | What does 2:11-12 say about:

a | Our identity as believers?

b | What we are to do as believers? What does Peter command of us, and why does he command these things?

O2 | What does 2:13-17 say about:

a | Authority? As believers, to whom are we called to submit? Why are we called to submit?

b | God? What is our relationship to God? What is God's relationship to human authority?

c | Believers (i.e. elect exiles)? As exiles, how are we called to live in this world that is not our home?

03 | **What does 2:18-25 say about:**

a | Servants and masters?

b | Suffering?

c | Sin and righteousness?

d | Jesus?

e | God?

O4 | **What does 3:1-7 say about:**

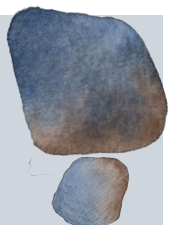
- a | Wives? What instructions does Peter give wives? What reasons does he give for these instructions?

- b | Unbelieving husbands?

- c | Christian husbands? What instructions does Peter give husbands? What reasons does he give for these instructions?

RESPOND

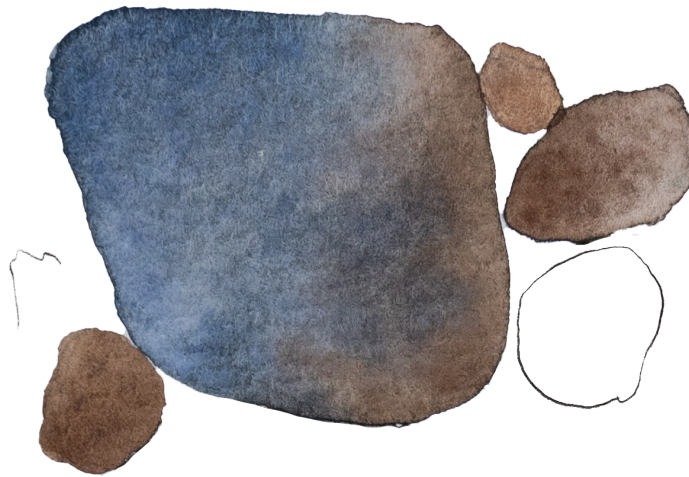
This week's passage has a lot to say about submission, which does not come naturally to the flesh. Take a few moments to examine your heart in the areas that God has placed authority over you. Ask Him to give you His heart for the ways He has called you to live in submission.





STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 2:11-3:7

Zoom Out:

- | | |
|----|---|
| O1 | What are the similarities between Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17?
List the overlapping principles and commands. |
|----|---|

- O2 | **What are the differences between Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17? What does Peter emphasize that Paul does not, and vice versa?**

- O3 | **Based on these two passages, list two or three of the main principles that the Bible teaches about government.**

CROSS REFERENCES

Romans 13:1-7 // Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending

to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

1 Peter 2:13-17 // Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

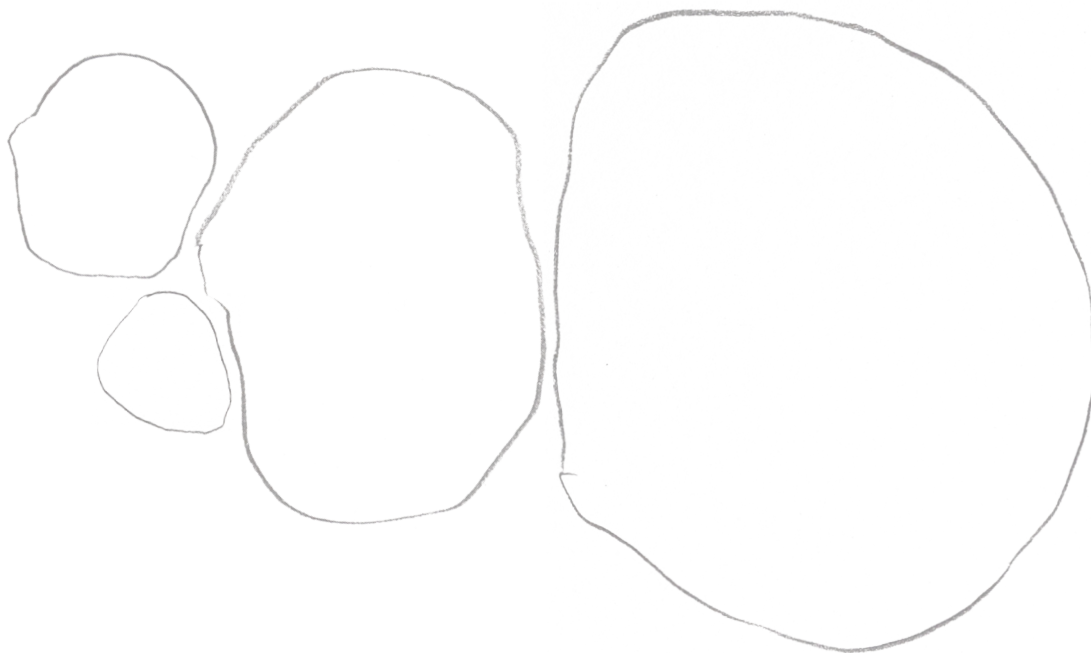
Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

In 1 Peter 2:18-25 Peter is giving instructions to slaves regarding how to suffer injustice in a righteous way, and what he says is extremely applicable for all Christians, not just slaves. In order to do this, Peter meditates on Jesus' perfect example of how to suffer injustice in a righteous way, for Jesus is the most righteous man to ever live, and yet He suffered the most heinous crime in the history of humanity. As Peter is reminding his readers of Jesus' perfect example, he is clearly meditating on Isaiah 53. Consider the many parallels below.

O4 | **According to Peter, how did Jesus respond when He endured suffering?**

O5 | **In what ways does His suffering serve as an example for believers?
In what ways are His sufferings unique?**



CROSS REFERENCES

Isaiah 53:7 // He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

1 Peter 2:23 // When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

Isaiah 53:4 // Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

1 Peter 2:24 // He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:5 // But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

1 Peter 2:24 // He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:11 // Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

1 Peter 2:24 // He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:12 // Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

1 Peter 2:24 // He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Isaiah 53:6 // All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2:25 // For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Zoom Out:

- O6 | **What are the similarities between Ephesians 5:22-32 and 1 Peter 3:1-7?
List the overlapping principles and commands.**
- O7 | **What are the differences between Ephesians 5:22-32 and 1 Peter 3:1-7?
What does Peter emphasize that Paul does not, and vice versa?**
- O8 | **With these passages in mind, how does the Bible honor marriage in ways
that are countercultural? How do these passages honor women in ways
that are countercultural?**

CROSS REFERENCES

Ephesians 5:22-32 // Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

1 Peter 3:1-7 // Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, ²when they see your respectful and pure conduct. ³Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—⁴but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious. ⁵For

this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as ⁶Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. ⁷Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

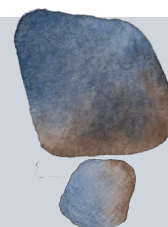
Zoom In:

09 | **What do citizens of an empire (2:13-17), servants (2:18-25), and wives (3:1-6) all have in common?**

10 | **Consider the commands and encouragements that Peter gives these three seemingly unrelated groups of people. How will his instruction help these people live as elect exiles in this unbelieving world (see 2:11-12)? Consider the themes that tie the three sections together.**

RESPOND

Meditate on 1 Peter 2:24-25. Reflect on what it looks like for you to die to sin and live to righteousness. How are you following the Overseer of your soul?



STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 2:11-3:7

O1 | Is there an area of your life in which you struggle to live under submission? What makes that circumstance so difficult? How might God be asking you to submit or subject yourself under a specific authority? How is your heart responding to that situation?

O2 | Peter is encouraging the reader to live a life that is honorable. What do you notice from this passage about the way we should conduct ourselves in all relationships?

O3 | As you reflect on 1 Peter 1:11-2:7, is the Lord convicting you of your conduct in a specific relationship? What might the Lord be working to accomplish through your obedience?

- O4 | **What are the characteristics of Christ's suffering found in 1 Peter 2:21-25? Consider His example as He suffered and took our sin. How does His suffering encourage you to endure in doing good and living unto righteousness?**
- O5 | **Are you using your freedom to honor those around you, love others, and glorify God? Be specific in ways you have been obedient in this, or write down some ways you could take steps toward exercising your freedom as a servant of God.**
- O6 | **What suffering do you endure? How can you entrust yourself to He who judges justly? How would doing so change your perspective?**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

This week's passage has some fairly clear actionable responses. Perhaps you have been deeply convicted in your conduct through suffering, submission and humility. Take a few moments to rest in the love that God has for you—His desire for your holiness is a work He is doing in you. Pray through Philippians 2:3-8, which perfectly sums up the humility that Jesus displayed when He suffered for our sake. Ask God to help you learn that same humility and to lead you toward the same selfless love of Christ.





1 Peter
3:8-4:11

Called To Be Holy (Week Five)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 3:8–4:11

WEEK 05

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 3:8-4:11

O1 | What does 3:8-17 say about:

a | What believers should do?

b | What believers should *not* do?

c | Suffering?

d | The Lord?

O2 | What does 3:18-22 say about:

a | Jesus?

b | God?

c | Salvation? What did God save Noah and his family from? How did He save them? How does Noah's salvation correspond to the way we as believers are saved (as depicted through baptism)?

d | Suffering? Consider v.18 and v.22 specifically. How is Jesus' suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of the Father an encouragement to believers who are currently suffering?

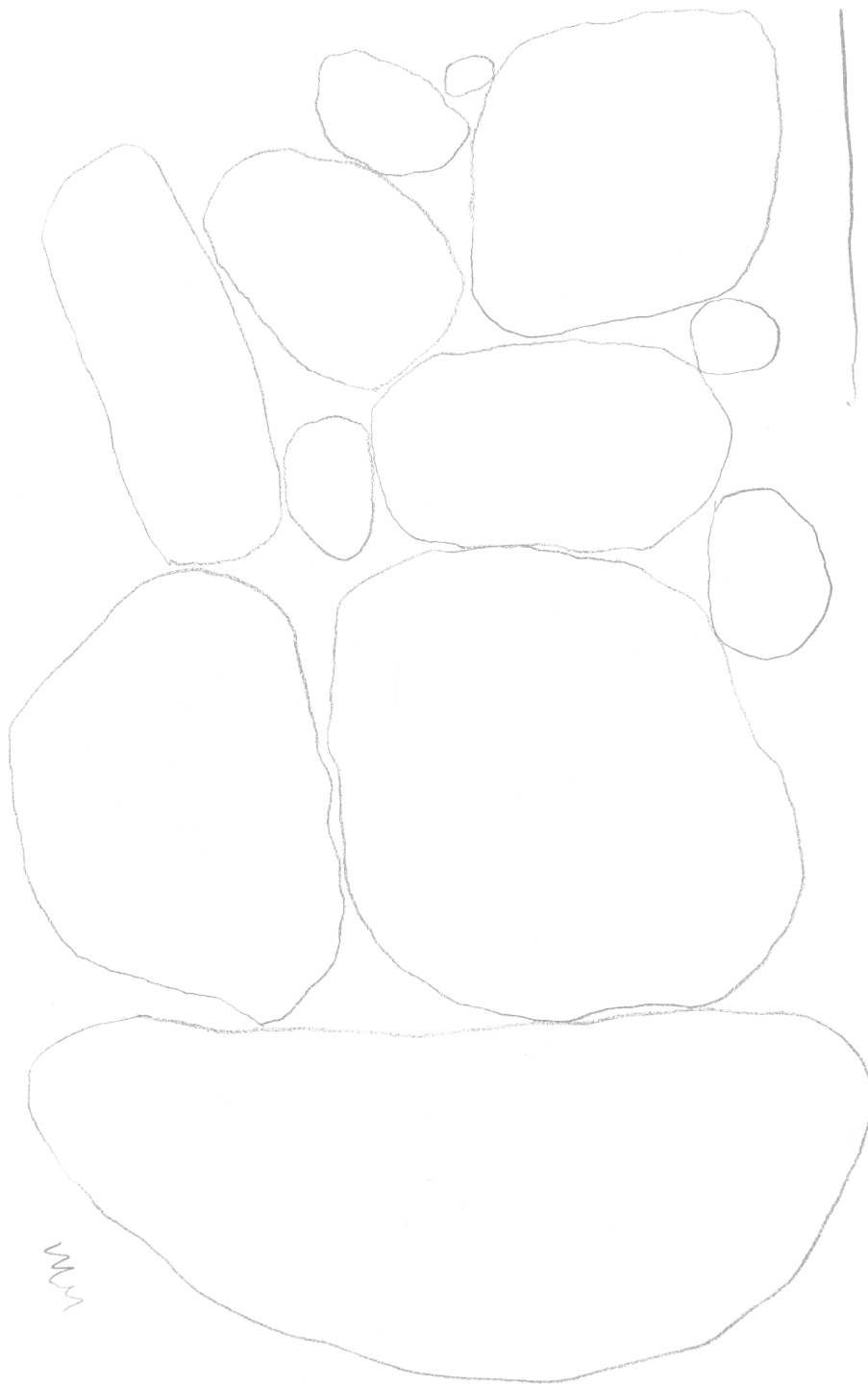
03 | What does 4:1-11 say about:

- a | Jesus?
- b | Suffering?
- c | What believers should do?
- d | What believers should *not* do?
- e | Future judgment? Specifically focus on how what will happen in the future ought to impact how we live today.

RESPOND

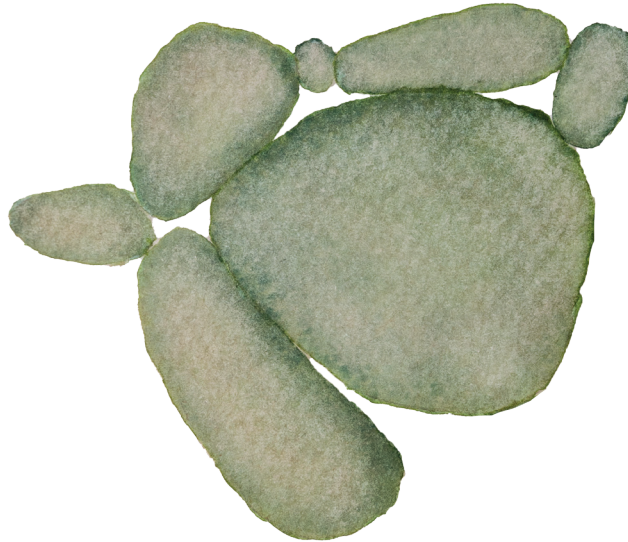
1 Peter 3:8-9 serves as a conclusive statement from the passages before it, but it also propels us forward into the rest of the chapter. Write these verses out on a notecard and meditate on them throughout the week. Are you of the same mind of Christ in unity, sympathy, love, compassion and humility?





STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 3:8-4:11

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

Peter is writing to elect exiles. As the elect, believers have been chosen by God's grace to inherit a future salvation that is eternal, glorious, and greater than any human could think or imagine. This is the good news of what elect exiles have been elected for. However, as exiles, believers are currently living in a world that is not our home. Because of this, believers are persecuted, suffer, and are treated as exiles. Believers are also called to conduct themselves according to the world they are being saved for, not the world they have been saved from.

Because of these realities, there are three major themes that are woven throughout 1 Peter. Because of who

believers are (elect exiles/chosen by God/a royal priesthood/etc.), (1) we have a hope for a future salvation. (2) The future hope that we have because of Christ has drastic implications for how we ought to respond to suffering. And (3) the future hope that we have because of Christ has drastic implications for how we ought to live.

These three themes (our future hope, suffering, and personal holiness) are especially prevalent in this week's passage. Therefore each of the three *zoom out* questions for this week will focus on one of the major themes in order to help us see how they all fit together.

- 01 **1 Peter talks a lot about the future hope that we have as believers. Consider the cross references below. According to Peter, what hope do we as believers have to look forward to? Summarize the patterns and themes that stick out to you.**

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Peter 1:4-5 // To an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:6-7 // In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13 // Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:12 // Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 3:7 // Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

1 Peter 4:3-5 // For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:7 // The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

1 Peter 4:11 // In order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:12-13 // Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4:16-19 // Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

1 Peter 5:1-2 // So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ²shepherd the flock of God that is among you.

1 Peter 5:4 // And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

1 Peter 5:6 // Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

1 Peter 5:8-11 // ...your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

As we saw, 1 Peter talks a lot about the future hope that we have as believers. But according to Peter, the future hope that we have has very important implications for the present. It specifically has implications for our present sufferings. Consider what Peter has to say about suffering, and specifically focus on how our future hope impacts how we should think about our present sufferings.

02 | 1 Peter talks a lot about suffering (the word is used 18 times in the short letter). Consider the cross references on the following page. According to Peter, how should believers think about suffering? Summarize the patterns and themes that stick out to you.

03 | According to Peter, how should the future hope that we have as believers impact the way we think about suffering in the present? Why are the two themes related?

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Peter 1:6-7 // In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:10-11 // Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

1 Peter 2:12 // Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:19-21 // For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

²⁰For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.

²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:23 // When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 3:14 // But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.

1 Peter 3:16-17 // Having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

1 Peter 3:18 // For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

1 Peter 4:1-2 // Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

1 Peter 4:12-13 // Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 4: 16-19 // Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" ¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

1 Peter 5:1-2 // So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ²shepherd the flock of God that is among you.

1 Peter 5:8-11 // ...your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

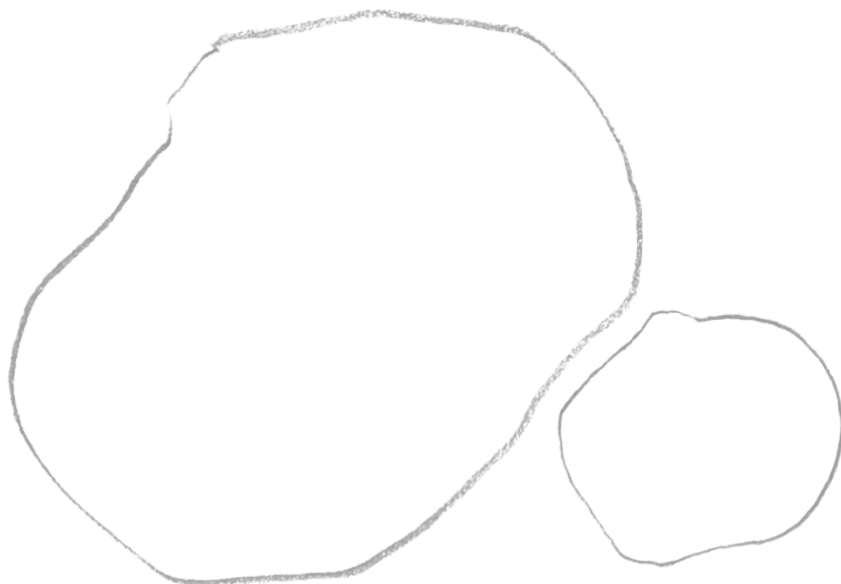
Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

As we saw, 1 Peter talks a lot about the future hope that we have as believers. But according to Peter, the future hope that we have has very important implications for the present. It specifically has implications for how we ought to live in this world. Consider what Peter has to say about our conduct, and specifically focus on how our future hope impacts how we should live.

04 | **1 Peter talks a lot about our conduct. Consider the cross references on the following page. How should elect exiles live in this world that is not our home? Summarize the patterns and themes that stick out to you.**

05 | **According to Peter, how should the future hope that we have as believers impact the way we live in the present? Why are the two themes related?**



CROSS REFERENCES

1 Peter 1:14 // As obedient children, **do not be conformed** to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.

1 Peter 1:17 // **Conduct yourselves with fear** throughout the time of your exile.

1 Peter 2:11 // Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles **to abstain from the passions of the flesh**, which wage war against your soul.

1 Peter 4:1-2 // Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has **ceased from sin**,²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh **no longer for human passions but for the will of God**.

1 Peter 4:4-5 // With respect to this they are surprised when you **do not join them** in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:7-11 // The end of all things is at hand; **therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded** for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, **keep loving one another** earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹**Show hospitality** to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles

of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:13-14 // But **rejoice** insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also **rejoice** and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

1 Peter 4:18-19 // And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"
¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator **while doing good**.

1 Peter 5:1-2 // So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ²**shepherd the flock of God that is among you**.

1 Peter 5:8-11 // ...your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹**Resist him**, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

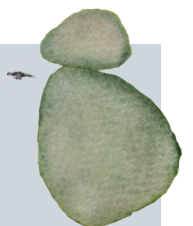
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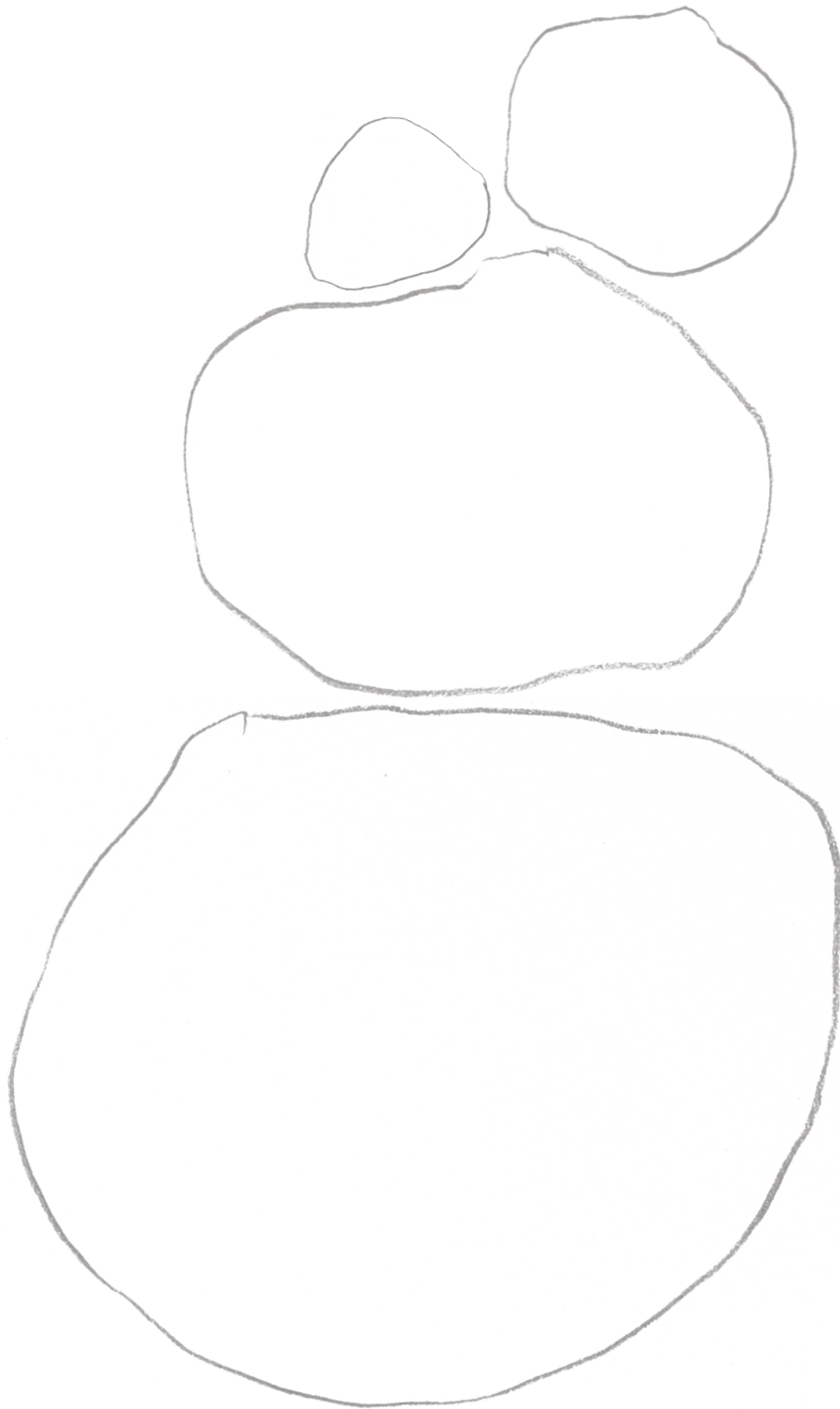
O6 | **Read 1 Peter 3:8-4:11 again. With the background from the *zoom out* questions in mind, how should believers live in this present world? How should we respond to suffering? And what does the future salvation/judgment have to do with it?**

O7 | **(Bonus): Read 1 Peter 3:18-22. What are the parallels between Jesus' death and resurrection, Noah and the ark, and baptism?**

RESPOND

Take some time to reflect on what you have uncovered today about our future hope, present suffering and your personal holiness. Close your book and journal, and in a few moments of stillness, allow these deep truths to anchor your heart in God's goodness and grace.





STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 3:8-4:11

O1 | Does the hope of the future make you zealous for what is good? Write down a few things that come to mind.

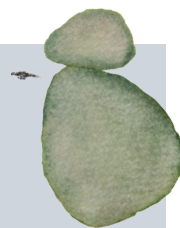
O2 | Peter's encouragement to live for the will of God is assuming that you have laid aside the human passions he has listed. He empathizes that it is not an easy task to lay these things aside, likening it to Christ's suffering in the flesh. What encouragement do you find in 1 Peter 4:1-6?

O3 | Have you ever had an experience where friends or family have ridiculed you for not joining them in the ways of the flesh? What is it like to live differently than the world around you?

- O4 | **How are you stewarding God's grace to you? What has God gifted you that you could be using for others?**
- O5 | **In what areas of your life might you need to step away from your human passions and live for the ways of God? Is there an area of conviction that continues to hold you in the things of the world? Don't just write it down; make a plan toward living out your holiness and tell your small group or a friend for accountability.**
- O6 | **Think of one way that you could steward the gifts of God's grace in your life. If you are struggling to think of something, ask a friend if they have noticed any gifts or graces in your life that could be used for others.**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

There is urgency and a weightiness to Peter's exhortation. Christ's return could happen at any moment! As you finish up today, spend time praying with self-control and a sober mind. With the reality of His return in mind, ask the Lord to help you make His kingdom work a priority in your life today.





 *1 Peter*
4:12-5:14

Called To Be Holy (Week Six)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

1 Peter 4:12–5:14

WEEK 06

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 4:12-5:14

O1 | What does 4:12-19 say about:

- a | Suffering? How should believers respond? How should believers not respond?
- b | Christ?
- c | God?

O2 | What does 5:1-4 say about:

- a | Elders? What are elders, and what should elders do? What should elders *not* do?
- b | Motivations for eldering? Why should elders do what Peter is exhorting them to do?
- c | Christ?

O3 | What does 5:5-14 say about:

a | Humility and pride?

b | God?

c | The devil?

d | Suffering?

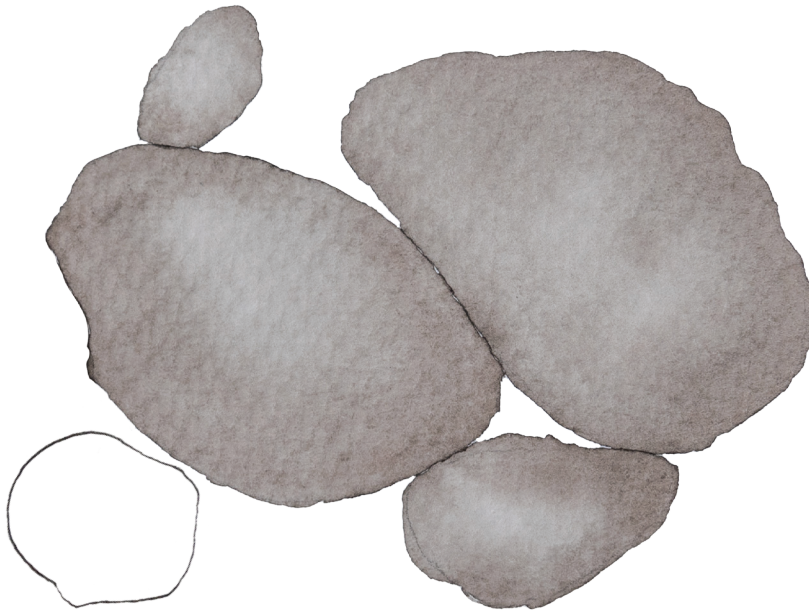
RESPOND

Write out 1 Peter 4:19 on a sticky note or index card and place it somewhere this week to help you meditate on it daily. To suffer as a Christian is to entrust yourself to the faithful Creator, and it leads us to enjoy God's glory. 2 Corinthians 4:17 tells us that our suffering is a light and momentary affliction that is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory. Consider the weights of suffering you are enduring—imagine that same weight as eternal glory.



STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 4:12-5:14

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

As Peter concludes his letter, he continues to encourage his readers to stand firm in suffering through God's grace because suffering is the path to glory. While the letter as a whole is addressed to the members of the church, at the beginning of chapter 5 Peter addresses the elders specifically. Eldering is always a weighty responsibility, but the stakes are raised even higher when the church is being squeezed by trials and persecution.

With that context in mind, it is important to consider what Peter says to the elders. In our cultural context it can be easy to assume there is a difference between elders and pastors. But the word *pastor* comes from the Latin word that means "shepherd." So 1 Peter 5 could read "Elders... pastor the flock that is among you." The New Testament makes no distinction between pastors and elders.

O1 | According to these passages, who are the shepherds? Who are the sheep? Who do the sheep belong to? And who are the fierce wolves?

O2 | Why does the New Testament so frequently refer to the spiritual leaders of the church as *shepherds*? How does this metaphor help us understand what elders are supposed to do and the type of people elders are supposed to be?

CROSS REFERENCES

John 21:15-19 // When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”¹⁶ He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”¹⁹ (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Acts 20:28-30 // Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Ephesians 4:11-16 // And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

1 Peter 5:1-3 // So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly;³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

Zoom Out:

03 | Why is Jesus referred to as a Shepherd? How does this metaphor help illustrate who Jesus is and how He relates to His people?

04 | Consider 1 Peter 5:1-5. Why does Peter specifically refer to Jesus as the chief Shepherd? If elders are undershepherds and Jesus is the chief Shepherd, what does this imply about elders and their relationship to Jesus? What does it imply about elders and their relationship to the church?

CROSS REFERENCES

Psalm 23:1-4 // The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Ezekiel 34:22-24 // I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

John 10:11-16 // I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and

I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Hebrews 13:20 // Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:4 // And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Revelation 7:15-17 // "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Zoom In:

- 05 | **Consider 1 Peter 5:6-7. What is the relationship between pride and anxiety? According to Peter, why is “casting your anxieties on him” a form of humbling yourself?**
- 06 | **Consider 1 Peter 5:8-11. At the beginning of the chapter Peter refers to believers as sheep. Now he tells us that there is a ferocious (supernatural) Lion seeking to devour people. According to this passage, why is Peter confident that we sheep will be able to survive when there is a roaring lion out there?**

RESPOND

Rest in the good news that Jesus is your chief Shepherd. Take a few moments to sit beside still waters with your tenderloving caregiver. How is He caring for you today? What anxieties and hardships can you cast on Him?



STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 1 Peter 4:12-5:14

- 01 | **How does suffering as a Christian lead to hope? What situations do you find yourself in that could cause you to suffer for the name of Jesus? Are you doing it with gladness, or do you find yourself frustrated with the world's response? Write down a few ways that your perspective might need to change.**

02 | **Describe how you see the flock of God that is among you (church, small group, family). Are there good examples that glorify God? What about your role in this flock?**

03 | **Peter urges us to clothe ourselves with humility toward one another. Are there areas in your life where you are resisting humility? What are the dangers and implications of your pride?**

- O4 | What tools has Peter offered you to resist the devil's cunning plans to devour you?
- O5 | It takes humility to admit your anxieties and to entrust yourself to another. God is inviting you to cast your cares upon Him, for He is the author and protector of your faith. What does it look like for you to cast *all your cares* on Him?
- O6 | Read 1 Peter 5:10-11 out loud, reading it in first person (and after / have suffered a little while...). Think of some of the specific trials you have walked and meditate on this amazing statement and the promises found in this verse. This is what God Himself is doing for you.

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Ask God to give you a deeper understanding of the purpose of suffering, obedience, and humility. Tell Him where you still struggle to understand, or the reasons you resist to yield. Ask Him to give you a heart of humility and the courage to walk in it. And ask Him to help you see what incredible future awaits you because of His faithfulness.





✦ *2 Peter*
1:1-11

Called To Be Holy (Week Seven)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

2 Peter 1:1–11

WEEK 07

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 1:1-11

O1 | What does 1:1-2 say about:

- a | The author of the letter?
- b | The recipients of the letter?
- c | God?
- d | Jesus?

O2 | What does 1:3-4 say about:

- a | God? What has God granted to us? How has He granted us these things? Why has He granted us these things?
- b | Believers? What has God called us to? What is the result of His calling?

O3 | What does 1:5-11 say about:

- a | What believers should do as a response to what God has done?
- b | Why believers should do these things?

**O4 | Take a step back and consider this week's passage as a whole.
What does 1:1-11 say about:**

- a | Knowledge?
- b | Godliness?
- c | Our calling/election?

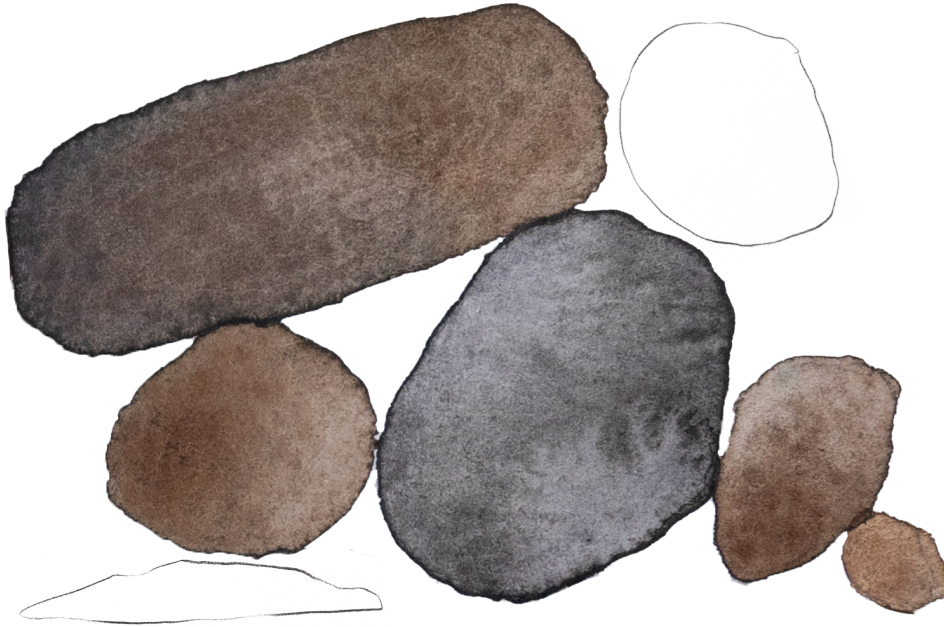
RESPOND

Consider all the things that have been granted to you for life and godliness. Meditate on how and what the Lord has provided for you. Do you live in gratitude or with a feeling of lack? Take these feelings to the Lord and ask Him to reveal His provision to you.



STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 1:1-11

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

2 Peter 1:4 contains a brief but powerful statement that ought to cause our minds to explode with questions and excitement. For Peter proclaims that through God's eternal power He has granted us the gracious privilege of becoming "partakers of the divine nature." Partakers of the divine nature? What could this possibly mean? Certainly it does not mean that believers will become gods. There is only one God and there will always only be one God.

So what does it mean to be a partaker of the divine nature? Certainly this question is worth further study.

O1 | **Based on how other biblical authors talk about what God is doing for us and through us in salvation, what does it mean to be a partaker in the divine nature?**

O2 | **Describe the process of becoming a partaker of the divine nature. How does it happen? What are the results?**

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 1:26-27 // Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

2 Corinthians 3:18 // And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:17-24 // Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!—²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt

through deceitful desires,²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:5-10 // Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming.⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

1 John 3:1-3 // See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.² Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Zoom Out:

03 | In 2 Peter 1:1-11, Peter talks a lot about knowledge and godliness. What is the connection between knowledge and godliness? Is it possible to be godly without knowledge of God? Does knowledge of God guarantee godliness?

04 | With these questions in mind, consider 2 Peter 1:3 more closely. Why would Peter say that God has granted us the power to be godly *through* the knowledge of Him? What are the connections between knowing God and being godly?

CROSS REFERENCES

Hosea 4:1, 6 // Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land... ⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Hosea 6:6 // For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

1 Corinthians 13:2 // And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

Colossians 1:9-10 // And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 3:10 // And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Titus 1:1 // Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness.

2 Peter 1:2 // May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

2 Peter 1:3 // His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:5-6 // For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control.

2 Peter 1:8 // For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Zoom In:

- 05 | Consider the phrase “for this very reason” in v.5. What is the connection between vv.3-4 and vv.5-7? Why is this connection so important?

RESPOND

Take some time to think of how you have grown in the knowledge of God and the ways it has changed the way you think, the effect it has had on your emotions, on what you believe, and how you respond to others. Has the knowledge of God been transforming in your life? Consider writing out 2 Peter 1:3-11 on a notecard or sticky note and meditate on it this week.



STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 1:1-11

O1 | **Why do you think Peter tells us we must *supplement* our faith (hint: take a look at v.8)?**

O2 | **Are you ineffective or unfruitful? Consider the path from faith to love. Are any of these qualities missing in your life?**

O3 | **What does it mean to *be nearsighted*? Have you become so in your daily life?**

- O4 | **What might need to change in your life for you to walk confidently in all that God has granted you?**
- O5 | **What blindspots has the Lord revealed to you this week? Do you need to grow in virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection or love? If you are able to pinpoint an area of growth, take some time to journal how you might have slipped in this area, and map out a few action steps to gain ground. Reach out to a friend or small group member for accountability and prayer.**
- O6 | **How can you practice these qualities? Write down a few specific ways you can put these qualities to daily use.**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Peter does not tell us that supplementing our faith changes our status with God. In fact, he reminds us of the great promises granted to us through faith before he offers these qualities. He does boldly tell us that if we are diligent in such qualities, however we will never fall. As you set aside your study today, take inventory of these qualities in your life. Ask the Lord to help you see the blindspots in your life that might make you ineffective or unfruitful. Finish your time today with gratitude that God has revealed Himself to you.





✦ *2 Peter*
1:12-21

Called To Be Holy (Week Eight)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

2 Peter 1:12–21

WEEK 08

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 1:12-21

O1 | What does 1:12-15 say about:

- a | Being reminded? What is Peter intending to remind his readers about (look back to vv.5-11 to consider what Peter means by *these qualities*)?
- b | The urgency and the importance of what Peter seeks to remind his readers about (see v.11 also)?
- c | The frequency of these reminders?

O2 | What does 1:16-18 say about:

- a | God the Father?
- b | Jesus?
- c | Peter? What is Peter claiming to have seen and heard? What type of message is Peter claiming to be delivering?

O3 | What does 1:19-21 say about:

- a | Prophecy? Also include in your answer what it says about Scripture.

- b | God?

- c | What we as readers should do in response to what Peter is saying?

RESPOND

Peter, as an eyewitness to the miracles of Jesus and the confirmation that He is who He says He is, has a passion to remind his brothers and sisters of all Christ has done. Do you share Peter's passion? Consider 2 Peter 1:12-15. Who could you be reminding of their calling?



STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 1:12-21

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

2 Peter 1:12 begins with the word *therefore* connecting what Peter has said with what he is about to say. In vv.3-5 Peter has said that God is making us godly. Through His divine power, His gracious effectual calling, and the revelation of the knowledge of Himself, God is saving sinners to be partakers of the divine nature.

In vv.5-8 Peter commands believers to be what God is creating them to be: virtuous, knowledgeable, godly, loving, spiritually fruitful, etc. In vv.9-11 Peter exhorts his readers to be diligent to confirm that they are who God has called them to be, for the stakes could not be higher. Entrance into the eternal Kingdom of King Jesus is on the line, therefore diligent perseverance by God's grace alone for the glory of God alone is of utmost importance.

With the entrance into Christ's eternal kingdom in mind, Peter now turns to refute the false teachers who are apparently claiming that Christ is not coming back to judge the living and the dead, the Second Coming is a myth, and therefore morality is of no eternal consequence (see 2 Peter 3:1-4). Peter will address the false teachers and their teaching at length in chapter 2, but first assures his readers that Jesus is in fact coming again to establish His eternal glorious kingdom (1:16). He does this by making a two-fold argument: (1) the Transfiguration proves that Christ is coming again (1:17-18), and (2) the Transfiguration proves the validity of the Old Testament prophecies that Christ will come again (1:19-21). The following *zoom out* questions will seek to help us interpret Peter's two-fold argument.

COMMENTARY

At first glance Peter's reference to the Transfiguration seems random and unrelated. But do not lose heart! An abundance of biblical gold is awaiting those who are

willing to pray, study, and think upon what Peter is saying. So pray through Psalm 119:18 and trust that the reward will be worth the study.

O1 | Matthew, Mark and Luke describe an event that Peter witnessed that has come to be known as the "Transfiguration." Describe the event in your own words. Which aspects of the event does Peter highlight in 2 Peter 2:17-18?

O2 | Consider Matthew 26:28, Mark 9:1, and Luke 9:27. What is the connection between Jesus' promise that some of them would see Him coming in His kingdom and the Transfiguration? How does Jesus being transformed in front of Peter help fulfill this promise?

03 Consider 2 Peter 1:11, 16. How does Peter's eyewitness account of the Transfiguration prove that Jesus will indeed come again to establish His eternal kingdom?

CROSS REFERENCES

Matthew 16:28-17:7 // Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” ⁸And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

Mark 9:1-8 // And he said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.” ²And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” ⁸And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.

Luke 9:27-36 // But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.” ²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” ³⁶And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

2 Peter 1:17-18 // For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

In the previous *zoom out* we saw that the Transfiguration proves that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah/ Son of Man/Son of God/ King of the Kingdom of God. This was confirmed by His glorious transfiguration and God's testimony that came in the form of a voice from heaven. And the fact that the Messianic King has come is proof that the King will come again to establish the Kingdom of God.

Building off of this, in this *zoom out* section we will consider some of the prophecies that the Transfiguration

helps validate. In vv.19-21 Peter essentially argues that the Transfiguration adds further confirmation of the trustworthiness of the prophecies that the Christ will establish an eternal Kingdom. The Second Coming of Christ is obviously a huge theme in Scripture, but let's consider a few key texts that are explicitly connected to the Transfiguration, which will help add further clarity to Peter's argument.

- O4 | **How does the Transfiguration prove that Jesus is the Son of Man and Son of God?
What type of kingdom will the Son of Man/Son of God rule over?**

- 05 | According to Peter, what are some of the major Old Testament prophecies that the Transfiguration helps confirm? According to these prophecies, what type of king has been promised and what type of kingdom will he rule over?

CROSS REFERENCES

Daniel 7:13-14 // “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. ¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

Matthew 16:28-17:7 // “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

2 Peter 1:11 // For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

COMMENTARY

The eternal Kingdom of God will be ruled by the Son of Man. The Transfiguration proves that Jesus is the Son of Man. Therefore the Transfiguration helps further confirm the reality that Jesus coming again to establish His eternal kingdom is not a myth (2 Peter 1:16). For further study see Revelation 1.

CROSS REFERENCES

2 Samuel 7:12-13 // When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Psalm 2:6-8 // “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” ⁷I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.”

Matthew 17:5 // He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”

2 Peter 1:17-18 // For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

COMMENTARY

God has promised that a son of David will rule over the Kingdom of God forever. In Psalm 2 the Davidic Messiah is declared to be the Son of God. The voice from heaven during the Transfiguration confirmed that Jesus is God's Son. Therefore Jesus is the King who will rule over the Kingdom of God forever.

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 3:15 // I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

Genesis 49:10 // The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Numbers 24:17 // I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

2 Peter 1:9 // And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Revelation 22:16 // “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

COMMENTARY

The entire Old Testament anticipates the day when an offspring of Eve who comes from the line of Abraham, Jacob, Judah, and David will come and crush the serpent, overthrow the kingdom of darkness that is in rebellion against God, and establish an eternal Kingdom of God where everyone and everything will submit to Him in reverent worship forever and ever. When this day comes it will be like the sun, the bright morning star, rising to

overcome the darkness. The Transfiguration proves that Jesus is this King. And according to Peter in vv.19-21, when Jesus returns and the sun rises on eternity, we will see Him and believe in our hearts that all of Scripture has been confirmed and fulfilled. The Transfiguration proves what the Old Testament prophesies. And what the Old Testament prophesies is that God's King is coming to establish God's kingdom forever.

Zoom In:

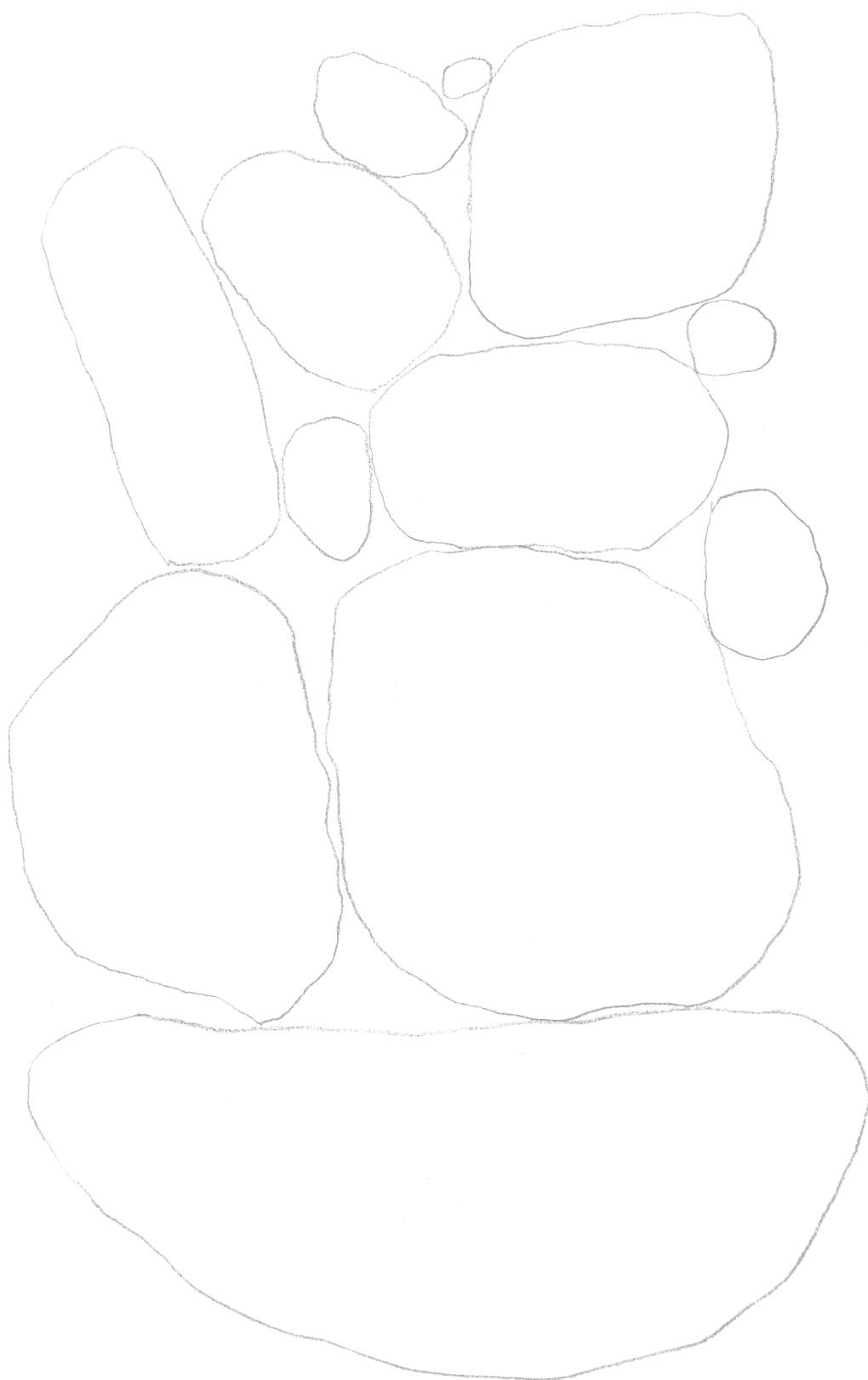
OG

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 again. As the Transfiguration and Old Testament prophecies confirm, Jesus is coming again to establish the eternal kingdom of God. According to Peter, how should we as believers respond to this good news?

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Set your study aside and in a few quiet moments, imagine what it might have been like to be present for the transfiguration. Perhaps close your eyes and imagine the mountain side, the atmosphere, the sounds and the sight of the glory and majesty of the moment. If Jesus were to return tomorrow, how might you live today?





STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 1:12-21

O1 | Peter is sure to continually remind us of the good news of the gospel and that we are on a path of spiritual growth toward holiness. How is practicing remembrance beneficial to your walk with Christ? What are some ways that you can remember God's Word throughout your week?

O2 | Are you tuned into cleverly devised myths that could lead you astray? What might those look like in today's day and age? What *wisdom* is being offered that may seem helpful, but does not align with the inspired Word?

O3 | Are your eyes fixed on the promise that Jesus is coming again? How does this encourage you in your Christian walk and give you hope for the future?

O4 | **How does understanding divine inspiration shape your view of Scripture and inform your life? If Scripture is the true and prophetic Word of God, how should you practically look to it for daily guidance in your life? Is there anything more the Lord might be asking you to do?**

O5 | **What does a life eager for Christ's return look like? Are you anticipating His return? Take some time to journal out some of your fears or excitement about the promised return of our King.**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Meditate on 2 Peter 1:19. Peter is expressing further evidence that Jesus is who He says He is based on what he witnessed. He urges us to pay close attention, recognizing it as the light shining in the darkness of the world and a compass for our hearts. Ask the Lord to help you pay close attention today.





✦ *2 Peter*
2:1-22

Called To Be Holy (Week Nine)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

2 Peter 2:1–22

WEEK 09

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 2:1-22

O1 | What does 2:1-3 say about:

a | False teachers?

b | Those who follow false teachers?

O2 | What does 2:4-10a say about:

a | God?

b | Judgment? Consider the *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why* of judgment in this passage.

c | Salvation? Who did God preserve/rescue in this passage? Why did He save them?

d | The future implications of God's past acts of judgment and salvation (see vv.9-10a)?

03 | **What does 2:10-16 say about:**

a | The character of the false teachers (see vv.10-12 specifically)?

b | Judgment? Consider the *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, and *why* of judgment in this passage.

O4 | **What does 2:17-22 say about:**

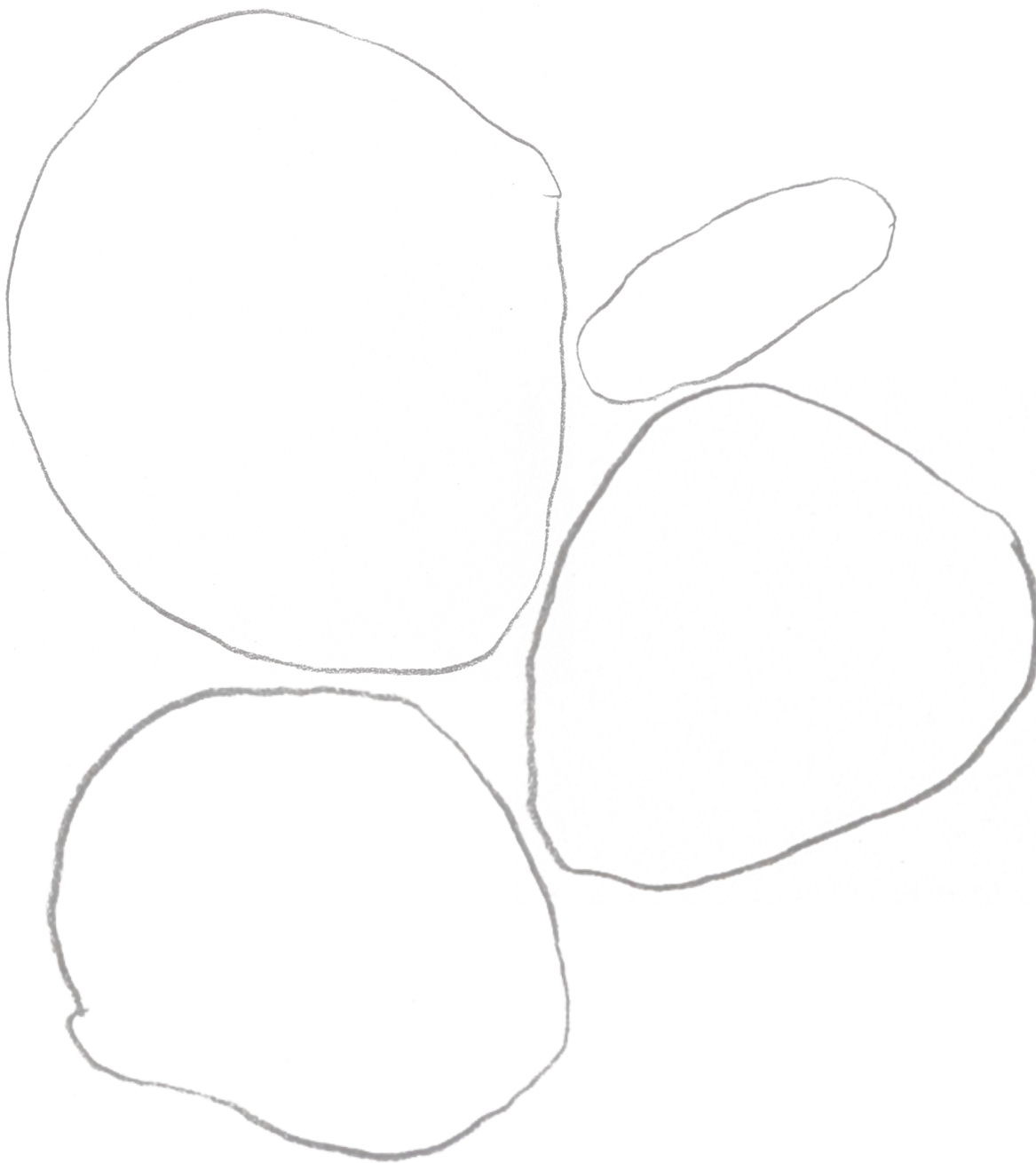
a | The reasons why certain people were tempted to follow these false teachers?

b | The fate of those who followed these false teachers?

RESPOND

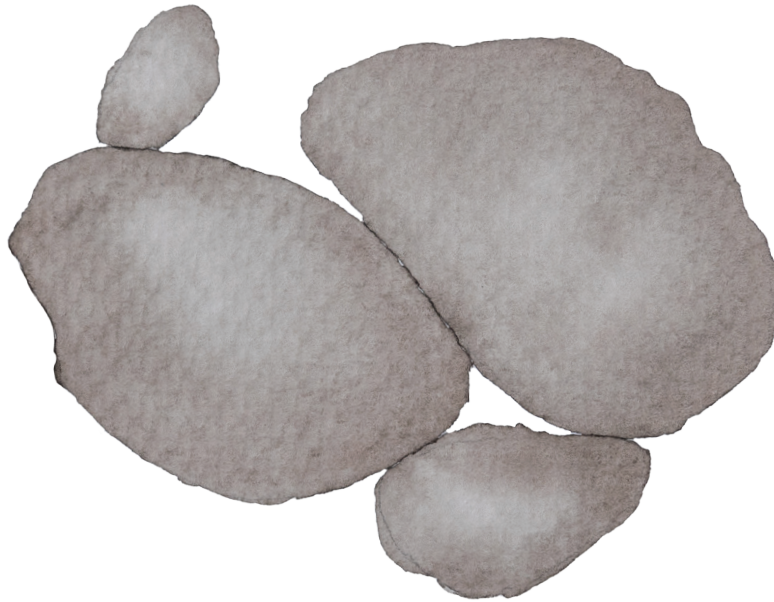
Man has chosen his own path and rebelled against God since the beginning of time. Meditate on the knowledge and sovereignty of God throughout time as it pertains to those who are His, and to His coming judgment (2 Peter 2:9). Are you watchful of false teachers and the temptations of sin around you?





STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 2:1-22

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

In 2 Peter 1, Peter exclaims that the gospel is the good news that God is making sinners godly through His divine power. Peter then exhorts his readers to be what God is recreating them to be (i.e. godly) and thus confirm that God has indeed called them to dwell in His glorious kingdom forever and ever. In v.16 Peter implies that some people among his readers have claimed the reality that Jesus is coming again to judge the living and the dead and establish His kingdom is a “cleverly devised myth.” Here in chapter 2 Peter spends the entirety of the chapter

addressing the dangers of these false teaching heretics who deny the Second Coming. As it turns out, denying the Second Coming is attractive to the sinful flesh because if there is no judge then there is no judgment, and if there is no judgment then personal holiness is irrelevant. But as Peter makes clear, God’s record of judging sin in the past guarantees that future judgment is coming. It is only the righteous few who will be saved. Therefore how one lives is of eternal importance.

- O1 | **Consider the historical accounts from Genesis that Peter references in 2 Peter 2:4-8. What do these accounts reveal about God's judgment (what does God judge, how does God judge, and is His judgment a mere slap on the wrist or something to be diligently avoided, etc.)?**
- O2 | **Consider the historical accounts from Genesis that Peter references in vv.4-8. What do these accounts reveal about God's ability and willingness to save?**
- O3 | **Consider 2 Peter 2:9-10 specifically. What does Peter want his readers to learn from these three historical accounts in Genesis?**

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 6:1-4 // When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came into the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.

2 Peter 2:4 // For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment.

Genesis 7:17-23 // The flood continued forty days on the earth. The waters increased and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. ¹⁸The waters prevailed and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the face of the waters. ¹⁹And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. ²⁰The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. ²¹And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. ²²Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. ²³He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.

2 Peter 2:5 // If he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

Genesis 7:23 // He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out

from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark.

2 Peter 2:5 // If he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.

Genesis 19:23-29 // The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. ²⁵And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. ²⁶But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. ²⁷And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. ²⁸And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace. ²⁹So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

2 Peter 2:6 // If by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.

Genesis 19:29 // So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

2 Peter 2:7-8 // And if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸(for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard).

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

2 Peter 2 is all about false teachers and their destructive theology. The New Testament has a lot to say about false teachers and the dangers they present. For this *zoom out* we will consider some other passages on false teachers in order to help us think about the relationship between what we believe and how we live. This will prepare us for our *zoom in* questions where we will specifically consider the teaching and conduct of the false teachers being discussed in 2 Peter 2.

- O4 | **What are some common characteristics of false teachers? What is common about their character, their conduct, their teaching, their motivations, and the way they treat others?**
- O5 | **According to the passages below, what are the correlations between what you believe and how you live? In other words, why does sound doctrine accord with godliness and bad theology accord with immorality?**

CROSS REFERENCES

1 Timothy 1:3-11 // As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, ⁴nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. ⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. ⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

1 Timothy 4:1-8 // Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. ⁶If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 Timothy 6:3 // Teach and urge these things. If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness.

2 Timothy 3:6-10 // For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, ⁷always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. ⁸Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. ⁹But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men. ¹⁰You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness.

Titus 1:10-2:1 // For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. ¹²One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. ^{2:1}But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

Zoom In:

- O6 | With the previous *zoom out* in mind, consider what Peter reveals about these false teachers. What is the false doctrine that they are believing and teaching?
- O7 | According to Peter, how are the false teachers living? Describe their spiritual condition and conduct.
- O8 | What is the relationship between what these false teachers are believing/teaching and how they are living?

RESPOND

Consider the characteristics of the false teachers, their sin, and the gravity of judgment. Take some time to meditate on God's deep desire and preservation of the righteousness and holiness of His people. How do you think this should impact how intentionally you pursue these things?



STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 2:1-22

- O1** | Why is it so important to be able to recognize false teachers? What are the dangers and immediate implications of a life being led astray by such cunning and destructive lies?

O2 | What tools has God offered us to help in recognizing narratives that don't align with truth? Consider what we have learned about the authority of Scripture, and what we have learned from 1 Peter about the role of godly elders.

O3 | How does the promise of a coming judgment to those who do not uphold righteousness affect the way you live? Is there a noticeable difference in your choices and lifestyle?

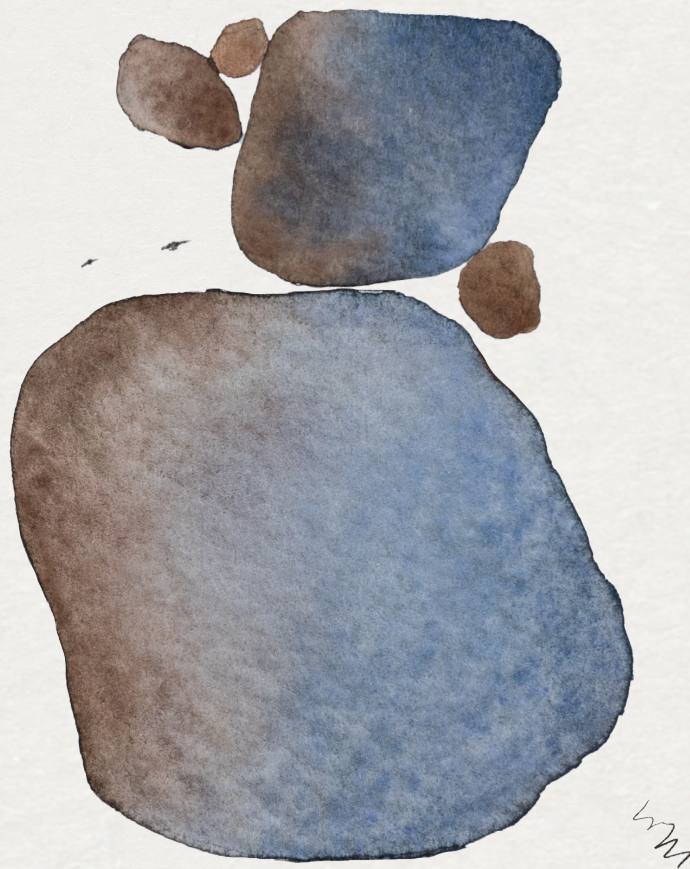
O4 | **How has 2 Peter 2:1-22 caused you to be more aware and cautious of what and who you listen to and follow? Which extra voices have crept into your life that might need to be eradicated?**

O5 | **2 Peter 2:19 points out that false teachers promise freedom, but they themselves are enslaved. What does he say about what overcomes a person? How have you seen this to be true in your own life?**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

As you close in prayer today, ask the Lord to reveal to you any voices that have found influence in your life that don't align with His Word and heart for you. Take a few moments to sit in a position of surrender and ask the Holy Spirit to bring anything to mind. Seek the truth of Scripture over these areas and ask for discernment and wisdom—the Father promises both to those who ask!





 *2 Peter*
3:1-18

Called To Be Holy (Week Ten)
A Study Through 1 & 2 Peter

2 Peter 3:1–18

WEEK 10

STEP 01

Observe

Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 3:1-18

O1 | What does 3:1-4 say about:

- a | Remembering? What does Peter want his readers to remember? Why does he want them to remember these things? How is he reminding them?
- b | Scoffers? What are the scoffers scoffing at and why are they scoffing at these things?

O2 | What does 3:5-7 say about:

- a | The heavens/the heavens and the earth (i.e. the universe)?
- b | The Word of God?

c | Water?

d | What will happen in the future?

03 | **What does 3:8-13 say about:**

a | The Lord? What do these verses reveal about His character?

b | The future day of the Lord?

- c | The current creation/universe? What does it say about the future new creation?

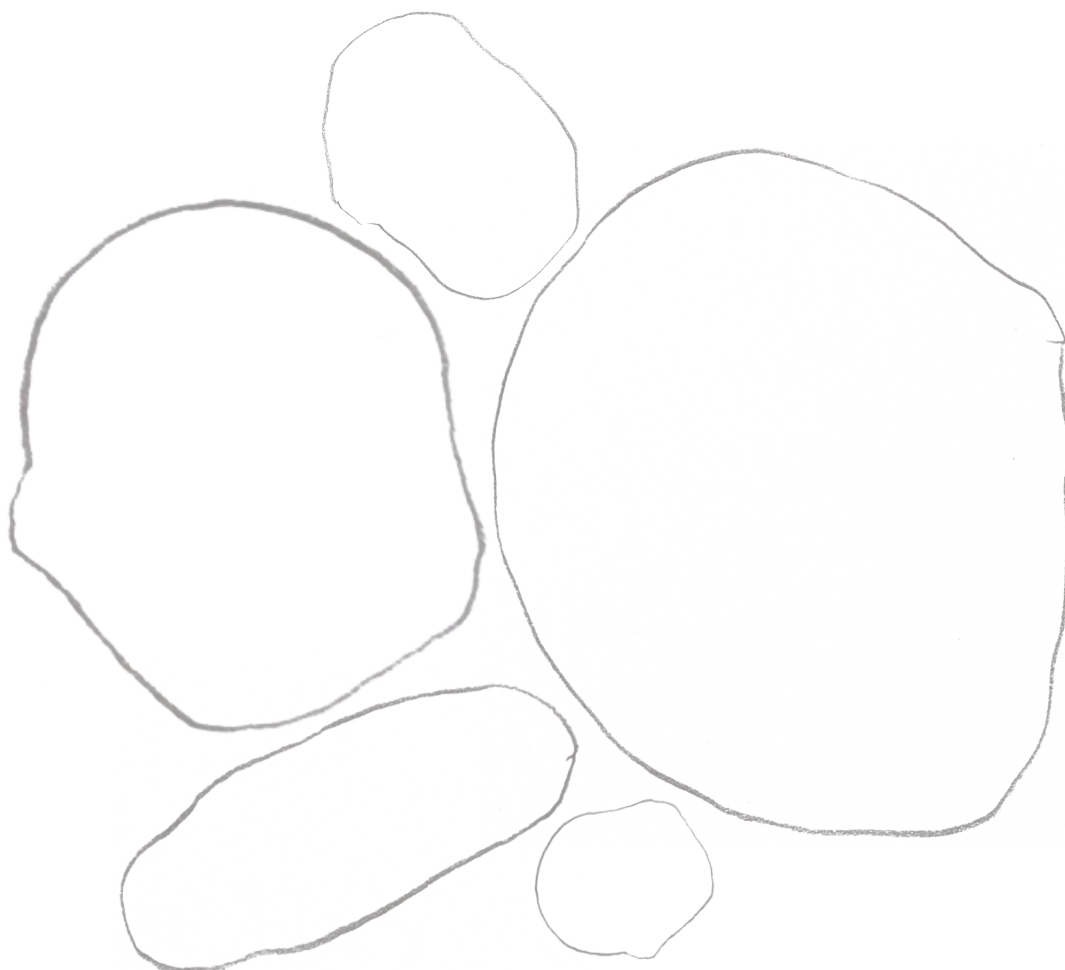
- d | How we as believers should respond? According to Peter, how should the doctrine of what will happen in the last days impact the way we live in the present?

O4 | What does 3:14-18 say about:

- a | What believers should do while we wait for the day of the Lord?

- b | What believers should be careful not to do while we wait for the day of the Lord?

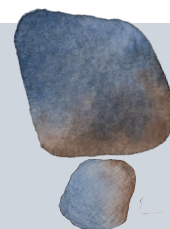
- c | Jesus (compare with 2 Peter 1:2 and note the fact that by definition doxologies are to be directed toward God alone)?



RESPOND

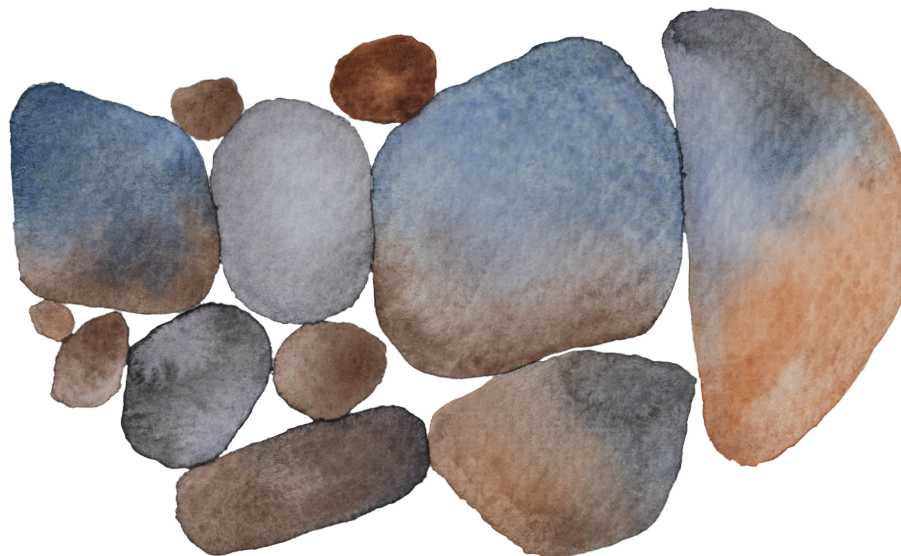
Write out 2 Peter 3:10 somewhere where you will see it throughout your week. Every time you read it, consider this question: “What things am I pursuing today that aren’t going to last into eternity?”

Let that question help you reflect on what things you are prioritizing. Are you living a life in pursuit of holiness and godliness?



STEP 02

Interpret



Pray Psalm 119:18 & 2 Peter 3:1-18

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

As we have seen throughout the letter, Peter is writing to believers who have been exposed to the dangerous heretical teaching that the Second Coming of Christ is a myth, which would imply that the idea of a future universal day of judgment is a myth as well (there cannot be a judgment without a judge). According to v.5 the false teachers seem to be insinuating that ever since the days

of the fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) the creation has gone on without any divine intervention, and so the idea that God will all of a sudden intervene in the future is just a scare tactic worth scoffing at. In response to this, Peter gives a threefold argument exhorting his readers to believe the Word of God rather than the word of these false teachers.

- O1 | **According to v.5, how did the waters get separated from the dry land when the world was formed? According to v.6, how did the dry land get flooded again with water? How do the examples of the creation account and the flood account prove the scoffers wrong?**
- O2 | **Consider v.7. According to Peter, what are some similarities between the creation account, the flood account, and the future day of judgment? What are some dissimilarities?**
- O3 | **Consider vv.1-7 as a whole. Why should Peter's readers believe the Word of God/prophets and apostles instead of the word of the scoffers?**

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 1:3 // And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:11 // And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation."

Genesis 1:24 // And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures."

Psalms 33:6 // By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

Hebrews 11:3 // By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God.

2 Peter 3:5 // For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God.

COMMENTARY

Scripture is clear from beginning to end that God created the universe by His Word (see John 1:1-3). Therefore it is a self-defeating argument for the scoffers to claim that God has not intervened in the universe since creation (see 2 Peter 3:4). Creation proves that God intervenes with His creation, because everything that exists was created and formed by the Word of God.

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 1:6-10 // And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. ⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and

let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

2 Peter 3:5 // For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God.

COMMENTARY

God created everything by His word. Peter specifically refers to the part of creation when God separated the waters from the atmosphere and then the waters from the dry land.

CROSS REFERENCES

Genesis 6:13, 17 // And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth... ¹⁷For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven."

2 Peter 3:6 // And that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

COMMENTARY

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God said, “Let the waters separate from the dry land,” and the waters separated from the dry land. And God said, “Let the same waters flood the earth again,” and the same waters flooded the earth again. God created the world by His Word and He flooded the world by His Word. Both prove that God intervenes in the creation He has made.

CROSS REFERENCES

Deuteronomy 32:22 // For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Isaiah 66:15-16 // “For behold, the Lord will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶For by fire will the Lord enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the Lord shall be many.

Zephaniah 1:18 // Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord.

In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Malachi 4:1 // For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

2 Peter 3:7 // But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

COMMENTARY

The same God who created and flooded the world through the power of His Word has promised in His Word that He will bring a fiery judgment on the cosmos He has made. Therefore we must believe the Word of God rather than the word of the false teachers that Jesus is in fact coming again to judge the living and the dead.

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

In 2 Peter 3:5-7, Peter explains that the false teachers are denying the Second Coming of Christ because they “deliberately overlook the fact” that God created the world by the power of His Word, He judged the world with water according to His Word, and He will judge the world again according to His Word. Only this time He will do it with fire. In v.8 Peter addresses his readers directly

in order to exhort them to not “overlook this one fact” that will keep them, like the false teachers, from believing that Jesus is coming again to judge the living and the dead. For it is true that the world has gone on for thousands of years. And if Jesus has not come back yet, some could conclude that He must never be coming. It is to this false assumption that Peter now turns in vv.8-10.

04 | **If God has promised to send Jesus to judge the living and the dead, then why has He not returned yet?**

05 | **Bonus: 2 Peter 3:9 (as well as other passages) clearly state that God does not desire for anyone to perish. But the Bible is also clear that some people will perish. Does this mean that some things happen against God’s sovereign will? Or does the Bible allow for a distinction between God’s sovereign will and His moral will? Journal your thoughts below. (Also think about this question as it pertains to the crucifixion. Was it God’s will for Jesus to die on the cross?)**

CROSS REFERENCES

Psalm 90:2-4 // From everlasting to everlasting you are God. ³You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past.

2 Peter 3:8 // With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Joel 2:11-13 // For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome; who can endure it? ¹²“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Romans 2:4-5 // Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

2 Peter 3:9-10 // The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.

Ezekiel 18:32 // “For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

1 Timothy 1:3-4 // This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Peter 3:9-10 // The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.

Matthew 7:21-23 // “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²²On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ ²³And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

John 6:44 // No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.

Acts 13:48 // As many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Romans 9:19-23 // You will say to me then, “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?” ²⁰But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” ²¹Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²²What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.

Zoom Out:

COMMENTARY

The fact that Jesus has not yet returned does not mean He is not coming again. After helping his readers understand why Jesus has not yet returned, Peter now turns to reveal what will happen when He does.

06 | **According to vv.10-13, what will happen on the day of the Lord when Jesus returns?**

07 | **According to vv.10-13, what will God do after the wicked are judged and the earth is burned? Why is there any reason to believe that these things will actually happen?**

08 | **According to vv.10-18, how should believers live in light of the fact that Jesus is coming again to judge the living and the dead?**

CROSS REFERENCES

Matthew 24:42-44 // Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 // For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Revelation 16:15 // “Behold, I am coming like a thief!

2 Peter 3:10 // But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar.

Matthew 24:35 // Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

2 Peter 3:10 // But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar.

Isaiah 66:15-16 // “For behold, the Lord will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. ¹⁶For by fire will the Lord enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the Lord shall be many.

Zephaniah 1:18 // Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Micah 1:3-4 // For behold, the Lord is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. ⁴And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place.

Malachi 4:1-3 // For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither

root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

2 Peter 3:7 // But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

2 Peter 3:10 // and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

2 Peter 3:12 // The heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

Genesis 1:1 // In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Isaiah 65:17 // “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.”

Isaiah 66:22-23 // “For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain. ²³From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the Lord.

(If time permit read Isaiah 65:17-66:24)

Matthew 19:28 // Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

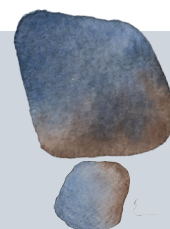
Revelation 21:1 // Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

(If time permits read Revelation 21:1-22:4)

2 Peter 3:13 // But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

RESPOND

In light of the promise and good things that await upon Jesus’ return, consider the love and patience God is exercising in waiting for that day. In anticipation of God making all things new, take a few moments of stillness to reflect on His love for you today and His plans for your future.



STEP 03

Reflect & Apply

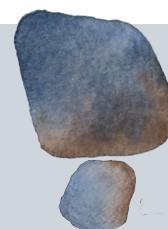
Pray Psalm 119:18 & Read 2 Peter 3:1-18

- 01 | Do you practice the discipline of remembering and setting your mind on the promises of God? How does the practice of what we set our mind on help us remain in hope?**
 - 02 | What have you learned from this 11-week study that gives you hope for the future?**
 - 03 | How does God's patience in His return encourage you to share the gospel with others? How could you be more intentional to share Christ with those around you?**

- O4 | **As you have meditated on 2 Peter 3:10, has the Lord convicted you of any temporal priorities? What steps can you take to daily live for your eternal home? Write one practical step down to share with your small group.**
- O5 | **Which specific ways have you been reminded of your call toward holiness in your thoughts, words and actions throughout this study? What changes have you made, or do you plan to make to pursue your calling? Share these steps with a friend or family member to help you stay accountable.**
- O6 | **In a few sentences, journal your takeaways from your study of 1 & 2 Peter. What areas have you grown and been challenged in?**

RESPOND IN PRAYER

Close today thanking God for what He has taught you about Himself and your calling through the study of 1&2 Peter. Reflect on the ways you have grown, and ask Him to continue to shape you into the holy and righteous child He has made you to be. Ask Him to give you a delight and anticipation for His return, a heart that lives for eternity with Him, and an urgency to share the gospel with joy.



“His divine power has granted to us
all things that pertain to life and godliness,
through the knowledge of him who called us
to his own glory and excellence.”

(2 Peter 1:3)