

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

1 PETER

WALK WITH GOD'S PEOPLE THROUGH GOD'S WORD

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

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Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

INTRODUCTION

Peter, probably one of the most famous of Jesus' disciples, was a fisherman and was originally introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew, who had been a follower of John the Baptist. He was always known for being impetuous and outspoken, a characteristic which sometimes got him into trouble. Peter has been called the ignorant fisherman, but no man who had spent three years in the school of Jesus could be called ignorant. The Epistles of Peter confirm this.

In his book, *Unlocking the Bible*, David Pawson says: *Perhaps the most moving moment in Peter's life came after he denied Jesus three times before Jesus' crucifixion, and then met Him on the shores of Galilee after the resurrection. Jesus did not say to Peter that He cannot use him anymore. No, he actually said: Peter, I can cope with you, provided that I am sure of one thing. Do you love me?" Jesus asked Peter the same question 3 times, and it somehow put Peter's life back on track.*

Peter became an evangelist and preacher – but when he writes this letter to the churches in Asia Minor, he simply introduces himself as an apostle. He wanted the readers

to understand that the message is not so much his own, but a message from God.

Many first-century followers of Christ were suffering and being abused and persecuted for believing in and obeying Jesus. Beginning in Jerusalem at the hands of their Jewish brothers, the persecution spread to the rest of the world—wherever Christians gathered. It came to a climax when Rome determined to rid the empire of the “Christ-ones”—those who would not bow to Caesar.

Peter knew persecution firsthand. Beaten and jailed, he had been threatened often. He had seen fellow Christians die and the church scattered. But he knew Christ, and nothing could shake his confidence in his risen Lord. So, Peter wrote to the church scattered and suffering for the faith, giving comfort and hope, and urging continued loyalty to Christ.

May this study give you comfort – knowing that a New Life in Christ is possible for all who believes.

Soli Deo Gloria

THE SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD

This method of Bible study is very straightforward – where the reader only relies on God and the Holy Spirit. You can do this in as much or as little time as you have - just choose a shorter or a longer passage and spend more or less time on observation and application.

SOAP is an acronym for:

- reading a passage of Scripture,
- listening for what God is trying to say to you through that piece of Scripture,
- reflecting on how you can take any Biblical truths that you find there into your life, and
- praying about what you learned.

While you can do this type of Bible study with a study Bible, this method requires no commentaries, no concordances, and no research. No outside research means that you are relying more on your personal relationship with God, and you are cultivating your ability to listen to that still, small voice of His Spirit.

This method works by asking the right questions, each starting with the letters of the acronym SOAP:

Scripture - Read the piece of Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.

Observation - What do you observe about the passage? About the characters, events, and claims being made? What did you find interesting about the Scripture? What did you learn?

Application - How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?

Prayer - Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.

In doing the preparation for the weekly small group gatherings, we will provide you with scripture to read and provide you with the keywords to help you in using the SOAP method of Bible study. We trust that this will be a journey that enrich your life and help you to better understand the Bible.

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

1

Week

New life comes from God

Memory Verse:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3-4

PERSONAL STUDY

Read 1 Peter 1: 1-9 in one sitting

- Use the “SOAP” principle below to help you to better understand what the reason for this letter is and to whom it is directed.
- Compare other Bible translations with your translation of choice.

Scripture: (Read the piece of Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (What do you observe about the passage? About the characters, events, and claims being

made? What did you find interesting about the Scripture?
What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. It might help if you get a notebook to journal what you have learned from the Word of God.

- 1 Peter 1:1-9
- Romans 6:1-14
- Romans 8:18-25
- James 1:2-4
- Ephesians 4:17-24
- Colossians 3:5-17

Additional Notes:

- Look for and make a list of any attributes of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
 - Repeating Words: List or mark words or concepts that continue to appear. You should find quite a few!
 - In one or two sentences, write a summary about the main message of week 1.
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Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3-4

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 1:1-9

Opening Remarks:

As Christians, we often forget (or maybe take for granted) exactly what Jesus accomplished on our behalf through his death and resurrection. These first verses of 1 Peter serve as reminders of just how precious that salvation was and continues to be. It is possible that Peter's audience needed a reminder of this.

It is likely that their initial burst of joy at conversion has now given way to shock, frustration, confusion and even a lack of faith, given that things are probably worse for them since coming to Christ. Therefore, Peter reminds his readers about their special status in God, a status which not even the prophets of old understood but which is now applicable to all believers.

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. What is the identity of God's people? What does it mean to you?

1 Peter 1:3 starts out by saying that Christians have been born again. How does that occur according to this verse

and what does it mean to be “born again,” to have the new life from God?

Verses 3 and 4 suggest we have been born into a “living hope” and “an inheritance.” What is our living hope? Why is it called a “living” hope? What made this hope possible?

What words are used to describe the inheritance? What do those words communicate to you about your salvation and how should that impact your faith and trust in God?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. What do verses 6-9 reveal about the situation faced by the Christians hearing this letter? How can Peter’s advice to his readers help you in your difficult circumstances?

Rather than seeing their situations negatively, what opportunities (there are least 2) does Peter say arises out of hardship and suffering?

Is your joy and love based on faith or sight? Explain.
(Consider: How can you love someone you have not seen?)

Closing Remarks

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we read: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* New life is not about making decisions to try harder or the live a better life. New life comes from God, through Jesus Christ.

God does not just wash off the dirt and put some new clothes on a person. No, He completely changes him from the inside out - making him into a brand-new person. The agent for this change is Jesus Christ. It is only through Jesus that this dramatic transformation takes place. God reconciles us with himself through Jesus Christ and gave us new life.

Close in prayer

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

Week 2

Live close to God

1 PETER

Memory Verse:

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

1 Peter 1:15-16

PERSONAL STUDY

Read 1 Peter 1:10-25.

- Use the “SOAP” principle below to help you to better understand what it means to live new, to live close to God, to be holy and what it means to be redeemed from the empty way of life before Christ.
- Compare other Bible translations with your translation of choice.

Scripture: (Read the passage of Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (What do you observe about the passage? About the characters, events, and claims being

made? What did you find interesting about the Scripture?
What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. Use your notebook to journal what you have learned from the Word of God.

- 1 Peter 1:10-25 (again)
- Leviticus 11:44-45
- Romans 12:1-2
- Titus 2:11-15
- Galatians 5:19-26

Additional Notes

- Seek clarity. If you come across a word, verse, or passage you don't understand, make a note of it, and consider doing a little more research.
- What key words appear repeatedly? Write them down, adding them to your list from last week.
- In one or two sentences, write a summary about the main message of week 2.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

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

1 Peter 1:15-16

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 1:10-25

Opening Remarks

People often find their identity in what they do, where they live or who they associate with. They think that outward associations reflect what people think of them. The believer's Christian identity is how God sees us. It represents who we truly are, who we should be and how we should behave. When we let that identity sink in, it should transform our way of thinking, speaking, and acting. In short, we begin to live as God intended us to live. This identity is something that develops over time, as we live close to God.

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12. Peter speaks of the prophets inquiring and diligently seeking to know something. What did they inquire about? What did God reveal to them in their searchings?

How should the fact that you have much more knowledge than the prophets regarding Christ and his mission change your approach to faith and living in that faith?

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. In these verses there are no less than 5 commands. List the commands and give a brief description of each command.

Discuss what these commands mean to you. Of these commands, which do you most need to put into practice?

Read 1 Peter 1:17-21. Why would faith be far more valuable than gold or any worldly riches?

With what and from what were you redeemed? What does it mean to be “redeemed”?

Read 1 Peter 1:22-25. Why is it so hard to “fervently love” other believers? What hinders you from this type of radical love? Who most needs this type of love from you today?

Closing Remarks

The command to live holy does not just hang in the air. We must live holy because God made us His children. We must therefore show that we are born-again children of God. It could not work the other way around - we would never be God's children if we had to be holy first.

When you experience hardship and opposition, it is easy to think that God has forgotten you. But remember: God has made you part of His plan of redemption from eternity, He loves you.

Close in prayer

Live New!

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Week 3

Live from the Word

1 PETER

Memory Verse:

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3

PERSONAL STUDY

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3.

- Use the “SOAP” principle below to help you to better understand what it means to crave for the Word of God.
- Read the Scriptures with patience and pay close attention to details.
- Compare other Bible translations with your translation of choice.

Scripture: (Read the passage of Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (What do you observe about the passage? About the characters, events, and claims being made? What did you find interesting about the Scripture? What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. Use your notebook to journal what you have learned from the Word of God.

- Deuteronomy 8:2-3 and Matthew 4:4
- Psalm 1:1-2
- Psalm 12:6
- Psalm 19:7-11
- Proverbs 1:7
- Proverbs 2:1-6
- Proverbs 30:5
- Acts 20:32
- 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Additional Notes:

- Seek clarity. If you come across a word, verse, or passage you don't understand, make a note of it, and consider doing a little more research.
 - In one or two sentences, write a summary about the main message of week 3.
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GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 2:1-3

Opening Remarks

The born-again child of God has a responsibility or duty to grow spiritually. When you become a born-again sinner, you are still a spiritual baby. Just as an ordinary baby will not grow if he/she does not get milk, so the born-again person will not grow if he does not get the right spiritual food. The spiritual food we need to grow, is the Word of God.

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 2:1. Have you been the recipient of any of these vices from others? Describe.

Which one of these vices (if any) represents your biggest challenge now? What are you doing to overcome this weakness in your life?

Read 1 Peter 2:2. Why would Peter describe God's word as "pure milk?" How is this "milk" connected to verse 2:1?

How much should we desire the word? Why do you think Peter uses the comparison of a baby desiring milk? What can God's Word do for us?

Do you desire the spiritual food of the Word to this degree? What are some things that keep us from desiring the Word as we should?

Closing Remarks

No one in the world is too busy to read the Bible. The problem is that we do not crave the Word like a baby craves milk. Imagine how crazy a little baby would get after

one day without milk. When it comes to God's Word, we should crave it like a baby longing for milk.

When we start to read and obey God's Word, we see that it is true. We see that God is who He says. Our faith in Him is increased step by step and this in turn motivates us to go back for more.

Close in prayer

Live New!

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Week 4

Live as God's Chosen People

Memory Verse:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

1 Peter 2: 9

PERSONAL STUDY

Read 1 Peter 2: 4-10

- Use the “SOAP” principle below to help you to better understand how special you are in God’s eyes and what the reason is that He chose you.
- Compare other Bible translations with your translation of choice.

Scripture: (Read the piece of Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (What do you observe about the passage? About the characters, events, and claims being

made? What did you find interesting about the Scripture?
What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. It might help if you get a notebook to journal what you have learned from the Word of God about us being chosen to spread the Gospel, because we are:

- *A Chosen race* – Colossians 3: 1-4, 12-14
- *A Kingdom of priests* – Revelations 5:9-19 and 20:6
- *A Holy nation* – Exodus 19:5-6
- *God's own possession* – Ephesians 1:11-14
- *We are called to proclaim the wonderful acts of God* – Matthew 28:19-20 and Ephesians 2:8-9

Additional Notes

- Repeating Words: List or mark words or concepts that continue to appear.
 - In one or two sentences, write a summary about the main message of week 4.
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GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

1 Peter 2: 9

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 2: 4-10

Opening Remarks:

In 1 Peter 2:4-10 we see that we are God's chosen, holy and royal nation. We are also a kingdom of priests. These are lofty titles which represent the core of our Christian identity. In addition, they represent the ground for a totally transformed life and lifestyle.

As God's chosen people, we are called to grow in our relationship with Him – to know more and more of Him. We are also called to grow in our relationships with fellow believers.

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 2:4-5. Peter uses the metaphor of a spiritual house (temple) and a holy priesthood to describe the church. What do these descriptions say about you as a Christian and about the church as a whole? How do they motivate you in your walk with the Lord?

Read 1 Peter 2:6-8. Peter describes Jesus as being either a precious cornerstone of a spiritual house or a stumbling

block? Describe the type of person that would experience Jesus in these varied ways?

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. Peter uses the terms used to describe the ancient people of God (Israel), to describe Christians. Why do you think He does that?

How do these corporate descriptions fit with how you view the church and your involvement in it? Which corporate description must the church appropriate more of these days?

Closing Remarks

Being a chosen people, means that God had set us apart to be His people, to proclaim the wonderful acts of God. Even when other people despise you, discriminate against you and wrong you, you can be assured of the status you and your fellow believers have before God. Therefore,

Peter sees the church as a spiritual home, a place that rises to the praise of God, in the world.

Close in prayer

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

Week 5

Live and Think new

1 PETER

Memory Verse:

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

1 Peter 2:12

PERSONAL STUDY

Read 1 Peter 2: 11-17

- Use the “SOAP” principle below to help you to better understand how to live as believers.
- Compare other Bible translations with your translation of choice.

Scripture: (Read the piece of Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (What do you observe about the passage? About the characters, events, and claims being

made? What did you find interesting about the Scripture?
What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. Use your notebook to journal what you learn from the Word of God about how believers should live.

Read how to:

- *Abstain from sinful desires:* Romans 8: 5-8, Galatians 5:19-21
- *Live good lives among the pagans:* Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 2:10, Titus 3:8
- *Submit yourself to every authority:* Genesis 15:7-10, Romans 13:1-7, Titus 3:1, 8b
- *Do good:* Psalm 34:14, Proverbs 3:27, 2 Thessalonians 3:13
- *Live as free men:* 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- *Live as servants of God:* Psalm 134 & 135:1-2, Isaiah 65:13-14
- *Show proper respect to everyone:* Philippians 2:3
- *Love the brotherhood of believers:* Galatians 6:10
- *Fear God:* Proverbs 24: 21
- *Honour the king:* Proverbs 24: 21, 1 Timothy 2: 1-4

Additional Notes

- How do you think you are doing with living a new life, comparing to what Scripture teaches you? What should change?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

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

1 Peter 2:12

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 2: 11-17

Opening Remarks:

In 1 Peter, chapters 2 and 3, Peter addressed the new way of life for believers. This new way of life changes all relationships and all actions. Household codes became behavioural instructions given to various members of a typical ancient household. This includes advice to wives and husbands, slaves and masters and parents and children. In today's study, Peter appeals to the church's mission of reaching non-Christians as the motivating factor for continuing to uphold these social patterns

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 2:11. Peter describes the believers as "foreigners and exiles". How does this change your perspective of yourself, your actions and where you live?

Read 1 Peter 2:12. Why does Peter urge Christians to "keep their behaviour excellent"? Discuss

Read 1 Peter 2:13-15. What is one function or role of government according to Peter? Why does Peter state that Christians should submit to human government institutions (2:15)?

When is it appropriate and not appropriate for Christians to submit to government institutions today? Can you give specific examples? Discuss

Closing Remarks

Peter urges his readers to learn to submit to suffering rather than seek to avoid it. Believers need to learn to have a submissive spirit. First believers should learn to submit to the civic authorities that has been appointed over them. The only limit of this submission comes when the authorities tell us to do something that is against the law of God.

Close in prayer

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

Week 6

Live new in the workplace

Memory Verse:

Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

1 Peter 2:18

PERSONAL STUDY

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

Scripture: (Read the piece of Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (Pay careful attention to the reasons why we must submit, and the principles mentioned. About the characters, events, and claims being made? What did you find interesting about the Scripture? What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. Use your notebook to journal what you learn from the Word of God.

Titus 2:9-10

1 Timothy 6:1-3

Colossians 3:22-25

Ephesians 5:6-7

Proverbs 8:13

Additional Notes

List and explain the concepts found in 1 Peter 2:18-25 which are repeated in these scriptures.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

1 Peter 2:18

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 2:18-25

Opening Remarks

In this section, "foreigners and exiles" are told how to behave towards their employers, especially when they have been exposed to unreasonableness. Being submissive to a figure of authority who is just and wise, is easy. However, being submissive to an unreasonable bearer of authority is going to be a challenge. And this is what God demands of believers here.

Note in our context slavery is not actual slaves but rather the idea of being "slaves in the workplace". Therefore, focus the discussion about the principles found in this week's passage, on that context.

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25. What are the main reasons why we must live as obedient workers in the workplace?

Read Proverbs 1:7, 8:13. In your own words define what a healthy fear of God means.

Read 1 Peter 2:19-25. The text that Peter quotes, is from Isaiah 53:6-9, the famous passage on the suffering servant. Read the Isaiah passage in context and find all the common elements between that passage and 1 Peter 2:19-25.

How does Peter encourage believers who are experiencing harsh circumstances in the workplace?

Share with the group harsh circumstances you might be facing and discuss practical ways of how you can focus on Christ at work and apply this week's passages.

Closing Remarks

Peter uses Jesus as an example of being submissive in the face of provocation. Peter urges us to submit to our “masters”, to learn to give in and not be aggressive or resentful towards them, to follow the example of Jesus.

Close in prayer

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

Week 7

Live new in marriage

Memory Verse:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

PERSONAL STUDY

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

Scripture: (Read the Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (Notice the different elements of what is important to God about the characters. What did you find interesting about the Scripture? What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. Use your notebook to journal what you learn from the Word of God.

- Genesis 1:26-31
- Genesis 2:15-25
- Ephesians 5:21-33
- Colossians 3:18-19

Additional Notes

Note the important events found in Genesis 1-2 on separate dates. Then study Ephesians and Colossians and note the important imperatives to the Ephesians and Colossians.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 3:1-7

Opening Remarks

Christian wives of unconverted husbands faced great suffering during the times of Peter's letter. (That is perhaps why Peter dedicated 6 verses to Christian wives and only one to Christian husbands.) It is a difficult situation which can cause great heartache. Peter encourages Christian wives to become more "beautiful" inwardly, then the outward change will happen.

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 3:1-6 and Ephesians 5:21-24. Peter calls on wives to be submissive to their husbands. Why is it challenging for wives to submit to their husbands? What other behaviours does he call for to achieve this aim?

Read 1 Peter 3:7. Identify the three commands for Christians husbands and discuss what if means:

Read Ephesians 5:21 and Philippians 2:5-9. What does true submission of the heart mean? Who is called to submit? How did Christ submit to His Father?

What reasons in 1 Peter 3: 1-7 and Ephesians 5:22-24 does Peter and Paul give for submitting?

Read Ephesians 5:21, 25-30, Colossians 3:19, 1 Peter 3:7 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. What is the role of the husband in marriage?

Read Ephesians 5:19, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and Philippians 1:1-8. Discuss what you think your husbands and wives of future husbands and wives could do to make it easier and more pleasant for their spouses?

Who is the “head of the house”? What was the way in which Jesus practised His authority (Headship)? Refer to Ephesians 5:21b, Matthew 20:28 and 1 Peter 2:23.

Closing Remarks

You need to live wisely with your spouse. This means that you determine how God wants your relationship to be and then put those guidelines into practice in your life. You do not let your behaviour be determined by your partner, your feelings or society, but by what God requires and the example Jesus set.

Close in prayer

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

Week 8

Living new in the midst of adversity

Memory Verse:

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:8-9

Live New!

PERSONAL STUDY

FROM GOD

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12

Scripture: (Read the Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (Notice the different elements of what is important to God about the characters. What did you find interesting about the Scripture? What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. Use your notebook to journal what you learn from the Word of God.

- Psalm 34:11-20
- Luke 6:27-36
- Romans 12:14-21
- Romans 14:19
- Romans 15:5-6

Additional Notes

In one or two sentences, write a summary about the main message of week 8.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:8-9

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 3:8-12

Opening Remarks

This passage marks the end of Peter's encouragement for believers to submit to God in all areas of life and transitions into an explanation of the suffering that Christians will face in this world. Verses 8-12 assist this transition by linking these two subjects and presenting the case that a Christian's dealing with suffering should be informed by the same value system with which they face all the areas of life mentioned prior: submitting to God's way of life and trusting Him despite the difficulties, uncertainties, and pain.

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 3:8. List the five attitudes or behaviours found in verse 8. Which one is the most difficult for you? Which one do you need the most help with? Explain.

Of these five attitudes or behaviours, which one is most needed in your church today? Explain why?

Read 1 Peter 3:9. What noble behaviours does Peter require of everyone? Do you find it easy to give a blessing instead of returning evil or insult people? Discuss.

How do you know when you should bear up under insult and evil as this passage suggests and when you should defend yourself? Discuss.

Read 1 Peter 3:10-12 and Psalm 34: 12-16. List three things we should do to “see good days”.

Closing Remarks

People often regard peace simply as the absence of conflict, and therefore think that you must be passive if you want to make or bring about peace. However, an effective peacemaker is someone who actively pursues peace - working hard on good relationships. When conflict does arise, they do their utmost to find solutions in an honest and sincere manner before the problem becomes too great.

To live ‘the good life’ and submit to God’s ways, you must turn from the evil ways of the world, intentionally seek to do and say what is good, and do so with pure intentions; earnestly seeking to glorify God in everything.

Close in prayer

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

Week 9

Live the way God wants you to

Memory Verse:

Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:14b-15

PERSONAL STUDY

Read 1 Peter 3:13-22

Scripture: (Read the Scripture and write down the sentences, phrases, and words that stand out to you.)

Observation: (Notice the different elements of what is important to God about the characters. What did you find interesting about the Scripture? What did you learn?)

Application: (How can you apply this passage to your life? What challenges or encouragements does it have to offer?)

Prayer (Based on your reflections, offer a prayer to God.)

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Also read the following passages of Scripture, using the SOAP method each time. Use your notebook to journal what you learn from the Word of God.

- Isaiah 8:12-13
- Matthew 11:2-6
- John 15:18-21
- 1 Peter 4:12-19

Additional Notes

In one or two sentences, write a summary about the main message of week 9.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Prayer

Memory verse:

Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:14b-15

Reflection:

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

Scripture Reading:

1 Peter 3:13-22

Opening Remarks

Peter's letter is meant to encourage God's people during the trials they are experiencing. However, starting with 1 Peter 3:13, the topic becomes more urgent. Much of the "suffering" spoken of in the letter has to do with Christians living as outsiders in a mainstream secular society. In other words, the way Christians live today.

Therefore, instead of speaking about persecution by the state (being thrown to the lions), the kind of suffering mentioned in 1 Peter has to do more with social marginalization, mockery, slander, and a pressure to conform to the Gentile standards of the day. This is important to keep in mind so that we do not look at the "suffering" portrayed in 1 Peter as that which comes about through illness, loss of life, physical abuse, etc. It is about suffering, because of how your faith determines your lifestyle.

Discussion questions

Read 1 Peter 3:14 and 17. What does it mean to "suffer for the sake of righteousness"? What is the reward for doing that?

Why does Peter warn us against being intimidated or being troubled in verse 14?

How do you respond to the fact that suffering is sometimes part of God's will? Do you consider yourself "blessed" when you suffer for doing good?

Read 1 Peter 3:15. What would you say to someone who asked you to give an account of the hope that is within you? Discuss.

Have you ever been slandered, or have you ever been reviled for the way you behave? Explain. What was your response?

Closing Remarks

Peter writes these words to encourage all who are suffering for Christ. He reminds us of what Christ taught, and more so, the values that he lived according to in his time on earth. In that vein, our ultimate focus as Christians should never be ‘how much we suffer for Christ’ or ‘how many people we save for Christ’, but rather how Christ is transforming us and using our imperfect lives to tell his story and point people towards Himself and His great love for them.

We must trust God and obey His call to humility, but we must also not be ‘ashamed of the Gospel’ but be prepared to share with anyone. For if the Gospel is truly transforming our lives, it will shine out of us in such an authentic and tangible way that people will want to know about it – and then we can speak about it with confidence, peace and joy.

Close in prayer

Live New!

NEW LIFE COMES FROM GOD

MEMORY VERSES

WEEK 1:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living
hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil
or fade—kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3-4

WEEK 2:

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

1 Peter 1:15-16

WEEK 3:

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by
it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have
tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3

WEEK 4:

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light

1 Peter 2: 9

WEEK 5:

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

1 Peter 2:12

WEEK 6:

Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

1 Peter 2:18

WEEK 7:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

WEEK 8:

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:8-9

WEEK 9:

Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened. But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:14b-15

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