



How to Study the Bible
WITH

First Peter

Part One

WOMEN OF GRACE

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A MINISTRY OF
Grace Bible Church

Women of Grace,

We are so excited to bring this I Peter study to you! In some ways, it has been decades in the making. Certainly in the past two years, many hours of study, preparation, and prayer have gone into it. Our desire is for you to *“be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10).”*

This study will be unique and new to many of you as one of its goals is to teach you how to study God’s word on your own! You will dig deep into the word as you overview the letter for the first two and a half weeks then spend the following six and a half weeks looking into one paragraph at a time from chapters one and two. (We will complete studying I Peter chapters 3-5 in the spring.)

While this is a bible study, it won’t merely be an academic exercise. It is also an opportunity to praise and worship our great God and Savior, to be amazed by the depth of God’s word, and to apply scripture to your life with accountability from other women.

My deep desire is for you to enjoy and marinate in the intrinsic beauty of God’s word as you grow in closeness to God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son as the Spirit reveals the depths held within scripture. We trust that your love and awe for our salvation will deepen, feeding your worship of God, Jesus, and the Spirit.

With much love,

Torrey Hardy
for the Women of Grace Ministry Team

2022

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Memory Verses

I Peter 1:3-9

- Weeks 1-2 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- Week 3 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- Week 4 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- Week 5 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,
- Week 6 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- Week 7 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- Week 8 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- Week 9 Review I Peter 1:3-9

Week 1

Overview of I Peter

Memorize I Peter 1:3

Remember to approach the word of God with prayer:

Confess your sins *I Peter 2:1-2*

Expect to be Changed *II Corinthians 3:18*

Commit to Obey *James 1:22-25*

In order to understand a letter, we must keep in mind to whom the author was writing and his overall purpose. The purpose drives the ideas that he is communicating. We must understand what Peter's words meant to his audience at that time before we can understand what it means for us. Therefore, before we look at any other resources or jump to application, let's investigate the text ourselves.

Day 1

1. Drawing on the overview night, rewrite verses 1-2 in your own words, focusing on the beauty and awesomeness of the truths held within. Consider writing it as a prayer of praise to the God who saved you.

Days 2-4

1. In order to study a book of the bible, you need to become familiar with it. The more you read it, the more you notice connections, flow, themes. So EACH day for the next three days, just read I Peter straight through. You just need to read it thoughtfully with focus.

Day 5

Let's look for themes in I Peter.

A theme is an idea that runs throughout the entire letter, coming up multiple times. You may recall from Hebrews, a major theme was Old and New Covenants. The idea of covenants recurs multiple times throughout the book. Another theme of Hebrews is Jesus is greater. There may be different aspects of the theme throughout the book (Jesus is greater than the Old covenant, Jesus is greater than the priests, Jesus is greater than Moses), but the theme or idea or "Jesus is greater" shines throughout the book of Hebrews.

1. Review I Peter once more, but this time record themes in the space below. (Include the chapter and verse references that contain each theme.)

2. List several repeated words Peter uses throughout the letter.

Week 1

Group Meeting

Read Chapter 1 of *Before You Open your Bible* as a group.

Author | Recipient | Setting (on the next page)

This is NOT part of your homework for the week but will be completed together as a group during your first group meeting.

Context is incredibly important in understanding and interpreting the bible. A vital piece of that context is **WHO** wrote the letter, the author. (What were they like? What were their goals in writing? What is their history?) You also need to keep in mind to **WHOM** they wrote, the recipients. (What issues did they have? What relationship existed between the author and recipients, between the recipients themselves, between the recipients and the society in which they lived?) And, finally, what was the specific **SETTING** in which the letter was written? (What do we know about the time and place of the author and the recipients?)

Your initial thought to these questions may be, “How am I supposed to know?!”. But the letter itself offers us a lot of useful details. As a group, comb through I Peter to pull out details you learn about each of these categories. These maps of the area will give you an idea of the size of the area in which the recipients lived as well as where it is in the world today.



Author | Recipient | Setting

This table will be completed together as a group during your first group meeting.

Author	Recipient
Setting	
<i>Approximately 63 AD</i>	

Week 2

Background

Memorize I Peter 1:3

Remember to approach the word of God with prayer:

Confess your sins *I Peter 2:1-2*

Expect to be Changed *II Corinthians 3:18*

Commit to Obey *James 1:22-25*

Day 1

1. Recalling the work you did in your group time, write out five character traits about Peter that you learned from this letter.

2. What else do we learn about Peter from the following passages?

a. *Mark 10:28*

b. *John 18:10*

c. *Matthew 26:69-75*

d. *Acts 2:1-4*; (In verses 5-11 a crowd comes around to see what's happening); read *Acts 2:12-14*; (In verses 15-36, Peter preaches a powerful gospel message tying the Old Testament together with the recent work of Christ.); read *Acts 2: 37-41*.

e. *Acts 3:2, 5-8*

f. *Acts 10:25-48*

3. How is Peter different in Acts compared to in the gospels?

4. According to the texts, what is the cause of this difference?

Day 2

1. Reread I Peter, focusing on Peter's purpose and tone. What is the purpose of Peter's letter for his original audience? Why do you think he wrote to these people? What was his goal? Indicate any verses that convey his purpose.

Tone expresses the author's attitude toward the subject matter or the audience. It influences the meaning of the words and the way they are received and understood by the reader. Some examples could be: formal, informal, optimistic, joyful, sincere, fearful, hopeful, humorous, serious, etc.

It's difficult to narrow it down to a list of words to look for, but you can often tell by the specific descriptive words the author uses. Which adjectives or adverbs does he choose: rancid or sweet? Which verbs does he use: adores or abhors? Which noun does he choose: puppy or mutt? Peter chose specific words for a specific purpose, part of which is to communicate tone.

2. How would you describe the tone of this letter? What clues do you find in the text to support your idea? Include the chapter and verse references that led to your conclusion.

Day 3

1. To help with context as we study, and to help remind us of the flow of the letter, summarize each chapter in a brief sentence. Choose the main idea that Peter addresses in each chapter. These brief summaries also act as a good way to recall the main ideas of the whole book.

a. Chapter 1:

b. Chapter 2:

c. Chapter 3:

d. Chapter 4:

e. Chapter 5:

Day 4

1. Throughout chapters 1 & 2 in your copy of I Peter, underline all of Peter's references to God in *blue*, Jesus in *orange*, and Spirit in *pink*. Also try to determine which aspect of the Trinity each "Him/He" refers to when underlining. In other words, considering the context, does "He" refer to Jesus, God, or Spirit?

2. Now look at the context of each underline and record attributes of each member of the trinity in the table in Appendix B on page 70, including the chapter:verse. Do what you can today and finish it tomorrow.

Day 5

1. Finish filling in the attributes of the Trinity in the table in Appendix B on page 70.
2. Using the attributes of the Trinity you wrote in the table, spend 10 minutes in prayer of adoration.
3. Pray for boldness and opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

Week 3

Overview of I Peter 1 & 2, Study 1:3-5

Memorize I Peter 1:4

Remember to approach the word of God humbly with prayer:

Confess your sins *I Peter 2:1-2*

Expect to be Changed *II Corinthians 3:18*

Commit to Obey *James 1:22-25*

Day 1:

1. Read 1 Peter 1-2.

2. Today's work is the beginning of making observations. For now you will just mark them. Over the next several weeks, as we study each paragraph, you will think more specifically about what the markings mean so you can interpret the passage more easily and thoroughly. Throughout 1 Peter, chapters 1-2:

- Bracket any **[lists]** with *black*. A list is three items in a row separated by commas.
- Mark any words connoting **sins** in *red*. This would include the word sin or evil as well as any specific sins listed, for example, fleshly lusts.
- Mark the words **suffering/trials** in *purple*.
- Mark any **conjunctions** (connecting words) in *light blue*. To start, mark "so that," "though," "since," and "therefore." Use the *Helpful Observational Tools* resource on page 1 for a thorough list of other conjunctions. Mark any of them you can.

Day 2

1. Look for any additional repeated words you previously identified on page 6, then mark them in any colors or with any symbols you'd like. List the repeated words below.

2. Why did Peter repeat words? What impact may the repetition of these words have had on the recipients of his letter?

3. Looking back through chapters 1 & 2, write out any questions you have. This could include words, wordings, or ideas you find confusing. It could also be something you'd like clarified or about which you'd like to know more. Questions are a wonderful part of the process of learning more.

Day 3

1. Read I Peter 1:1-5.

2. Focus on verses 3-5. In addition to *blessed*, *undefiled*, and *reserved*, use Biblehub.com/interlinear (or another Bible concordance or online resource - NOT Webster's dictionary) to look up the definition of the original Greek for at least three more words to determine what they specifically mean.

Word	Greek	Definition from Greek
Blessed		
Undefiled		
Reserved		

3. Reread verses 3-5 with these new clearer/more thorough definitions in mind. What fullness or new understanding did this add to the paragraph?

4. Verses 1 & 2 basically introduce the author and recipient. Peter begins the core of his letter with this paragraph (verses 3-5). Why might Peter have started his letter with this paragraph? What might be

important about it? (Review the themes from page 6 and the content of the entire letter as well as the *Author / Recipients / Setting* table on page 8 as you consider this.)

5. You may notice that in verse 3 Peter mentions “born again” as a past action, then in verse 5 he refers to our salvation as a future event. Read Ephesians 2:4-7 to see how Paul also uses the past and future ideas in relation to our salvation. How is it that our salvation is both a past and a future event?

6. Write out the benefits or consequences of being “born again.” To help with this, focus on how the prepositional phrases and connecting words relate to “born again.” (See the *Helpful Observation Tools* on pages 1-2 for reference.)

7. What questions do you have from this passage? (You do not need to find answers to these questions now. Just write what you are beginning to wonder or don’t understand.)

8. Write out at least ten observations you can make from verses 3-5. These can be very simple. Nothing is too obvious.

Day 4

1. Verse 5 gives a lot of details about the protection we have. Write out some of those details.

a. How do these reminders encourage you?

“Last time” - Peter has told the readers that they have been born again and have an inheritance reserved in heaven as well as salvation “ready to be revealed in the last time.” The context of this “last time” is heaven. It signifies the consummation of our salvation when we are standing before Christ in heaven.

2. Using the work on observations and definitions you’ve done, try to answer the questions you wrote yesterday.

3. Summarize the paragraph with about 6 words, focusing on the main idea. Put the summary in the table in Appendix A on page 69.

4. What principles do you see that are not only true for Peter’s audience but also for you today?

5. Respond to God’s great mercy and the protection we have in Christ in prayer, song, or writing.

Day 5

Translating into another language always poses difficulties because some words simply don't exist in one language or the other. So, too, for translating the Bible from Greek (or Hebrew) into English. Translators do their best to choose the word that encapsulates the idea the Greek word conveys, but it isn't always possible to capture the fullness of a Greek word in a single English one. This is why different translations of the Bible sometimes employ different words; they capture different nuances, reflecting a different aspect of it. So there is value in reading different, good translations of the Bible, such as those we have provided below.

1. Read I Peter 1:3-5 in these bible translations.

New King James (NKJ)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

English Standard Version (ESV)

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

New International Version (NIV)

3 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, **4** and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5** who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

2. How does reading other translations amplify or clarify your understanding of the passage?

3. Spend a few minutes in prayer praising God for the ways this salvation is true in your life. Then pray for three specific unbelievers you desire to reach with this glorious gospel truth. Pray some of the specific words and phrases from I Peter back to the Lord for your unsaved co-workers, neighbors, friends, or family.

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