

THE BOOK OF
FIRST
PETER

★ *Boston Harbor* ★

Kyle Idleman

Leader's Guide

RightNow Presents *The Book of 1 Peter*
LEADER'S GUIDE

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Mark Weaver: *Field Producer, Graphics*
Bradley Van Strien: *Field Producer*
Jed Ostoich: *Associate Publisher*
Collin Huber: *Writer*
Mike Marshall: *Creative Director*
Mateo Boyd: *Graphic Designer*

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WELCOME LETTER

Suffering is probably not something you have prayed for recently. I know I haven't. We tend to focus our prayers and lives on things that make us comfortable.

Our RightNow Media team was thrilled to tackle the book of 1 Peter with Kyle Idleman. Kyle does a fantastic job of reminding us that Scripture promises suffering as part of our journey, but that Christ is our hope in the midst of it.

I love that this resource will take you through the entire book and challenge you to study the Word for yourself. Let me encourage you not just to watch Kyle, but also to open your Bible and read 1 Peter. God's Word is active and meaningful for every one of us.

We pray that this resource is a blessing to you.

The mission of the church matters,



Brian Mosley
President, RightNow Media



THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER
A NOTE TO LEADERS

Every group meeting is an improvisation. No matter how much you prepare, there's always a chance that someone will ask a question you can't answer, or that the discussion will go in an unforeseen direction. Maybe someone in the group has a crucial need you have to address. Maybe the Spirit gives you a new understanding of how a biblical teaching applies to the lives in your group.

This Leader's Guide is a tool that helps you unpack a text. But it can be more than that. We're giving you a document full of possibility. Our goal with the Leader's Guide is to provide you with more than enough content to create life-changing discussion. So feel free to select only those parts or questions that you feel will best help your group.

If you're new to group leading, you can simply follow along step by step. Remember that your job is to ask questions, not necessarily to give all the answers. It's okay to let silence stretch its arms as your group thinks through the discussion. As you honor participant's answers—even the half-baked ones—they'll be encouraged to participate even more. Some of those answers may get fully baked in the group oven.

If you're accustomed to doing your own thing, go for it! This guide provides ideas to help you do your job even better. Whether you're a novice or a veteran, read through each lesson in advance. Know your options. Plan out those parts you're likely to use. Develop a game plan.

We've provided handouts to use with each lesson. You'll need to make enough copies for your entire group beforehand so participants can make notes along the way and remember the Scripture used in the Bible study. The handouts also include activities for further study during the week.

With that in mind, let's preview the guide. The main body of the Leader's Guide is written as a conversation you would have with your group. When there's a specific question to ask, **it appears in bold type**. When we want to whisper directions in your ear, we'll get your attention with Leader: *then use italic type*. If you're looking for a quick answer, the suggested answer sometimes appears in (parentheses) after the question or in an italicized list. But many of the questions are open for discussion, so they have no suggested answers.

Instead, the paragraphs that follow after might include thoughts you could add to the discussion.

Each lesson has particular sections:

SESSION GOALS

This is the point of each session—the big idea and what we hope participants walk away knowing, feeling, and doing differently as a result of studying the material. All of the teaching, questions, and reflections ultimately point back to these goals. They're there primarily for you benefit as the group leader, but sharing them with the group may help structure your conversation.

OPEN

This is an icebreaker. Adjust it to the character of your group, but don't skip it for several reasons: First, every group needs some transition time. Second, the people get to know each other. Finally, the introductory questions draw out practical connections between the subject matter and their lives.

READ & WATCH

We often rush into the interpretation of a Bible passage without really hearing what it says. For this study, we urge you to read the text slowly before you begin the analysis. Let people drink in the words and images for themselves. Then the video teaching from Kyle Idleman will make more sense. People will be able to compare it with their own impressions of the text.

Before watching the video, take a moment or two to walk through the "things to look for" questions. They'll help concentrate participants' attention on the parts of the video teaching that will be important for discussion afterward. Then, when you watch the video, make sure to set the audio at a comfortable level and everyone can see the screen. You don't want your group to miss anything.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

A NOTE TO LEADERS

DISCUSS, GO DEEPER, AND PEEK AT THE GREEK

Here's the meat of the Bible study: questions about the meaning of the text. The section usually starts with some "easy-answer" questions that review what the Scripture actually says. But then there are tougher questions about the whys and hows.

Every so often you'll see a Go Deeper or a Peek at the Greek section. These are optional features, connecting you to other Scriptures on certain themes found in 1 Peter or presenting a look at the original language of the text. You're welcome to use the sections you think will best suit your group discussion. Go through in advance to see which ones seem most promising to you. Here are some factors to consider:

- Some people love exploring through the Bible and comparing references. Others, especially those who are rather new to Bible study, may get confused by it. They might not know where to find those other books of the Bible, and they might not be sure what Romans or Ephesians has to do with 1 Peter anyway. In some cases, you could explain what the other passages say, or get individual group members to read the other passages, so the "exploration" is kept to a minimum.
- Any one of the Go Deeper explorations could become a rabbit trail, leading you away from what you intended to cover. Some groups like it that way, finding new adventures in the comparison of different parts of Scripture, but if you have a clear agenda for this study, keep a leash on the discussion.
- The Go Deeper cross-references serve as a sort of "elastic" for your meeting. If you're running out of time, you can drop the Go Deeper content and the lesson will still make sense. But if you have plenty of time, these explorations can fill it productively.
- Peek at the Greek sections provide insight into the careful wording used in the book of 1 Peter. A discussion of the original language may help to clarify a sticky issue in the text, so feel free to reference them as you see fit. However, some groups may find the technical analysis overwhelming. As with everything, it's your call.

We recommend that you go through the Go Deeper and Peek at the Greek portions in your personal preparation and choose how you will handle them. Even the sections you choose not to use will give you helpful background as you lead the group.

LAST WORD & LIVE IT OUT

This is an opportunity for your group to be challenged to do something with what they've learned. This study guide offers a menu of responses. Any one of them would be a valuable response to the lesson, but consider urging the group to respond both inwardly and outwardly. Many of us are very good at internal responses in which we treasure the lessons from 1 Peter we just learned. But actually talking with a neighbor? Actually helping someone in need? Keep nudging your group to the more challenging responses.



**ABOUT
KYLE IDLEMAN**

Kyle Idleman is Teaching Pastor at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky—the fifth largest church in the country with over 20,000 in attendance every week. Kyle is a sought-after speaker for regional and national conferences and the author of four books including the bestsellers *Not A Fan* and *The End of Me*. He has also worked with *City on a Hill Studio* to write and present seven video curricula including the award-winning *H2O: A Journey of Faith* and *The Easter Experience*. Kyle and his wife, DesiRae, have four children.

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SESSION 1:
1 PETER 1:1-25

Quick Start

Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

Print

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

Note: For more detailed information, please see **A Note to Leaders** section on page 5.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 1: 1 PETER 1:1-25

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what we want to walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: Rightly understanding our identity as citizens of God’s kingdom and aliens in the kingdom of darkness will equip us to love our fellow Christians well.

Head Change: To know that our experience in our world as foreigners is part of what God has planned for his people.

Heart Change: To feel welcome in the family of God despite our alien status in the world.

Life Change: To identify and modify the behavior patterns we’ve picked up by living in the world.

OPEN

When have you felt left out or excluded from something? Maybe from a game during school, a group of friends, or a planned event. **How did you respond to being left out? What emotions did it spark in you?**

No one likes rejection. It’s never comfortable feeling like an outsider, but it might surprise you to know that it’s part of our identity as Christians in this world. That’s one of the main themes of 1 Peter—exile. In Christ, we have become citizens of heaven and our hope no longer lies in our lives today, but in the second coming of our Savior.

READ

1 PETER 1:1-25

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Kyle’s teaching. As you watch, pay attention to the following questions.

What relationship do believers have to the world in which we live?

What two things does Kyle say we experience simultaneously as Christians?

What are the two responsibilities Peter tasks his readers with?

**SHOW SESSION 1:
1 PETER 1:1-25 (10 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS

The book of 1 Peter carries all of the pastoral warmth of an apostle who’d seen just what the world thought of those who followed Jesus and learned to live well despite it. It’s a message of hope in the midst of darkness, encouragement in the midst of exhaustion, and a promise in the midst of this world of struggle.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 1: 1 PETER 1:1–25

What do you hope to take away from this series? List 2–3 ways in which you would like for the Lord to grow you as a result of this study.

Kyle opened this session with the illustration of the pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock. Fleeing governmental restrictions and persecutions, they sought to create their own spaces for worship, but in doing so became “exiles” and “aliens” in their new land. The same was true for the recipients of Peter’s letter, yet their status changed not because of a geographical shift, but because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

What are some examples of ways that you have felt like an outsider because of your faith?

Peter’s letter was not written to instruct believers *if* they experience suffering, but *when* they experience it. Suffering is a guarantee for the Christian life, but that should not be a source of discouragement for those who follow Christ. As Kyle explained, opposition provides opportunity.

Think back to some of the suffering or trials you’ve faced.

How did you react toward your circumstances? What did your reaction reveal about the posture of your heart?

What obstacles might keep you from seeing suffering and opposition as an opportunity for Jesus?

As Kyle explained, Peter wrote his letter to Christians experiencing persecution throughout the Roman Empire. During the first three centuries of the Church, believers were feverishly oppressed for their faith. They were threatened, imprisoned, and violently executed as entertainment, like that of the gladiatorial exhibitions. This is the context Peter was writing to address so let’s take a look at what he had to say. Someone read 1 Peter 1:1–12.

PEEK AT THE GREEK

Peter addresses his readers as “exiles” in verse one, but he prefaces the term with an important modifier—*eklektōis*. In English, we typically translate the term “elect,” but it describes someone or something that is selected or chosen. Peter is not writing to exiles in general, but to those “elect” or “chosen” exiles of God who have been scattered across the Roman Empire under the sovereign care of their Lord.

Throughout the Old Testament, God speaks of Israel in these terms as his chosen people (Deut. 4:37; Ps. 106:5; Isa. 14:1), but now Peter applies similar terminology to believers in Christ—a theme woven throughout his letter (1 Pet. 1:2; 2:9). Even more, most scholars believe that Peter’s primary audience would have been Gentiles instead of the Jews, who were used to being exiles. From the outset, Peter reminds his readers of their identity. Salvation in Christ extends beyond the borders of Israel. The church of Jesus Christ is God’s chosen people, a new nation composed of every tongue and every tribe. Peter saw fit to assure his readers of who they were before offering instruction for how to behave, a priority we would do well to embrace in our own spiritual lives.

In these first few verses, it’s clear that faith and suffering are not mutually exclusive. The truth is quite the opposite. From the beginning of the Church, Christians have always faced opposition and we would be naïve to expect anything different. Because of that, we should place our hope not in our temporary circumstances, but in the new life we have through Christ.

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SESSION 1: 1 PETER 1:1–25

Based on these verses, how would you define the “living hope” Peter mentions?

What are some of the words or phrases that stick out to you from Peter’s description of our life in Jesus Christ? What words or phrases stand out from Peter’s description of our experiences with suffering?

According to verse 11, what did the “Spirit of Christ” predict about the earthly ministry of the Messiah? How should Christ’s experiences inform the way we think about our own suffering?

After reminding his readers of who they are, Peter makes a surprising statement in verse 6: “In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.” He doesn’t tell his readers that soon their faith will bring them reprieve, that God will reward them with worldly comfort. Rather, he makes it clear that suffering and joy can—and should—co-exist.

Who is an example in your life of someone who demonstrated joy in suffering? How was their joy visible? What kind of effect did it have on you?

According to verses 6–7, how does Peter describe the “grief” and “trials” we face in life, specifically in terms of their duration? Why does God allow us to experience them?

Like children adopted into a loving family, we have been chosen by God and blessed not only with a birthright, but also with an inheritance sealed for us by the Holy Spirit. We belong to a loving Father who allows hardship into our lives for the sake of maturing our faith. Once again, throughout these verses Peter is explaining who we are because our hope comes from a new identity, not merely new instructions.

How should this truth about your identity in Christ shape the way you respond to suffering and hostility? What could change about your behavior in light of the truth that your suffering is never a surprise to God?

Scripture contains a lot of commands, but God never tells us what to do before he tells us who we are. Through the first twelve verses of his letter, Peter follows this same model reminding persecuted Christians that they are children of God and their suffering is being used to refine their faith. But that still leaves us with the question of what we are to do with our lives between now and the time that we meet Christ in glory? Someone read verses 13–25.

Which of Peter’s instructions stand out to you the most from these verses? In what ways are they relevant to your spiritual walk today?

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 1: 1 PETER 1:1–25

There are a number of imperatives throughout this passage, but Kyle grouped them into two general commands—live holy and love others. That’s the abbreviated version of what Peter is communicating. During the session, Kyle defined the meaning of holy as something that is “separate” or “set apart.”

Where do you find it most difficult to “live holy” in your daily life? What truth can you take away from this week’s passage as an encouragement toward holiness?

Living holy in the context of suffering means facing our circumstances in a way that is set apart, namely, with the joy of our hope in Christ. **How has suffering provided you with opportunities to share your faith? If not you, then how have you seen it provide opportunities for other Christians to share theirs?**

The second half of this section calls Christians to love their brothers and sisters sincerely. Through faith in Christ, we are family, children of the same Father.

What opportunities do you have to serve other believers in your midst today? How can you be an encouragement, especially to someone who may be suffering?

In the weeks ahead, we’ll see this principle applied more broadly to unbelievers, but Peter begins his letter to a suffering community by reminding them of their identity in Christ and calling them to lives of holiness and love for another. A needed reminder for us all.

LAST WORD

Life with Christ is one of both joy and suffering. The trials we face remind us that this is not our home. Because of his sacrifice, our hardships are temporary, but our hope is eternal. Even more, through faith in Christ the Holy Spirit has transformed us such that we can face suffering with joy. Our hope is no longer rooted in our circumstances, but in the unchanging faithfulness of God.

Kyle ended the session by reminding us that our identity always drives our behavior. Who we are determines how we will live. If you have trusted in Christ, then you are a new creation and hardship provides the opportunity to reflect that to the world. So, take heart in the difficult days. They are not a surprise to God and he allows them to refine your faith and bring glory to his name.

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Reflect on the list you made at the beginning of the session of the ways you’d like the Lord to grow you throughout this study. Take some time now to offer them to God in prayer and ask him to give you a heart that is receptive to his truth.

Memorize: Commit 1 Peter 1:13 to memory as a constant reminder that Christ is the only worthy source of our hope in this life.

Encourage: Identify someone struggling, maybe even another believer having a hard time with feelings of being an “outsider.” Make an intentional effort to encourage him or her with the hope of Jesus, that he is near and at work within even if we cannot see it.

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SESSION 1: HANDOUT

SESSION BIG IDEA

Rightly understanding our identity as citizens of God's kingdom and aliens in the kingdom of darkness will equip us to love our fellow Christians well.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO

What relationship do believers have to the world in which we live?

What two things does Kyle say we experience simultaneously as Christians?

What are the two responsibilities Peter tasks his readers with?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

1 PETER 1:1-25

Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION

What are some examples of ways that you have felt like an outsider because of your faith?

What opportunities do you have to serve other believers in your midst today? How can you be an encouragement, especially to someone who may be suffering?

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Reflect on the list you made at the beginning of the session of the ways you'd like the Lord to grow you throughout this study. Take some time now to offer them to God in prayer and ask him to give you a heart that is receptive to his truth.

Memorize: Commit 1 Peter 1:13 to memory as a constant reminder that Christ is the only worthy source of our hope in this life.

Encourage: Identify someone struggling, maybe even another believer having a hard time with feelings of being an "outsider." Make an intentional effort to encourage him or her with the hope of Jesus, that he is near and at work within even if we cannot see it.

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SESSION 2:
1 PETER 2:1-12

Quick Start

Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

Print

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

Note: For more detailed information, please see **A Note to Leaders** section on page 5.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 2: 1 PETER 2:1–12

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what we want to walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: As a result of God crafting through Christ a new kind of people who declare his glory to the world, we should rid ourselves of whatever distract us from doing so.

Head Change: To understand that there are things in our lives we must clean out in order to truly pursue obedience to God.

Heart Change: To feel an honest desire to please God rather than simply a begrudging obedience.

Life Change: To remove whatever distracts us from holy lives that declare God's glory to those around us.

OPEN

Think back to a time when you cleaned out your home—maybe to obey parents, to impress a visitor, or simply spring cleaning. **How did you feel after you finished cleaning? What was it like getting rid of junk you no longer needed?**

Like our homes, our spiritual lives also require times of spring cleaning. For the sake of holiness, there are items in our hearts that must be thrown out to make room for new desires and habits that pursue Christ.

READ

1 PETER 2:1–12

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Kyle's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to the following questions.

How does Kyle define the term "malice"?

What are the two aspects required for a holy life?

What are the two responsibilities of every Christian because of our new identity?

**SHOW SESSION 2: 1 PETER
2:1–12 (12 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS

As we saw last week, Peter is writing his letter to a community of Christ followers suffering under persecution. Believers were being ostracized, imprisoned, and martyred for their faith in Christ. So, Peter reminds them of their identity in order to fuel their perseverance. Based on his first chapter, Christians have transferred their citizenship. This world is not our home, which means our circumstances—no matter how painful—are temporary. So we should set our hope on eternity with Christ and pursue holiness until then.

Beginning in chapter 2, Peter begins to offer a practical glimpse into what a holy life looks like. Someone read 1 Peter 2:1–12.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 2: 1 PETER 2:1–12

Most Bibles translate the first word of verse 1 as “therefore” (or “so”). **Briefly describe how what Peter says in the following verses connects to the content of chapter 1. In other words, what is the “therefore” there for?** (It refers back to the truth that we have been begotten by God, which is the foundation for our obedience.)

Based on what we studied in the previous session, how should our identity in Christ motivate us to pursue holiness and persevere in suffering?

Like Kyle said, the list Peter gives in verse 1 isn’t exhaustive, but it certainly applies to behavior today. **What are some examples of sinful behaviors from this list that you’ve witnessed in others? What about in your own life? What effect do they have, specifically on relationships with others?**

When we consider this list a little more carefully, it becomes clear that it focuses on sin that tears at the social fabric of relationships. Each is inherently divisive and finds its root in an ill will (or “malice”) toward others. Obviously, this is a destructive trait in general, but especially in terms of relationships among believers. It divides when the gospel is about unifying the body of Christ. So, we need to be serious about cleaning out our junk drawer.

As you reflect on Peter’s charge in verse one, what do you need to “rid yourself” of? Make note of anything the Holy Spirit is convicting you to clean out of your junk drawer?

How would your relationships change if you were to do so?

As Kyle pointed out in the session, Peter begins this portion of his letter by explaining what to get rid of for the sake of a holy life. But there’s another side to holiness—what we should crave for a holy life. Kyle described it as “an appetite for godliness.” Pursuing holiness is not merely about changing behavior. It requires an internal change in terms of our desires—the things we love and hate.

According to verse 3, what does Peter describe as our motivation for holiness? (The fact that we have “tasted that the Lord is good.”)

Why would verses 1–2 be ineffective motivation for holiness without verse 3? (Because it isn’t grounded in our identity in Christ. Like Kyle said, non-Christians are uninterested in the dos and don’ts of Christianity because they do not know Christ.)

What does this component of holiness—the requirement of an internal change—teach us about a true pursuit of godliness? (That it requires more than simply a change in behavior. We desperately need the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts, which is possibly only through faith in Jesus Christ.)

How have your “appetites” changed since coming to know Christ? What do you desire now that you would never have desired previously?

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SESSION 2: 1 PETER 2:1–12

So, holiness is not simply about what you avoid or flee. It's also about what you pursue. And Peter makes it clear that Christians ought to crave "pure spiritual milk" in the same way that newborn children depend on their own sustenance.

PEEK AT THE GREEK

When Peter uses the phrase "pure spiritual milk," he's not prescribing a permanently immature diet of Christianity. Rather, he introduces the concept as a means for growth, or spiritual maturity. Just as milk causes babies to grow so "spiritual milk" causes Christians to grow. This is how the New Testament treats this image on a consistent basis (see 1 Cor. 3:1–3 and Heb. 5:11–14). But Peter uses the modifier *logikov*, which is translated "spiritual." Outside of its biblical use, the term is often used to describe something "rational" or "reasonable," beginning primarily in the mind. Considering its lexical connection to the term *logos* ("word") as well as its proximity to 1:25 where Peter describes the "word" as the gospel preached to his readers, it is likely that the "milk" he has in mind is none other than Scripture—the very Word of God. Our spiritual maturity as believers is not built primarily on mystical or experiential moments, but through the transforming of our minds by means of God's Word.

To some degree, we've seen how our identity in Christ brings us a new responsibility at the same time. Beginning in verse 4, Peter returns to a discussion of identity in order to flesh out exactly who we are in order to understand how we ought to live as a result.

What stands out to you about the descriptions of our identity in Christ in verses 5 and 9–10? What about the description of Jesus in verses 6–8?

We could list plenty of observations about these verses, but two points are important to consider here. First, the experience of Jesus is a model for our experience as his people. Peter describes him as "rejected" by the world but "precious" to those who believe.

If our Savior was not exempt from suffering, we should expect the same. But more importantly, all of Peter's descriptions of believers in Christ—chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation—are plural. This is an important emphasis because we were made for community as we participate in God's redemptive work. That's why belonging to a body of believers is so crucial—so that each of us can serve with our God-given gifts for the sake of his kingdom.

When you think about the idea of pursuing holiness, are you tempted to view it as something you have to do on your own? How would your spiritual life change if you were to invite other believers into your life in a deeper way?

Before moving on from verse 9, Peter makes a final point about our identity. He says that we have been transformed into a new people for a specific purpose: to declare "the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

What are some practical ways that we can live out this purpose?

One of the points Kyle emphasized is that Peter isn't commanding us to argue unbelievers into the kingdom. As we've seen already, that's impossible. True salvation requires the miraculous work of God in our hearts.

What are some examples of ways you've seen people "declare" their beliefs in a harmful way? How have you seen them declared in a helpful way?

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SESSION 2: 1 PETER 2:1-12

GO DEEPER

Read more about how Paul declares the praises of God in the following verses: Acts 17:22-34; Rom. 1:18-32

How would you describe Paul's tone in Romans 1:18-32 while describing those who commit unrighteousness?

How would you describe his tone in Acts 17:22-31 when speaking to those who commit unrighteousness?

How did his listeners respond, according to Acts 17:32-34?

What can you take from Paul's model and apply to the way you "declare" God to those around you?

Like Kyle said, this isn't a "You're wrong; I'm right" situation. God doesn't command us to argue without love. Rather, we are called to share what he has done in our lives and let that transformation be the basis for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Earlier, we talked about some of the ways God has changed your desires through Christ. **What are some of the other differences he has made in your life? What could you do to be intentional about sharing your story with someone this week?**

Through Christ, we have received the mercy of God such that he has brought us into his family and given us the opportunity to participate in the expansion of his kingdom. In addition to declaring the praise of our God, Peter includes one final responsibility before moving on to the next section: we are to live righteous lives such that unbelievers have no ground on which to accuse us of wrongdoing. Kyle summed it up by saying that the world should see a difference in the way we live. Our actions ought to refute their prejudices about Christians.

Where do you have opportunities to live out your faith in a way that sets you apart from the way unbelievers live?

Peter specifically mentions in verse 12 that unbelievers may unjustly accuse Christians of doing wrong. **What are some examples of ways you have seen this in your own life? Or that of other Christians? What would it look like to respond in a way "that they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" (v. 12)?**

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SESSION 2: 1 PETER 2:1–12

LAST WORD

Compared to those who do not know Christ, our lives should look different because we have a new identity. Yet that should not be a difference we display arrogantly. Rather, our new identity should be lived out in a way that reflects the love God has shown to us. As he is patient, so we should be patient. As he is gracious and merciful, so we should extend grace and mercy to those who do not embrace his truth.

Through Christ, we have been called into the greatest story the world has ever known, that of God's redemptive work. Don't take that lightly but remember that it does not depend on you either. God is looking for the faithful, not the perfect, and he is drawing you into spiritual maturity through his Holy Spirit.

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Ask the Lord to help you see the areas of your life that need to be cleaned out and be intentional about following his direction as he does so.

Speak: If the Holy Spirit convicted you of your need to share the good news of Jesus with someone, be bold in doing so this week trusting that he will supply you with the words.

Accountability: Reach out to 2–3 trusted believers who know you well and invite them to help you stay accountable in pursuing the areas of holiness you most need to grow in.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 2: HANDOUT

SESSION BIG IDEA

As a result of God crafting through Christ a new kind of people who declare his glory to the world, we should rid ourselves of whatever distract us from doing so.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR
IN THE VIDEO**

How does Kyle define the term “malice”?

.....

What are the two aspects required for a holy life?

.....

What are the two responsibilities of every Christian because of our new identity?

.....

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

1 PETER 2:1-12

Notes

.....

**PERSONAL REFLECTION
& APPLICATION**

What do you need to “rid yourself” of? What’s in your junk drawer that the Holy Spirit is convicting you to clean out?

.....

When you think about the idea of pursuing holiness, are you tempted to view it as something you have to do on your own? How would your spiritual life change if you were to invite other believers into your life in a deeper way?

.....

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Ask the Lord to help you see the areas of your life that need to be cleaned out and be intentional about following his direction as he does so.

Speak: If the Holy Spirit convicted you of your need to share the good news of Jesus with someone, be bold in doing so this week trusting that he will supply you with the words.

Accountability: Reach out to 2–3 trusted believers who know you well and invite them to help you stay accountable in pursuing the areas of holiness you most need to grow in.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST
PETER

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SESSION 3:
1 PETER 2:13–25

Quick Start

Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

Print

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

Note: For more detailed information, please see **A Note to Leaders** section on page 5.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 3: 1 PETER 2:13-25

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what we want to walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: As the people of God, we display the good news of the gospel through submission to the authorities in our lives.

Head Change: To understand that Christ's example of submitting to God's will is the prime motivation for our obedience.

Heart Change: To crave obedience to God above our own personal comfort.

Life Change: To reconsider our current attitudes toward authority and bring them into alignment with God's Word where needed.

OPEN

Have you ever been asked to do something that you didn't want to do (confront a friend, study on the weekend, complete a frustrating work assignment, etc.)? Looking back, was what you were asked to do something that would harm you? What did your reaction reveal about your priorities?

We've all had a time where we know we have to do something that we don't really want to do. Our spiritual lives are no exception. The Christian life does not come naturally because it's one in which we are called to die to ourselves. As we study Scripture, we will all find certain portions more difficult to grasp than others, but it's important that we continue to embrace God's truth trusting that he has given it to us for our good and his glory.

READ

1 PETER 2:13-25

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Kyle's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to the following questions.

How does Kyle describe the Roman government during the time of Peter? How did it treat Christians?

How does Kyle define "submission"?

What is the reason for why we should learn to submit?

**SHOW SESSION 3: 1 PETER
2:13-25 (14 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS

Through our first two sessions, we've talked a lot about holiness. We've discussed what it is, why it's important, and how it speaks to the unbelieving world. In general, the idea of walking in obedience to the Lord is an attractive idea. We want to please him. However, obedience becomes much more challenging when brought into the practical realm where it begins to challenge behaviors and impulses that seem right to us. Today's lesson will introduce a relatable example of one of these behaviors, namely, that of submission.

Before we get into our passage for today, someone read 1 Peter 2:11.

What is the main principle Peter commands in this verse? (That Christians "abstain from sinful desires.")

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 3: 1 PETER 2:13–25

Obviously, that command can express itself in many different ways. We all have different sinful desires and the Holy Spirit will faithfully bring them to light for our spiritual maturity. But the reason we want to revisit this verse now is because it's going to preview where we're headed for the next few weeks. Starting in 2:13, Peter makes a point to explain to his readers a number of practical ways to "abstain from sinful desires."

Someone read 1 Peter 2:13–17.

How do you react to the Bible's call for submission? What kind of emotions does it spark in you? Why do you think you feel the way you do?

PEEK AT THE GREEK

In verse 13, Peter uses the term *hupotasso*, which is regularly translated "submit" throughout the New Testament. For some time, the idea of submission in general has had to contend with a negative reaction and for good reason. Many throughout history have used biblical calls for submission to abuse women, slaves, and the impoverished in ways that clearly contradict Scripture. And that is not at all what Peter has in view here. The term *hupotasso* is not a synonym for "obey." Rather, it reflects a voluntary decision to honor another in a particular way. In no way does submission suggest inferiority of any kind. It's important to note that Peter's focus here is not concerned primarily with transforming society. Instead, he is focused on transforming individuals in terms of their relationship with Christ. Those committed to a faithful pursuit of Christ will naturally impact society in a positive way.

What reasons does Peter give in verses 13 and 15 for submitting to civil authorities? (It is not because of any inherent goodness in human government, but because of God's sovereignty. We obey God's will when we do so.)

What are some examples of "sinful desires" that keep us from honoring civil authorities?

When we consider Scripture as a whole, it's clear that Peter isn't advocating blind trust in government, as he himself disobeyed religious authorities according to Acts 5:27–32. Rather, his point is that we ought to prioritize obedience to God above our sinful desire to do things on our own terms. We obey because of our relationship with the Lord, not in spite of it. During the session, Kyle said, "As the world becomes increasingly hostile, the Church must become increasingly holy."

In what ways do you see the world acting with hostility toward the Church? What would it look like for the Church to respond in a way that reflects holiness? How could you, specifically, respond to hostility in a way that reflects holiness?

As we learned in the session, Christians during Peter's time were falsely accused of insurrection, atheism, incest, cannibalism, and other forms of immorality. Yet, they continued to faithfully obey God by serving, giving generously, and displaying kindness. Doing so disproved the prejudices of their accusers, even if it did not resolve their suffering.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 3: 1 PETER 2:13–25

How do you tend to respond when you are misunderstood by others? Based on your past experiences, what could you do differently in the future to demonstrate love and kindness, even in such injustice?

Again, our obedience is not a blind one. Sometimes, obeying God will mean disobeying civil authorities, but we should be wary of mistaking God’s will for our own sinful desires. As Kyle said, our guiding principle should be to follow the ruling authorities in our lives so long as their plans and policies do not oppose God’s will.

GO DEEPER

Read more about how to discern God’s will in the following verses: Rom. 12:1–2; Heb. 1:1–2

How is God’s will described in Romans 12:2? (“Good, pleasing, and perfect”)

How do we discern God’s will? (Through the renewing of our minds)

What is our primary way of having our minds renewed according to Hebrews 1:2? (Through what God has spoken to us in his Son)

When it comes to the idea of God’s will, we often over-spiritualize it looking for a burning bush or writing on the wall. The reality is that God has given us everything we need in his Word. Certainly, he is able to speak in miraculous ways, but he primarily and consistently speaks to us through his Word, which leads to the renewing of our minds and the discernment of his will.

What are some examples of plans or policies that Christians might not be able to follow out of obedience to God?

In Acts 5:27–32, Peter provides us with an important example of faithfulness. Even in his disobedience, he remains respectful while maintaining his commitment to God. He does not disobey simply to rebel, but because his faithfulness to the Lord depended on it. That’s an important distinction that must be true of any and all of our own civil disobedience.

Now, let’s take a look at the other form of submission Peter discusses in this week’s passage. Someone read 1 Peter 2:18–25.

How do you react to Peter’s instructions to slaves? What emotions or questions does it prompt in you?

Many struggle with instructions like these, as they seem to condone the practice of slavery. But let’s be clear that nowhere does Scripture condone the oppressive practice of slavery—not even in these verses. Rather, the New Testament authors wrote with a different focus in mind. Rather than calling for revolutionary actions that would overthrow social systems, they concerned themselves primarily with the heart of Christians and their relationship with God. In other words, Peter’s primary concern is not with the transformation of society, but with the transformation of individuals within that society through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 3: 1 PETER 2:13–25

How should this focus of prioritizing individual salvation and obedience over societal transformation shape the way you apply your faith to every day life?

Both personal and societal transformation is important, but Scripture tells us that the brokenness of the world does not begin with systems, but with the human heart. That's why the focus starts with individuals. We can reorganize, legislate, and overhaul systems, but they'll still be run by sinners. Only Christ can offer hope for lasting change and through our relationship with him we can choose faithfulness even in oppressive circumstances.

Kyle described biblical submission as a voluntary decision that flows from a joyful spirit. **Do you think of submission in this way? How should it influence the way you think about the impact of your individual faith on others?**

As Kyle explained in the session, biblical slavery differs from American slavery in a number of ways—most significantly in that it was not fueled by kidnapping or based on a particular ethnicity. That said, the Greco-Roman system was no less brutal or oppressive, which makes it somewhat difficult to draw a reasonable application from this text. In all likelihood, none of us exists in circumstances like those of slaves during biblical times. But it's very likely that many of us serve “masters” in the form of supervisors, managers, and bosses. The principle Peter writes to slaves applies in the same way for those of us in the workplace, whether or not we have a respectable employer.

How would you describe your employer? In what ways do you find it easy to submit to him or her? What are some ways you find it difficult?

What's at stake in the way we choose to interact with our employers (see vv. 19–20)?

Before finishing up this session, don't forget the truth we've talked about since day one—who you are determines what you will do. Peter never tells us what to do without explaining why we ought to do it.

According to verse 21, why should Christians learn to submit? (Because of Christ's example)

Based on the description of Jesus's example in verses 22–25, where do you see the most opportunity for growth in your own life?

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 3: 1 PETER 2:13–25

Impulsive behavior is natural and easy. We've all had times where we have chosen to retaliate rather than forgive, to hurl insults instead of extending mercy.

Where can you choose not to retaliate or get offended by a circumstance in your life? How practically can you demonstrate the example of Christ—displaying grace over getting defensive—in this situation?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: If you find yourself experiencing bitterness or resistance toward the topic of today's session, ask God to soften your heart and give you the ability to see the goodness of his Word and to delight in obedience.

Praise: Take a moment to stop and consider the example Jesus set by coming into this world, subjecting himself to abuse and ultimately crucifixion at the hands of people he created. Praise him for laying aside his own comforts for the sake of our salvation.

Honor: Think of a practical way that you can honor a leader in your government or in your workplace and do so over the course of this next week.

LAST WORD

Peter's teaching on submission in these verses is simple, but nothing about it is easy. Often times, it means choosing to follow leaders who abuse their power and create environments of hostility and insecurity. Everything in us cries out for change, for justice. And while there's nothing wrong with that urge, the Bible calls us to give careful consideration to our response. Does it demonstrate the faithfulness of Christ? Or merely our human desires?

Throughout history, the Church has flourished not primarily based on persuasive arguments, but by demonstrating the love of Christ toward its enemies. As he hung upon the cross, Jesus cried out for his Father to forgive his murderers. And Peter tells us that Christ's example is one we are called to follow. As you go about your week, let this call resonate in your heart. Ask the Lord to help you see opportunities to practice this kind of obedience and courageously follow him as he grants them to you.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 3: HANDOUT

SESSION BIG IDEA

As the people of God, we display the good news of the gospel through submission to the authorities in our lives.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO

How does Kyle describe the Roman government during the time of Peter? How did it treat Christians?

How does Kyle define “submission”?

What is the reason for why we should learn to submit?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

1 PETER 2:13-25

Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION

How do you react to the Bible’s call for submission? What kind of emotions does it spark in you? Why do you feel the way you do?

In what ways do you see the world acting with hostility toward the church? What would it look like for the church to respond in a way that reflects holiness? How could you, specifically, respond to hostility in a way that reflects holiness?

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: If you find yourself experiencing bitterness or resistance toward the topic of today’s session, ask God to soften your heart and give you the ability to see the goodness of his Word and to delight in obedience.

Praise: Take a moment to stop and consider the example Jesus set by coming into this world, subjecting himself to abuse and ultimately crucifixion at the hands of people he created. Praise him for laying aside his own comforts for the sake of our salvation.

Honor: Think of a practical way that you can honor a leader in your government or in your workplace and do so over the course of this next week.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST
PETER

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SESSION 4:
1 PETER 3:1-7

Quick Start

Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

Print

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

Note: For more detailed information, please see **A Note to Leaders** section on page 5.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 4: 1 PETER 3:1-7

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what we want to walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: As the people of God, we display the good news of the gospel in marriage through lives of submission and understanding.

Head Change: To know that God’s instructions for marriage lead to more joyful ends than any we could create on our own.

Heart Change: To feel a greater desire for honoring our spouse according to God’s Word.

Life Change: To conform our marriages to reflect God’s design for his glory and as a testimony of the gospel to those around us.

OPEN

Hollywood paints a romantic picture of relationships and marriage today. **When you think about the world’s portrayal of marriage, what are some of the consistent characteristics that come to mind?**

While the vision of marriage we get from culture is not always wrong, it’s typically incomplete. Scripture casts a broader and more faithful vision of what God wants for marriage, even for those of us who are single.

READ

1 PETER 3:1-7

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Kyle’s teaching. As you watch, pay attention to the following questions.

What were the two examples Kyle listed from Dr. Stark’s book for why the early Church spread so rapidly during its first three centuries?

Does Peter command all women to submit to all men?

How do Peter’s instructions apply to situations of abuse within a marriage?

**SHOW SESSION 4: 1 PETER
3:1-7 (11 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS

Last session, we began to look at some of the specific ways Peter encourages his readers to “abstain from sinful desires” (2:11). In particular, we dove into the topic of submission and what that looks like in terms of our relationship to civil authorities and Peter’s instructions for slaves in their relationship to their masters. This week, we’re going to see two more examples of ways we are to abstain from our own sinful desires, specifically in the context of marriage.

Someone read 1 Peter 3:1-7. As Kyle explained, one of the aspects of Christianity that set apart Christians early on was the way it embraced the ostracized. Unwanted children, women, and foreigners were accepted by believers on the basis that they were valued in the sight of God.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 4: 1 PETER 3:1-7

What are some ways the Church could embrace the ostracized today? How do you think doing so would change the public's perception of Christians?

While the broader culture may not have viewed women favorably during Greco-Roman times, Peter (and the New Testament as a whole) clearly calls for better treatment. Overall, Scripture commands men to respect women as being made in the image of God, but specifically, in this context, Peter commands husbands to view their wives as co-heirs of God's grace.

What kind of a reaction do you have to Peter's words in verse 7? What emotions do they inspire in you?

Clearly, his instructions are directed to husbands, but men in every life context should take them seriously, whether or not they are married. Women, like men, are co-heirs of the gracious gift of life. **How should your behavior toward your wife change as a result of this verse? How should it change in terms of your relationship with women in general?**

For the women in the group, how do you react to Peter's instructions to husbands? What impact would this kind of behavior have on your marriage? Your friendships?

If you're currently single, how should Peter's instructions shape your behavior toward women? How should it change the way you pursue potential dating relationships and preparation for marriage?

Or if you're a woman, how should these instructions inform the kind of person you look to befriend and/or pursue a relationship with?

PEEK AT THE GREEK

As Peter turns his attention to husbands in verse 7, he calls them to respect their wives as the "weaker partner." At first glance, that phrase can sound quite offensive, as it seems to suggest inferiority on the part of the woman. In Greek, the phrase *asthenestero skeuei* literally means "weaker vessel" and the New Testament describes men as "vessels" elsewhere (Acts 9:15; Rom. 9:21-23). It also uses the term to denote physical objects like a lamp or dish (Luke 8:16; John 19:29; 2 Tim. 2:20). Clearly, the comparison here suggests that women are weaker than men, but in what way? Nowhere else does Scripture describe women as weaker intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, or morally. The most obvious use of the phrase has to do with physical strength. On the whole, men are typically stronger than women. Certainly, there are exceptions, but Peter is simply commanding husbands to be mindful of how they use their strength around their wives. Rather than cultivating habits that could become abusive, he tells them to care for their wives and respect them.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 4: 1 PETER 3:1-7

As Kyle pointed out, not only does poor treatment of wives hinder husbands' prayers, but it also weakens their ability to be a light of the gospel to the world. **What does the way you treat your wife communicate about your faith to others? Or if you're single, what does the way you treat the women around you communicate about your faith?**

If you're a woman, how have you experienced obedient men provide an opportunity for you to live as a "co-heir" of God's grace, whether it be your husband or otherwise?

Now, let's turn our attention to the first part of this paragraph where Peter gives instructions to wives.

How do you react to Peter's words in verses 1-6? What feelings do they prompt in you?

As we learned last week, the idea of submission is not one of forced obedience. Rather, it is a voluntary choice made out of joy in Christ. And in this case, it's specifically meant in the context of marriage. In no way should this be understood as a general command for women to submit to men. Even more importantly, Kyle stressed the importance of remembering that this isn't something we do simply for the sake of having a good marriage, but to honor Jesus Christ.

How might that truth change the way you think about this command?

Beyond his instructions on submission, Peter also encourages women to place their hope in God as opposed to any material hope, like that of clothing, jewelry, or hairstyles. While there's nothing wrong with external beauty, it does not last. As Kyle pointed out, it's the inner life that endures and communicates true beauty.

If you're a woman, what are some of the ways you've been tempted to place your hope in external beauty today? How are these temptations ultimately enslaving rather than freeing?

If you're a man, in what ways might you have contributed to that enslaving picture of female value?

Where can you improve in terms of cultivating your inner beauty, as Peter describes in verse 4-5?

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 4: 1 PETER 3:1-7

Kyle emphasized the point that obeying God's design for marriage can build your spouse's faith. Verse 1 indicates that faithful living even has the potential to win an unbelieving husband to the faith. **If you're married, how have you seen this truth demonstrated in your own marriage?**

How have you seen it demonstrated in someone else's marriage?

Let's briefly re-read verses 1 and 7. **What exceptions does Peter list for these commands? What are the conditions that make it okay for spouses to dismiss his instructions?**

If you're struggling to find them, that's because there aren't any given. What Peter makes clear in his teaching is that our obedience is not dependent on our spouse doing his or her part. Obviously, as Kyle clarified, if abuse is present in a relationship you should seek help immediately as Scripture forbids that elsewhere. But the reality is that love, submission, and respect are commands we are to live out regardless of the obedience (or lack thereof) of our spouse because we obey in service to Jesus, not our spouse.

GO DEEPER

Read more about God's desire for marriage in the following verses: Eph. 5:21-33

While Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians, his words echo the teachings of Peter. Verse 21 may seem like a strange place to start, but it frames marriage in an important light.

What does Paul command in verse 21? (That Christians submit to one another in reverence for Jesus Christ)

In other words, submission is required of every believer. Scripture simply indicates a few spheres in which it is applied in specific ways.

What is the purpose of submission and love within a marriage according to verse 32? (To display the mystery of Christ and his Church)

How should these truths shape your emotions toward the Bible's teachings on marriage?

There's no question that Peter's instructions describe an approach to marriage that contrasts sharply with the world's approach. It is not one that is self-centered or primarily focused on one's own needs. Rather, it calls for service and humility toward our spouse, an attitude of prioritizing his or her needs over our own. When we do so, it not only draws people into the beauty of marriage, but it also gives them a picture of the beauty of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And as Kyle said, it has the potential to change the world around us much like we see in history from the first three centuries of the Church.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 4: 1 PETER 3:1-7

Whose marriage do you find exhibiting these qualities best (honor, submission, love, etc.)? How does their relationship affect your view of marriage? In what ways does it motivate you?

As a result of this session, what can you do practically to better love your spouse this week?

If you're single, what can you do practically to pursue honorable friendships with those around you of the opposite sex?

LAST WORD

Marriage will always have its challenges, but it is a beautiful gift from God, one that he is faithful to bless from beginning to end. One of the clearest ways he has done so is through his Word. And while these instructions from Peter do not come naturally, they lead to a place of mutual respect and love toward our spouse.

That said, marriage is not promised to all. Certainly, these verses apply specifically to marriage, but they have much to teach us about our interactions with one another outside of marriage as well. Above all, they teach us that our hope must be anchored in God or else our motivation for obedience will dry up quickly. It's easy to pursue the hollow promises of this world that focus on the external, but true beauty comes from a life committed to embracing the good news of Jesus. He is our salvation, redemption, and ever-present hope.

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Whether you are married or single, spend time this week asking the Lord to continue shaping you to treat members of the opposite sex in ways that are faithful to his Word.

Evaluate: Set aside some time over the course of the next week to consider your marriage in light of Peter's instructions. As you do, resolve to make whatever changes necessary to align your marriage with God's Word.

Listen: Reach out to a couple that has been married more than twenty years. Ask them about their relationship and listen to the advice they have to offer.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 4: HANDOUT

SESSION BIG IDEA

As the people of God, we display the good news of the gospel in marriage through lives of submission and understanding.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR
IN THE VIDEO**

What were the two examples Kyle listed from Dr. Stark's book for why the early Church spread so rapidly during its first three centuries?

.....

Does Peter command all women to submit to all men?

.....

How do Peter's instructions apply to situations of abuse within a marriage?

.....

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

1 PETER 3:1-7

Notes

.....

**PERSONAL REFLECTION
& APPLICATION**

Whose marriage do you find exhibiting qualities like honor, submission, and love the best? How does their relationship affect your view of marriage? In what ways does it motivate you in your own relationships?

.....

As a result of this session, what can you do practically to better love your spouse this week? If you're single, what can you do practically to pursue honorable friendships with those around you of the opposite sex?

.....

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Whether you are married or single, spend time this week asking the Lord to continue shaping you to treat members of the opposite sex in ways that are faithful to his Word.

Evaluate: Set aside some time over the course of the next week to consider your marriage in light of Peter's instructions. As you do, resolve to make whatever changes necessary to align your marriage with God's Word.

Listen: Reach out to a couple that has been married more than twenty years. Ask them about their relationship and listen to the advice they have to offer.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST
PETER

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SESSION 5:
1 PETER 3:8-22

Quick Start

Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

Print

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

Note: For more detailed information, please see **A Note to Leaders** section on page 5.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 5: 1 PETER 3:8–22

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what we want to walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: As the people of God, Christians display the good news of the gospel through unity in the church, blessing their enemies, and remaining faithful in suffering.

Head Change: To understand that our actions demonstrate our beliefs, which are brought to surface when we experience suffering.

Heart Change: To rejoice in suffering for righteousness rather than to run from it, because we realize that we are blessed by God as we experience it.

Life Change: To identify ways in which we are not pursuing unity within the Church and make whatever changes necessary to become the unified body of Christ that God desires.

OPEN

Describe a time when you've seen teamwork at its best—maybe it was watching a particular sports team, reading about a rescue operation, or witnessing a community rally to provide for a loss. **How was unity on display?**

Throughout the New Testament, unity is consistently called for in the church—and 1 Peter is no exception. In this week's passage, he identifies it as one of the ways in which we demonstrate the gospel to the world.

READ

1 PETER 3:8–22

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Kyle's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to the following questions.

How did Kyle define the term "belief"?

How did he define the term "conviction"?

Should we expect kindness from the world in response to our obedience to Christ?

**SHOW SESSION 5: 1 PETER
3:8–22 (13 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS

We started off this series by making a simple statement about identity: Who you are determines what you will do. Our actions flow out of us as a result of our identity and, as we look to wrap up chapter three, Peter is going to turn his attention to that very topic—actions. To put it simply, he calls his readers to live out their convictions.

Someone read 1 Peter 3:8–22.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 5: 1 PETER 3:8–22

**What do you consider some of your core convictions?
How do you demonstrate them in your day-to-day life?**

Peter challenges his readers to live out their convictions in a culture largely hostile to their faith. As we saw previously, beginning in 2:11 he listed a number of ways Christians ought to resist their “sinful desires,” including instructions related to civil obedience, slave and master relationships, and marriage. He concludes this instruction in 3:8–9 by listing a number of characteristics beginning with unity.

Why do you think Scripture emphasizes unity among Christians? What does disunity communicate to those outside of the Church?

How well does your life reflect the remaining qualities on the list (sympathy, mutual love, compassion, and humility)? Where can you improve?

Kyle said that we find out whether something is a belief or a conviction when we are in the minority and it is costly to embrace. **What are some ways that you’ve found yourself in the minority? How were your convictions demonstrated?**

Peter concludes the thought he began in 2:11 with a final command in verse 9—bless others, even those who pay you evil and insult.

PEEK AT THE GREEK

When we think about the idea of “blessing” someone today, it has a more diluted meaning than of the biblical text. We say, “Bless you,” following a sneeze or sometimes politely insult others with the phrase “bless your heart.” But Peter has something much deeper in mind when he says to bless our enemies in verse 9. He uses the term *eulogeo*, which means to ask for God’s special favor upon another. This isn’t something we can do begrudgingly, but out of the knowledge of who we are in Christ. By faith, we have been remade and experience the blessings of God on a daily basis. Out of that identity, we ought to bless those who intend us harm because it is evidence of our new life in Christ.

How do you tend to react to those who treat you poorly? Have you been able to consistently bless them? If not, what does your reaction reveal about your motivations?

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 5: 1 PETER 3:8–22

Based on your past experiences, what practically could you do in future situations to bless those who treat you poorly?

Blessing those who mean to hurt us is no easy task. It runs contrary to our natural sense of justice, which is why it is only something we can do through faith. Our example is none other than Christ himself, as Peter makes clear in verse 18. In particular, Kyle focused on Christ's compassion, which he displayed consistently throughout his earthly ministry.

Who in your life would you consider an example of a compassionate Christian? What impact has that person's compassion had on you? What impact has it had on others?

Kyle said, "When people begin to witness our compassion they will begin to care about our convictions." **How have you seen this to be true? What could you do to better demonstrate compassion in the way you interact with those around you?**

So, Peter calls his readers to a distinct Christian lifestyle—one that pursues unity and extends blessing to its enemies all for the sake of modeling Christ to the world. We might expect to receive kindness from the world as a result. After all, who would disapprove of being treated with blessing, right? Beginning in verse 13, Peter affirms that this could be the treatment we receive, but we could also become the targets of unjustified suffering, which is why our motivations for doing good are crucial.

What is the common motivation listed in verses 9 and 14? (Blessing from God)

Whether the world thanks us or blames us for our faithfulness to Christ, Peter says that we are blessed.

How have you experienced suffering or opposition for your faith?

Ultimately, what Peter is arguing in this passage is that when we oppose unity in the Church or seek to avoid suffering at any cost, we reveal that our hope lies in our personal comfort more than the sufficiency of Christ. And our behaviors always reveal our convictions. **What are some of the ways you're tempted toward pursuing personal comfort over Christ's call on your life?**

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 5: 1 PETER 3:8–22

Verses 15–16 go even further in clarifying this point. Often, verse 15 is used to encourage apologetic styles of evangelism, which aim to respond to intellectual arguments against the faith. While there's nothing wrong with that style of evangelism it is not what Peter has in mind when we consider the context. The previous verse encourages readers against fearing the prospect of suffering for their faith. Instead, Peter tells them to revere Christ in their suffering and to be prepared at all times to give an answer for their hope. In other words, Christian faithfulness amidst suffering speaks to those who witness it. People will ask why we are hopeful in suffering because that hope reveals our convictions. And when they ask, we will have an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus.

What does your response to suffering communicate to those around you? How could you more clearly demonstrate your hope in Christ in future situations?

When people witness our compassion toward pain, our blessing toward insult, and our hope in suffering they will wonder about our life. But it requires a commitment on our part to live according to our faith in every way possible.

What is a practical way that you can apply Peter's words in the coming week? Who could you serve? What about your life needs to change so that your behavior matches your convictions?

LAST WORD

As Christians, suffering provides us with an incredible opportunity to demonstrate the grace and mercy of our God. Suffering is never pleasant, but it is temporary and we have a hope beyond this world that has been confirmed for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Whether you find yourself facing difficulty or comfort today, rejoice in where God has you. He has not abandoned you and will remain faithful to you no matter the circumstance you face in the days ahead.

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Ask God to continue transforming your heart so that you are able to respond with genuine joy in times of suffering, as you recognize the opportunity it provides.

Write: On a piece of paper, write out 1 Peter 3:15 and place it where you'll see it each day this week. Every time you read it, ask the Lord to prepare you to give an answer for your faith when he prompts those around you to ask.

Resolve: Whether or not you are currently experiencing suffering, resolve to face it with joy acknowledging that God allows it for the purpose of refining your faith and confirming the presence of the Holy Spirit within you.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 5: HANDOUT

SESSION BIG IDEA

As the people of God, Christians display the good news of the gospel through unity in the church, blessing their enemies, and remaining faithful in suffering.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR
IN THE VIDEO**

How did Kyle define the term “belief”?

.....

How did he define the term “conviction”?

.....

Should we expect kindness from the world in response to our obedience to Christ?

.....

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

1 PETER 3:8-22

Notes

.....

**PERSONAL REFLECTION
& APPLICATION**

What do you consider some of your core convictions? How do you demonstrate them in your day-to-day life?

.....

What does your response to suffering communicate to those around you? How could you more clearly demonstrate your hope in Christ in future situations?

.....

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Ask God to continue transforming your heart so that you are able to respond with genuine joy in times of suffering, as you recognize the opportunity it provides.

Write: On a piece of paper, write out 1 Peter 3:15 and place it where you’ll see it each day this week. Every time you read it, ask the Lord to prepare you to give an answer for your faith when he prompts those around you to ask.

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THE BOOK OF
FIRST
PETER

★ *Boston Harbor* ★

SESSION 6:
1 PETER 4:1-19

Quick Start

Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

Print

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

Note: For more detailed information, please see **A Note to Leaders** section on page 5.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 6: 1 PETER 4:1–19

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what we want to walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: As a result of knowing that at times God will suffer for the purpose of purifying believers from sin and deepening their longing for glory with Christ, we should prepare to suffer while living a life of obedience to God through sacrificial love, hospitality, and service.

Head Change: To recognize our responsibility as Christians to prepare for suffering because it will be experienced at one point or another.

Heart Change: To rest in the presence of God as the source of our hope at all times rather than our circumstances.

Life Change: To strive for a disciplined lifestyle of prayer and service to others.

OPEN

Have you ever wrongly judged something by what it looks like on the outside (a book, a house, a gift, etc.)? What made you realize your judgment was wrong? How did it change your outlook on that thing moving forward?

A lot of us wrongly judge one another based solely on what we see from the outside. To some degree, we can get an idea of what a person is about based on the kind of lifestyle that they live, but that does not give us the whole story. Today's session will help us gain clarity on what it means to truly demonstrate our Christian faith from the inside out.

READ

1 PETER 4:1–19

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Kyle's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to the following questions.

Can we tell whether or not someone is a Christian by looking on the outside? How does Kyle answer this question?

What were the two primary ways Kyle mentioned that we demonstrate to the world our faith in Christ?

What does Peter mean in verse 7 when he says, "The end of all things is near"?

**SHOW SESSION 6: 1 PETER
4:1–19 (14 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS

One of the fundamental truths of Christianity is that we are saved by grace from the inside out. Like Kyle said during the session, our faith is not revealed by a mere symbol, but by the fruit that grows from who we are. We are known by what we follow. For Christians, following Christ will lead us into some difficult spaces—perhaps even suffering—which is why we must prepare to face them with joy.

Someone read 1 Peter 4:1–19.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 6: 1 PETER 4:1-19

If asked, what do you think people would point to in your life as evidence of your faith? How do you demonstrate to others that you are a follower of Christ?

Verse 1 begins with “therefore.” So let’s start by asking the question we’ve discussed before. **What’s the “therefore” there for? How does Peter’s teaching here connect with what he has said previously?**

Looking back at 3:18–22, Peter focused his readers’ attention on the example of Jesus who, rather than being spared from suffering, died for our sins and rose from the dead. He has gone ahead of us to show us the way. Because Christ suffered, we should expect similar experiences as we follow him. That’s why Peter begins here by calling us to prepare for how we will respond when those situations arise.

So how can we tell if someone is a follower of Jesus? Let’s re-read the two passages Kyle mentioned in the session to better understand how Jesus answers that question. Could I get two volunteers to read Matthew 7:20 and John 13:34?

What do these two passages teach us about the primary qualities of Christians? (That we are to be known by the fruit we bear and our love for one another)

To put it simply, we are known by the way we live and the way we love and that’s just as true in times of suffering as it is in times of comfort. Kyle explained that cultivating humility is one the primary ways we can prepare to live faithfully in times of difficulty.

How would you define humility? Who would you point to as an example of humility?

GO DEEPER

Read more about Christ’s example of humility in the following verses: Philippians 2:4–11

How does Jesus display humility in these verses?

How does the Father respond to the humility of his Son?

Since we are called to approach life with the mind of Christ (v. 5), what needs to change in order for you to live with a greater sense of humility? In other words, where can you invite God to shape you to look more like his Son?

Based on Kyle’s description of the “attitude of Jesus,” what are some practical ways you can strive for having that same attitude in the coming week?

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 6: 1 PETER 4:1–19

Humility is essential, but it does not spare us from times of strained relationships. As Peter makes clear in verses 3–4, even a humble pursuit of holiness can feel like an indictment on those who have committed themselves to worldly ways of living. They will be “surprised” that we no longer join in sinful activities like we may have done before.

What are some of the most distinctive ways your life has changed since coming to know Christ?

How has your faith changed the way you approach the relationships you had prior to knowing Christ? What are some ways others have been “surprised” by your choice to not join them in their lifestyle?

This is why our hope must be in Christ rather than our circumstances. Even when we strive to live holy and obedient lives, we’re prone to experiencing abuse from those around us. And if our hope is in those relationships or any other temporary thing it will fail us. But there’s another reason for hoping in Christ and that is that our time here is short, as Peter makes clear in verses 5–11.

When Peter writes, “the end is near” we shouldn’t read that phrase in the sense of doomsday. Rather, the end is our great hope because it means we will be with our Savior as he makes all things new. **What would change about your daily life if you were able to keep “the end” at the forefront of your mind? What would you become more urgent about?**

Peter offers a couple of practical ways the temporariness of life should shape us, the first being prayer (v. 7). He says to be alert and sober-minded in order to pray effectively. **Would you say these terms characterize your prayer life? What are some of the consistent obstacles you have to overcome for a disciplined prayer life?**

Kyle compared this life to a turbulent plane ride: the flight itself can be rough, but we’re going to land soon. **How does suffering affect your commitment to prayer? How should the truth that we’re going to “land” soon with Christ change the way you pray?**

The most important command Peter gives is to “love each other deeply” (v. 8). And he applies that in two ways—hospitality and service. **What role does hospitality play in the way you express your faith? How do you practice it?**

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 6: 1 PETER 4:1–19

Kyle noted how the Greek term for hospitality is a compound word that combines the terms for “love” and “strange” into one. Literally, it means, “love strangers.” Of course, there’s nothing wrong with being hospitable to those we know well, but biblical hospitality extends beyond that to those who are not a part of our group, regardless of their faith or lack thereof.

Who is a “stranger” in your life that you could show hospitality to this week?

In addition to hospitality, Peter tells his readers to serve one another with whatever gift they have received from God.

PEEK AT THE GREEK

The term Peter uses in verse 10 for “gift” is *karisma*, which generally refers to earthly goods given by God. In this context, it likely has a more spiritualized meaning, referring to those intangible gifts, like those he mentions in the following verse. That said, the principle here is simply that whatever gift we have received—whether tangible or intangible—it is meant for the purpose of serving others and encouraging fellow believers in Christ. God does not gift us for the sake of our self-esteem, but to give ourselves away in service to others. When we do so, we display the love of Christ and faithfully steward God’s grace in sight of a watching world.

What would you consider some of the gifts God has given to you?

Leader: *These don’t necessarily have to be overly spiritual gifts, like prophecy or tongues. Rather, try to steer the direction where Peter takes it in verse 11 to suggestions like teaching or service itself. Other options could be financial means or general giftings like cooking, singing, writing, etc.*

How are you serving others with your gifts? What are some ways you could be more intentional about using your gifts to encourage the body of Christ?

Up to this point, Peter has been describing ways for us to live that prepare us for times of suffering. Humility, love, hospitality, and service should not vanish from our lives when things get difficult. Rather, they help us stay engaged with people—especially other believers—so that we can remain faithful. In verses 12–19, Peter reminds us once again not to be surprised when testing comes. Instead, we are to be joyful because our suffering partners us with the suffering of our Savior.

According to verses 14–16, when should we rejoice in suffering? (When we suffer for the sake of Christ—not when we suffer for deserving reasons, like murder, theft, or any other kind of criminal activity)

This is an important point for us to remember. Peter’s statement does not apply to every kind of suffering. Some forms of persecution are deserved as punishment for breaking lawful rules. We rejoice when our suffering comes as a result of our obedience to Christ. It is not something we should seek, but it is something we should be willing to embrace when it comes trusting that God will use it to refine our faith, reveal his blessing, and confirm the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 6: 1 PETER 4:1–19

How has God used suffering in your life as a way of deepening your faith in him? What did you learn about him in the midst of your suffering?

[Empty dashed box for reflection]

Based on what you've heard in this session, what can you begin doing to prepare yourself for suffering? How can you begin cultivating habits that will help you to remain faithful when things get difficult?

[Empty dashed box for reflection]

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Wherever you sense doubt, ask the Lord to strengthen you and help you to persevere when difficulties arise that challenge your faith in him.

Encourage: If there's a fellow believer in your life struggling today, reach out to them and offer your encouragement by reminding them of God's faithfulness.

Serve: Look for a practical way to serve your local church with the gifts God has given you this week. If you do not yet have a clear idea of your gifts, reach out to another believer this week and talk about that with him or her.

LAST WORD

When suffering comes, we are told to do two things—praise God and continue to do good. That's not something that we'll magically decide to do unless we're cultivating those habits when things are going well. Like an athlete training for an important match, we as Christians ought to prepare ourselves to suffer well.

The primary ways Kyle explained we do that is through regular study of God's Word and participation in the local church. Make those your priorities in the days ahead. Look for ways to use your gifts in service to others and rejoice in the fact that God has made you his own through Christ.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 6: HANDOUT

SESSION BIG IDEA

As a result of knowing that at times God wills suffering for the purpose of purifying believers from sin and deepening their longing for glory with Christ, we should prepare to suffer while living a life of obedience to God through sacrificial love, hospitality, and service.

**THINGS TO LOOK FOR
IN THE VIDEO**

Can we tell whether or not someone is a Christian by looking on the outside? How does Kyle answer this question?

.....

What were the two primary ways Kyle mentioned that we demonstrate to the world our faith in Christ?

.....

What does Peter mean in verse 7 when he says, “The end of all things is near”?

.....

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

1 PETER 4:1-19

Notes

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**PERSONAL REFLECTION
& APPLICATION**

How has your faith changed the way you approach the relationships you had prior to knowing Christ? What are some ways others have been “surprised” by your choice to not join them in their lifestyle?

.....

Based on what you’ve heard in this session, what can you begin doing to prepare yourself for suffering? How can you begin cultivating habits that will help you to remain faithful when things get difficult?

.....

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Wherever you sense doubt, ask the Lord to strengthen you and help you to persevere when difficulties arise that challenge your faith in him.

Encourage: If there’s a fellow believer in your life struggling today, reach out to them and offer your encouragement by reminding them of God’s faithfulness.

Serve: Look for a practical way to serve your local church with the gifts God has given you this week. If you do not yet have a clear idea of your gifts, reach out to another believer this week and talk about that with him or her.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST
PETER

★ *Boston Harbor* ★

SESSION 7:
1 PETER 5:1-14

Quick Start

Read

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.

Print

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.

Watch

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

Note: For more detailed information, please see **A Note to Leaders** section on page 5.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 7: 1 PETER 5:1-14

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what we want to walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: As believers lead and submit in their various roles within the Church, they should remain humble toward God in their suffering and watchful of the enemy until the day Christ calls them home in glory.

Head Change: To understand the serious nature of pride and its ability to divide us from fellowship with other Christians as well as God.

Heart Change: To crave genuine humility that leads us to surrender our concerns to the loving care of God.

Life Change: To confess whatever false hopes we cling to and instead cling to Christ as our ultimate hope.

OPEN

Describe a time when something you hoped in failed you. Maybe it was a relationship, career, salary, or something else along those lines. **What led you to trust in it in the first place? What have you learned about where to place your hope since?**

We all look to something for hope. It's a natural craving within all of us, but Peter has made it clear throughout his letter that Christ is our only ultimate hope. Everything else will fail us if given enough time. Let's take a closer look at that idea in our session today.

READ

1 PETER 5:1-14

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Kyle's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to the following questions.

At the start of the session, what does Kyle describe as the main point of the book we have been studying?

What is our only true hope as Christians?

What do we gain from pursuing humility?

**SHOW SESSION 7: 1 PETER
5:1-14 (10 MINUTES)**

DISCUSS

Over the last few weeks, we've worked through the bulk of 1 Peter and now we've arrived at the final chapter where Peter turns his focus primarily to responsibilities within the church congregation. He addresses both leaders and those who we might to today consider congregants.

Someone read 1 Peter 5:1-14.

Early in the session, Kyle said that as Christians we do not place our hope in our circumstances returning to the way they used to be. **Why not? What is the problem with doing so?** (Even in the best of times, we live in a broken world, which means that returning to the way things used to be would still mean returning to brokenness.)

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 7: 1 PETER 5:1–14

Where does this passage encourage us to place our hope? (In our Savior, Jesus Christ)

Based on what we've studied so far, what is our motivation for holiness and joy in suffering? (Our hope in Christ and our identity in him)

When our hope is anchored in Christ, we can weather suffering faithfully, which will become visible to those who do not know Christ. As they notice, it will prompt them to ask about our joy providing us with opportunities to share the good news of our Savior. One of the primary ways we do this is through a unified Church.

When have you seen a leader shepherd for “dishonest gain”? When have you seen a leader shepherd for the good of the people? What was the difference in terms of their impact on their people?

What characteristics of church leadership do you find most easy to follow? How do those characteristics inspire you as a follower?

Peter also addresses those who are not in leadership, calling them to voluntarily submit to their elders and act with humility toward one another. As Kyle explained in the session, the biggest obstacle to Peter's instructions is that of pride and the solution is humility.

What are some practical ways to “clothe” yourself with humility?

How does humility transform the ways in which we interact with one another? What are some practical ways that pride causes division?

In verse 5, Peter writes, “God opposes the proud.” Kyle keyed in on this point to remind us that God is not simply neutral or indifferent about pride. He actively opposes it. **In what ways does it change how you think about the potential for pride in your own life?**

What are some of the ways that you are contributing to unity within the body of Christ? How could you be more intentional about doing so based on everything you've learned from this series?

None of this comes easy. Perseverance in suffering, striving for unity, and rejoicing in hardship is a high call for anyone and only possible through the hope we have in Jesus Christ. And Peter tells us where to turn with our anxieties—God himself.

THE BOOK OF
FIRST PETER

SESSION 7: 1 PETER 5:1-14

PEEK AT THE GREEK

Verse 7 gives us a beautiful picture of our Father in heaven. Peter writes that we are to cast our anxieties on the Lord because he cares for us. The word he uses is *epirripto*, which literally means, “to transfer one’s concerns.” In this verse, it appears in participial form, which is typically rendered less as a command (“cast”) as an explanatory action (“casting”). This form connects it to the previous verse as well showing us one of the ways we can combat pride and pursue humility. In other words, Peter is saying that we are to humble ourselves by casting our anxieties on God because he cares for us. To contend with feelings of fear or anxiety is not wrong, but to hold them to ourselves is a form of pride suggesting we believe they are up to us to solve. God cares for our concerns and asks us to give them to him. Doing so is an act of faith and one that cultivates humility within.

How have you experienced God’s care for your concerns in the past? In what ways has he been faithful to meet you in the midst of your anxieties?

What anxieties do you need to “cast” upon him today? What would change about your life if you were to do so?

According to verses 8–9, we also need to be watchful and resistant of the devil. **How should these instructions change the way you think about your spiritual life? Where do you need to be more watchful? More resistant?**

Peter also mentions that our struggles with the enemy are experienced by our “family of believers” worldwide. In other words, believers everywhere contend with the enemy just as we do today. **How should that truth inform the way you pray for other believers? How should it shape your humility and service toward them?**

Verses 10–11 cap off our reason for doing all of this, not simply following the instructions from this session, but those given throughout Peter’s entire letter—our sufferings are temporary and God is going to fix it all soon. **In what ways does that truth encourage you today? How should the temporary nature of our struggles comfort you wherever you find yourself today?**

We’ve devoted seven sessions to studying a difficult topic, but one that’s a guaranteed part of our Christian life. Suffering is never desirable, but we should approach it with hope knowing that God allows it to refine our faith and that he cares for us deeply. **What have you learned about 1 Peter that you did not know before this series? How has your understanding of this book and the Bible as a whole deepened as a result of this study?**

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 7: 1 PETER 5:1-14

As you walk away from this series, what will you do practically to focus your hope on Christ's return? How would it change your daily life if you were to do so?

LAST WORD

One of the great things about the Bible is that it's realistic. Life is hard and Scripture reflects that. There will be trouble, but our hope today is in the fact that God cares and that one day we will be with him in eternity. Until then, we are called to persevere and to declare the glory of our God to the world. That starts in the Church.

Without unity among one another, we cannot effectively communicate the good news of Christ to those around us. So we should do everything we can to put to death pride in our lives and seek to serve one another in love, not out of begrudging duty, but out of a heart transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ. For now, there will be hardship and pain, but God allows it to mature our faith and strengthen our trust in him. So take heart. The sorrows of this world are expiring. Though they may feel burdensome today, they will soon be no more. Until then, rest in the peace that is yours in Christ.

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Spend some time this week offering up your concerns and anxieties to God. Trust that he cares not only for your fears, but also for you yourself.

Confess: As the Holy Spirit convicts you, confess whatever pride you see in your life as a result of this session. Ask the Lord to cleanse you and replace it with humility.

List: Make a short list of 2-3 practical life changes you can make based on what you've learned from this study. Place it somewhere that you will see it daily and continue striving to live according to God's Word in the days ahead.

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER

SESSION 7: HANDOUT

SESSION BIG IDEA

As believers lead and submit in their various roles within the Church, they should remain humble toward God in their suffering and watchful of the enemy until the day Christ calls them home in glory.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE VIDEO

At the start of the session, what does Kyle describe as the main point of the book we have been studying?

What is our only true hope as Christians?

What do we gain from pursuing humility?

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

1 PETER 5:1-14

Notes

PERSONAL REFLECTION & APPLICATION

What are some of the ways that you are contributing to unity within the body of Christ? How could you be more intentional about doing so based on everything you've learned from this series?

How have you experienced God's care for your concerns in the past?

What anxieties do you need to "cast" upon him today? What would change about your life if you were to do so?

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before next week.

Pray: Spend some time this week offering up your concerns and anxieties to God. Trust that he cares not only for your fears, but also for you yourself.

Confess: As the Holy Spirit convicts you, confess whatever pride you see in your life as a result of this session. Ask the Lord to cleanse you and replace it with humility.

List: Make a short list of 2–3 practical life changes you can make based on what you've learned from this study. Place it somewhere that you will see it daily and continue striving to live according to God's Word in the days ahead.