

1 Peter Bible Study Questions

SJR Fall 2026

Study 1: 1 Peter 1:1–2

Look at 1 Peter 1:1–2. What can we tell about the readers from these verses?

What might their lives be like if they are both 'elect' and 'exiles'? What's the tension?

In what sense is exile 'over'?

What's life likely to be like if they are dispersed?

Read 1 Peter 5:12. How does this help us to understand what Peter's goal is for this letter?

Study 2: 1 Peter 1:3–12

Peter calls his readers 'elect exiles' in v1. Look at each of these sections in turn: vv3-5; vv6-9 and vv10-12 and ask:

- What does it mean to have this new identity?
- What do they now have?
- What words capture how the Christians are meant to feel about what Peter's saying?
- Why do you think Peter has started his letter like this?

What has been declared about the grace of God in this passage? (God's character, what he has done/is doing?)

How has Peter exhorted his readers to stand firm, particularly in the face of suffering?

How might these same truths help us today in our belief and living?

What will this look like in the week ahead for each of us/me personally and as I seek to encourage others?

Study 3: 1 Peter 1:13–21

In v13, what does setting our hope fully on the grace mean? What does it involve?

Look at vv14-16 and then vv17-21 in turn and ask:

- What instruction does Peter give to his readers?
- What motivation does he give them?
- What more do we learn about Christian identity?
- How does that help us get our minds prepared?

What has been declared about the grace of God in this passage?

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Study 4: 1 Peter 1:22–2:3

In v22, Peter's readers are told to love one another earnestly. Why? (Look at 1:22–2:1 and vv18-19 from the last passage as well.)

Why do they need to be told 2:1? Why might love be particularly important given the readers' situation? (see 1:6)

How does Peter want Christians to respond to the word ('spiritual' in v2 has to do with speech and reason)?

Why does he use the image of the new-born?

How might that help us keep loving?

In these verses, how has Peter exhorted his readers to stand firm, particularly in the face of suffering?

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Study 5: 1 Peter 2:4–10

Look at v4–5 and then v9–10 in turn and ask:

- What pictures and language are used to describe God's new people?

- What Old Testament pictures can you recognise here? (Don't worry if you don't get any or all!)
- What is their new role or task? Put this in your own words.
- Lots of the pictures are from Old Testament. Why is Peter using this language to describe his Gentile (non-Jewish) readers? How would they feel?

Through the whole passage, and particularly in vv6-7, response to Jesus is vital.

- Why do Peter's readers need to know about both accepting and rejecting Jesus?
- What will the future be, for those who have come to Jesus?
- How does it prepare them for their new task of proclaiming God's excellencies?
- Why does Peter use the Old Testament passages about response?

In these verses, how has Peter exhorted his readers to stand firm, particularly in the face of suffering?

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Study 6: 1 Peter 2:11–17

Verses 11–12 are a headline for the whole of this next section.

- How are Peter's readers to live?
- Why do you think Peter reminds them of who they are?
- How might v12 work in practice?
- Why is this the right way for God's people to live? How might it help with 'proclaiming God's excellencies' in 2:9-10?

Look at v13–17 and ask:

- Who are Christians to be subject to?
- Why is this pattern of living a good—or gracious—pattern?
- How might it help 2:11–12 to happen?
- What will help Peter's readers live like this?

How has Peter exhorted his readers to stand firm, particularly in the face of suffering?

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Study 7: 1 Peter 2:18-25 (*it might help to read from 2:11*)

These verses begin with an exhortation to servants, or domestic slaves (18).

What reasons does Peter give them to be subject to their masters?

In verses 21-25, Peter draws on the example of Christ to support his command.

What do we learn (or are reminded) about Christ's response to suffering?

How might his response be either challenging or helpful to the servants mentioned in this section?

How do verses 21-25 inform our own response to suffering today?

Study 8: 1 Peter 3:1-12

In v1, wives are called 'likewise' to be subject to their husbands.

- What reasons and motivations has Peter already given from 2:11–12 and from 2:13–25 to 'be subject'? How do these reasons help wives hear and obey this teaching?
- What further reason does Peter give in v1–4?
- Men still need to hear the imperishable word—why do you think Peter focuses on 'without a word' here?
- What does right adorning look like? How might this help a husband being won? How is it different from the world's view of adorning?
- [If you have time: in v5–7, Peter gives Sarah as an example. From the verses and what you know of her story, what did right adorning look like for her? How does that help/challenge us? (Genesis 12:11–20 will give a flavour if you have time).

In v7, husbands are also to live honourably.

- How are husbands to honour their wives? How should this be striking to the world around us?
- What difference does it make for a (husband or a) wife to know this is God's pattern?

Look at v9–12.

- What does 'doing good' look like, even if we suffer?
 - Why do you think this is the 'good' God wants?
 - How might this be a blessing for the Gentiles around them?
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Study 9: 1 Peter 3:13–22

After giving examples of honourable conduct in specific relationships, Peter issues more commands, applicable to all. In v13, Peter speaks of 'being zealous for good', even in the context of suffering.

Look at v13–17 and ask:

- What does 'doing good' look like, even if we suffer?
- Why do you think this is the 'good' God wants?
- How might this be a blessing for the Gentiles around them, and those around us?
- How are we blessed?

In v14, Peter tells his readers not to fear but to honour/fear Christ instead. Look at v18 and v21–22 where Peter returns to teach more about Christ:

- What does Peter highlight about Christ's attitudes and his work?
- How do these verses help us as we do good?
- How do they help us to tackle our fear, if we are suffering?
- Optional: How might the verses about Noah either help us do good or dispel fear?
- How might we explain the reason for the hope that we have in v18?

Study 10: 1 Peter 4:1–11

Look at v1–3. Peter exhorts the Christians in exile to live 'for the will of God'

- What does this look like?
- How are we to see our flesh?
- How does Christ's example and work help us to do this? (2:24, 3:13 and 3:22 may help remind us)

Look at v4–6.

- What will happen as Christians live like this?
- What examples have we experienced of this ourselves?
- How does Peter motivate Christians to stand firm as this maligning happens? How is judgement used differently in v5 and v6? How do both perspectives help us?
- How does Peter appeal to the last day in v7–11?
- How do we see God's grace at work here? For Christians? For pagans? (cf. 2:12)
- How do you see this at work/would you like to see it at work in our study group?

In these verses, how has Peter exhorted his readers to stand firm, particularly in the face of suffering?

How might these same truths help us today in our belief and living?

What will this look like in the week ahead for each of us/me personally and as I seek to encourage others?

Study 11: 1 Peter 4:12–19

Look at v12–15.

- What perspective on suffering does Peter want his readers to have?
- Why does suffering feel strange to us?
- From 1 Peter, why should suffering not be a surprise? (see 1:6–7)
- Instead of being perplexed, how does Peter help us to respond rightly to suffering?
- Why are we to rejoice in suffering (this sounds hard!)?
- How are we blessed if we suffer?

Look at v16–19.

- What perspective on suffering does Peter want his readers to have here?
 - Why should we be glad to have the name of 'Christian' and suffer for this?
 - In what sense is the household of God 'judged'? What can and can't this mean?
 - How does this reality spur us on? What does v18 imply for the unbeliever?
 - Peter assumes we will keep doing good, even as we suffer. What is so good about being able to entrust our souls to God, who is both a) faithful and b) our Creator?
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Study 12: 1 Peter 5:1–7

Peter turns to address the elders of the church in v1–4.

- What should be the mark of good eldership? What are elders to be examples of?
- Why do you think Peter highlights the things he does?
- Why do these things matter in times of suffering?
- Why do you think Peter addresses the elders at this point? How might 4:17–19 have prompted these verses?

Look at v5.

- The rest of the church is called to submit to elders. Why do you think Peter says this?
- Why might it matter particularly in times of trial?
- How will the call to humility (for all) help v1–5a to happen?
- How can we clothe ourselves with humility? What helps us from these verses? (And from 1 Peter more widely?)
- Why do you think 'God hates the proud and gives grace to the humble'? Why is humility a good attitude to have as an exile?

- What does humility look like in these verses? Why is this good for us?
- How is casting all our cares a mark of humility? What would a proud response be?

Study 13: 1 Peter 5:8-14 and REVIEW

Look at v8–11.

- How does humility lead to sober-mindedness and watchfulness? What would pride lead to instead?
- How does humility help us to resist the devil? How does being humble help us to think rightly about our suffering brothers and sisters? How does that help us resist?
- How are v10–11 a great encouragement? (Note: ‘after a little while’ is deliberately vague—it could be in this world but will certainly be in the next.)
- What does the promise to ‘restore, confirm, strengthen and establish’ sound like to someone tempted to give up in suffering and go back to the pagan life?
- How is God described? How does that underline the promise?

From v12–14, can you put Peter’s closing verses in your own words?

Why do you think he uses the language of Babylon to refer to—probably—Rome?

REVIEW from the whole letter:

- What has struck you about the true grace of God in this letter?
- What has God’s grace already achieved for us? (What big things have changed about our identity and hope?).
- What have you been glad to understand or be reminded of? Why?
- How has 1 Peter changed your perspective on trials and suffering? How have you been helped to stand firm?
- How is his grace at work in us now as we suffer? (How are the fiery trials good for us? What have we learnt about our hope, identity, the example and work of Christ to help us? How does Peter want us to treat each other?)
- How is God using that grace to benefit the pagan world? (Why are we left in exile amongst the pagans?)
- What ‘good living’ has challenged or attracted you? What will help you do this, from 1 Peter?
- What is the reason for the hope that we have, from 1 Peter? How would you explain it simply to someone who asks?
- How would you like 1 Peter to shape our group (conversations, life and prayers) even once we’ve finished studying the letter this time around?