



Πέτρος 1 **PETER** Πηφᾶς Πέτρ
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A 6-SESSION BIBLE STUDY
to Help You Live What You Believe

This booklet belongs to

ROAD MAP

This has been designed as a 6-week group Bible study journey.

So, let's begin with a few rules of the road:

1. Begin and end your study with prayer.
2. Be gentle and respectful of one another. (1 Pet. 3:15)
3. Keep private things private. Don't gossip or start rumors.
4. Do what God tells you to do. (John 2:5)
5. Keep in touch with members of your group.

Some of my Group Contacts

Name	E-mail	Phone
Group Leader		
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Unless otherwise specified, all Scripture citations are from the New International Version (NIV) Bible.

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INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER

Key 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."*

(1 Peter 1:3)

Author: **Peter** was one of Jesus' original disciples (students) and apostles (one who is sent). His life is the most documented of all of the apostles. When Jesus called him to follow him, his name was Simon. But Jesus gave him a new name, Peter, which means rock or stone. Throughout his 3-½ year discipleship, Simon showed himself to be impulsive and unsteady. But, little by little, with Jesus' patient care and training, the man lived up to his new name and became steady like a rock. As a shepherd of the growing but persecuted church, the now older Peter passed on instruction to a new generation of Jesus' followers by saying: "Be self-controlled and alert..." (1 Pet 5:8) and "be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray" (1 Pet 4:7).

Like his contemporaries, John and Paul, Peter proclaims "the Gospel" that we were once children of the devil and deserved God's wrath. However, in God's great mercy, He sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins and then be miraculously raised from the dead. When we put our faith in the risen Christ, we are born again and become God's children. We have a home waiting for us in heaven, where there is peace.

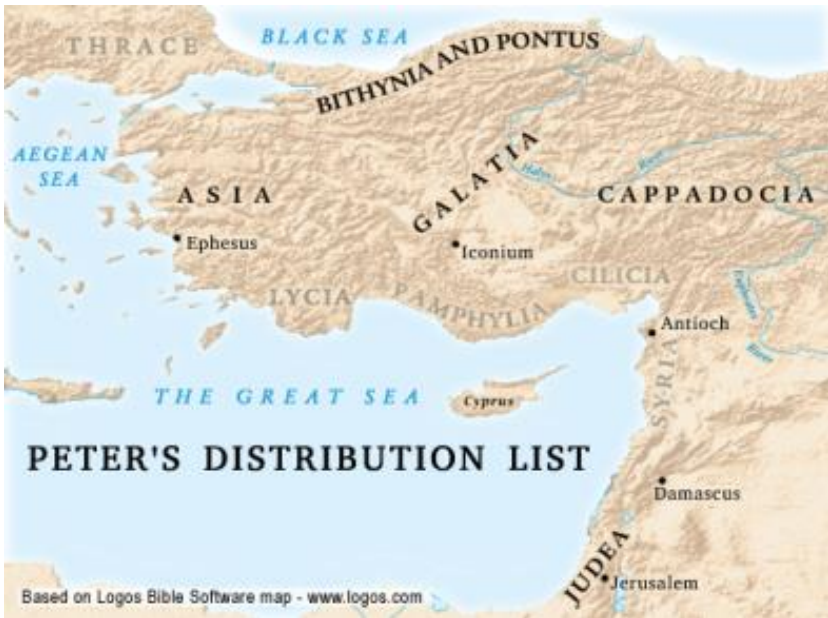
Gospel = Good News from God

The Bible only records two letters from Peter, both of them written in mid-60 AD. But, Peter also dictated to Mark, the writer of one of the four Gospel accounts in the New Testament. Peter was probably interviewed by Dr. Luke, who wrote another Gospel account and the Book of Acts. So, you see, Peter is one of the pillars whose influence helped to build the church.

Peter supplies the key verse for those who are called upon to defend our biblical worldview by saying, “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” (1 Peter 3:15).

Apologetics is a logical explanation of biblical truth claims and defends why you believe.

About the recipients of 1 Peter: This is a letter from Peter to the believers who were scattered because of extreme persecution. They were a mixture of both Messianic Jews and Gentiles. Verse 1 provides the letter’s distributions list, which were large regions of what is now the Republic of Turkey. The region of Asia holds the distinction of having the 7 city-wide churches mentioned by John in the Book of Revelation.



WHO WAS PETER?

Fill in the Blanks

In the Gospels:

1. His given name was Simon bar-Jonah. (Matt. 16:17, Jn. 1:42)
2. His hometown was _____, on the western coast of the Sea of Galilee (Jn. 1:44).
3. He had a distinct _____ accent (Mk. 14:70; Acts 2:7).
4. Marital status: _____ (Matt. 8:14; Mk. 1:30; Lk. 4:38).
5. Occupation: _____, in business with his brother, & James & John (Lk. 5:10).
6. His brother, _____, introduced him to Jesus, who gave him the new name Peter (Jn. 1:40-42, Rom. 4:17).
7. He was in the core group of _____ disciples (Mk. 5:37; 9:2; 14:33).
8. He was the leader among the disciples (Mk. 1:36; Lk. 9:32; 8:45).
9. He was the first person to confess his _____ directly to Jesus (Lk. 5:8).
10. At the transfiguration of Jesus, he asks to erect _____ (Mk. 9:5).
11. He is the only disciple to attempt _____ (Matt. 14:28-31).
12. During the meal, Peter first resisted when Jesus wanted to _____ (Jn. 13:1-17).
13. After Jesus' arrest, he _____ Jesus 3 times (Matt. 26, Mk. 14, Lk. 22, Jn. 18).
14. Jesus reinstated him by asking him 3 times, _____ (Jn. 21:15-19)

In the Book of Acts:

15. Peter leads an early church meeting recommending the replacement of the Apostle _____ (Acts 1:15-26).
16. He _____ his first evangelistic sermon at Pentecost with 3000 being saved (Acts 2:14-36).
17. He performs a healing of a _____ (Acts 3:2-7).
18. He proclaims the gospel before the Jewish _____ and _____ (Acts 4:8-13).
19. Led by the Holy Spirit, he decided the case of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).
20. He overcame his prejudice because of a _____ so he could preach and lead a family of Gentiles to receive Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit (Acts 10)
21. He was arrested by King Herod, he was miraculously released from prison by an _____ (Acts 12:1-16).
22. Peter left _____ (Acts 15; Gal. 2:9), giving himself to missionary work at Antioch, Corinth and finally Rome.

Can you think of other things that Peter did well and things he failed at? For each defining moment with Jesus, Peter had a crisis of faith where he had to decide to believe or not. During your own defining moments, what will you do?

Ch. 1 – OUR HOPE & HOLINESS

1 Peter 1:1 – 2:3

A Living Hope (1-12)

1. Look at verses 1 & 2. Why are God's chosen people considered strangers in the world (Jn. 17:14, Heb. 8:16)? Who do they obey? (Matt. 28:20, Lk. 11:28)
2. Look at verse 3. For what can we praise God and how is this an expression of God's mercy? (Jn. 1:12-13, 3:5,6; 1 Jn. 5:4-5, 5:19-20)
3. What are the qualities of our inheritance (4-5)?
4. What is the harsh reality of the Christian life (6)?
What is the good reason trials come? (7; Rom. 8:28)
5. What should be our response to God for our future hope (6, 8-9)?

Ch. 2 – HEAVEN ON EARTH

1 Peter 2:4-25

There had been many opinions about Jesus' identity when He walked among us. When Jesus' polled his disciples, it was Simon Peter who was the first to confess, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus blessed him and said, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church" (Matt.16:13-18). Now, in Chapter 2, Peter proclaims that the identity of Jesus again and that all believers are interlocking living stones of a spiritual temple.

Living Stones of the Living Temple (vss. 4-10)

1. Read verses 4-6. What is the importance of a foundation and the cornerstone in a building? How does this depict Jesus Christ?
2. In what ways does Christ become a stumbling block to those who reject the Gospel? (7-8)
3. Memorize verses 9. How does each of these names define you?

Living as Godly Agents (vss 11-25)

Believers are heavenly ambassadors and agents in a fallen world; and we are called to live differently.

4. Read verses 10-11. What sinful desires do you find hard to resist?
In what dark areas of your heart has God turned on the light?

5. What is the future hoped result of doing good (12, Matt. 5:16)?

6. Read verses 13-15. What is the Christian response to established order? For whose sake do we submit?

7. Read verses 16-17. Which of these imperatives have you decided to practice more diligently?

8. Read 18-20. In the culture that Peter lived, persecution and slavery also existed and made it difficult to be a Christian.
What helps you to bear injustice?

9. Read 21-25. Is Jesus your example? Are you following your shepherd?

Ch. 3 – RESPECT IN RELATIONSHIPS

1 Peter 3:1-22

A Model of a Loving Relationships (1-7)

1. Read verses 1-2. How can a wife or husband best influence their unbelieving spouse?
2. Read verses 3-6. What is the most attractive thing about a wise Christian woman?
3. Read verse 7. Why does a lack of consideration and respect hinder our prayers?
4. Read verse 8. How can marital harmony be extended as an example to our other relationships?

5. Peter quotes Psalm 34:12-14 to guide us how to bless to be blessed. What should you do to resist the temptation of fighting?

Apologia: an Expression of Faith & Hope (15-22)

6. Why is “setting apart Christ as Lord” a good starting point for expressing your faith?
7. What do verses 15 and 16 suggest about the best technique of evangelism?
8. How can God use human suffering to save people (17-18a)?
9. How did Christ’s suffering loudly proclaim His victory and dominance over all human beings and spiritual beings (18b-22)? Why can believers have hope and joy because of Jesus?

For more about *apologia*, read the article on our website,
“Apologetics Means Never Having to Say You're Sorry.”

Ch. 4 – STRENGTH IN SUFFERING

1 Peter 4:1-19

In Romans 12:1, the Apostle Paul calls Christians “to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” It will consequently be valuable to read Romans, Chapter 12, to prepare for your 1 Peter 4 study.

Living with the Attitude of Christ (1-6)

1. Did Christ live a defeated life or victorious life because of his suffering? What then is the value suffering to me? (1-2; Rom. 5:3)
2. What are the consequences of your spiritual change from sin to holy living? (3-4) Why? (Jn. 15:18-19)
3. What will eventually happen to those who abuse you? (5-6)
4. As time runs out, what should we do (7)? Will you commit to group prayer at least once a week (Matt. 26:40-4)?

5. What are things that we can do to practice love? (8-11)

Something Strange is Happening (12-19)

6. What false assumption might we have as a Christian (12)?
Why are we surprised? Does God love you (Rom. 8:31, 38-39)?
7. How might we suffer (13-15)?
8. What do verses 17-18 mean?
9. How can you be a compassionate encourager to someone who is suffering?

Ch. 5 – PASTORAL COUNSEL

1 Peter 5:1-14

1. What are the 3 qualities of his authority did Peter claim in 5:1?
What is the significance (Mk. 8:31-34)?
2. What is the job description of an “elder” (2-3)? What is the perk?
3. What might be the problems of a “young man” that are addressed by Peter (4-5)? What do we do with ambition and frustration (6-7)?
4. What spiritual reality calls us to be self-controlled and alert (8-9)?
5. What encouragement does our all-powerful God provide so that we can endure suffering (10-11)?

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