

Study through 1 Peter

Introduction

“Trials to Hope”

Peter wrote this letter to Christians who were going through various trials. The apostle knew that a severe “fiery trial” was just around the corner, and he wanted to prepare believers for it. After all, what life does to us depends on what life finds in us.

For the most part, Christians in the Western world have enjoyed comfortable lives. Our brothers and sisters behind iron and bamboo curtains have suffered for their faith. Now there is every indication that the time is approaching when it will cost us to take a stand for Christ. The only “comfortable” Christian will be a “compromising” Christian, and the believer’s comfort will be costly.

“Prepare, Don’t Despair”

Peter has given to us a precious letter that encourages us to hope in the Lord no matter how trying the times may be. Down through the centuries, the church has experienced various fiery trials, and yet Satan has not been able to destroy it. The church today is facing a fiery trial, and we must be prepared. But, whatever may come, Peter is still saying to each of us: “Be hopeful!” The glory is soon to come! *Warren Wiersbe*

Lesson 1

“Born for Glory” (1 Peter 1:1–12)

Before you begin, pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

Read 1 Peter 1:1–12.

The writer identified himself as “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:1). Some liberals have questioned whether a common fisherman could have penned this letter, especially since Peter and John were both called “unlearned and ignorant men” (Acts 4:13). However, this phrase only means “laymen without formal schooling”; that is, they were not professional religious leaders. We must never underestimate the training Peter had for three years with the Lord Jesus, nor should we minimize the work of the Holy Spirit in his life. Peter is a perfect illustration of the truth expressed in 1 Corinthians 1:26–31.

1. Peter's given name was Simon, but Jesus changed it to Peter (John 1:35–42). Why is this change significant?
2. Choose one verse from 1 Peter 1:1–12 that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Note that verse here:
3. We have been chosen by the Father, purchased by the Son, and set apart by the Spirit. In your own words, what does each of these statements about the three members of the Trinity mean?

“Looking Inward”

Take a moment to reflect on all that you've explored so far in this study of 1 Peter 1:1–12. Review your notes and answers and think about how each of these things matters in your life today.

4. What does Peter teach about the trials we experience?
5. How does denying that trials are painful make the suffering even worse?

“Going Forward”

6. How can the fact that God controls our trials comfort us when we're going through them?
7. How does Peter say we should respond to trials?

8. Go back through 1 Peter 1:1–12. Underline the verse that is most encouraging to you. Write down that verse and consider memorizing it.

“Real-Life Application Ideas”

9. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you’d like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It’s better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don’t try). Note your thoughts here:

10. Peter’s message was one of hope for a people who felt like “strangers in a strange land.” Think of people you know who may feel out of sorts or anxious about their circumstances. These could be friends, relatives, coworkers, missionaries. Contact these people and offer them encouraging words. Be a hope bringer to them.

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Lesson 2

“Holiness”

(1 Peter 1:13-21)

Before you begin, pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

Read 1 Peter 1:13-21

“In the first section of 1 Peter 1, Peter emphasized walking in hope, but now his emphasis is walking in holiness. The two go together, for *“everyone that has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as he is pure”* (1 John 3:3).

The root word meaning of the word translated “holy” is “different.” A holy person is not an odd person, but a different person. His like has a quality about it that is different. His present “lifestyle” is not only different from the past was of life, but is different from the “lifestyles” of the unbelievers around him.

1. What is holiness?
2. When you hear the phrase holy person, what comes to mind?
3. The root meaning of the word translated “holy” is “different.” How does this help us understand what it means to be holy? (See 1 Peter 4:4.)
4. Choose one verse or phrase from 1 Peter 1:13–21 that stands out to you. This could be something you’re intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Note that verse here:

“Looking Inward”

“Take a moment to reflect on all that you’ve explored thus far in this study of 1 Peter 1:13–21. Review your notes and answers and think about how each of these things matters in your life today.

5. What incentives did Peter give for living a holy life?
6. What are some practical things you can do to seek a life of holiness?

“Going Forward”

7. Why is it important to remember our salvation experience and what it cost God?
8. Go back through 1 Peter 1:13-21. Underline the verse that is most encouraging to you. Write down that verse and consider memorizing it.

“Real –Life Application Ideas”

9. “Think of one or two things that you have learned that you’d like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It’s better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don’t try).”
10. “Write a prayer below (or simply pray one in silence), inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you’ve noted above. Be honest about your desires and fears.”

Study through 1 Peter

Lesson 3 Togetherness 1 Peter 1:22-2:10

“Before you begin, Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson:

Read 1 Peter 1:22-2:10

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. ²³For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. ²⁴As the Scriptures say, “People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. ²⁵But the word of the Lord remains forever.” And that word is the Good News that was preached to you. So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ²Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness. ⁴You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. ⁵And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. ⁶As the Scriptures say, “I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him, will never be disgraced.” ⁷Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, “The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.” ⁸And, “He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they do not obey God’s word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. ⁹But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰“Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.” 1 Peter 1:22-2:10 NLT

One of the painful facts of life is that the people of God do not always get along with each other. You would think that those who walk in hope and holiness would be able to walk in harmony, but this is not always true. From God’s divine point of view, there is only one body (see Eph. 4:4–6), but what we see with human eyes is a church divided and sometimes at war. There is today a desperate need for spiritual unity.”

Pray and answer the following questions:

1. How did Peter emphasize spiritual unity in 1 Peter 1:22 - 2:10?
2. Why was spiritual unity so important to Peter?
3. Why is it important to the church today?
4. Choose one verse or phrase from 1 Peter 1:22 - 2:10 that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Record your insight here:

“Looking Inward”

Take a moment to reflect on all that you've explored so far in this study. Review your notes and answers and think about how each of these things matters in your life today.

5. What does it mean to you that you were “reborn” spiritually?
6. How is this truth evident in your own life?
7. What are ways you can live out brotherly love (philadelphia) and sacrificial love (agape)?
8. How does your relationship with Christ help you love in these ways?

“Going Forward”

9. Do you want to love certain people in your life more sacrificially? Be specific. Go back through 1 Peter 1:22—2:10 and put a star next to the phrase or verse that is most encouraging to you. Write the verse out, and practice memorizing it.

“Real-Life Application Ideas”

10. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you’d like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It’s better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don’t try).

11. Consider how our Calvary Vista family lives out the truth that God’s people are a “holy nation.” How can a fellowship be holy in application? Work together to come up with practical ideas for living out holiness in your community.

12. Write a prayer below (or simply pray one in silence), inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you’ve noted above. Be honest about your desires and fears.

Study through 1 Peter

Lesson 4 Submission 1 Peter 2:11-25

Before you begin, Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson:

Read 1 Peter 2:11-25

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. ¹³ For the Lord’s sake, respect all human authority whether the king as head of state, ¹⁴ or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right. ¹⁵ It is God’s will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶ For you are free, yet you are God’s slaves, so don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷ Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God, and respect the king. ¹⁸ You who are slaves must accept the authority of your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you—not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. ¹⁹ For God is pleased with you when you do what you know is right and patiently endure unfair treatment. ²⁰ Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you. ²¹ For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps. ²² He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. ²⁴ He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. **1 Peter 2:11-25 NLT**

“The central section of Peter’s letter (1 Peter 2:11—3:12) emphasizes submission in the life of a believer. This is certainly not a popular topic in this day of lawlessness and the quest for “personal fulfillment,” but it is an important one. Peter applied the theme of submission to the life of a believer as a citizen (1 Peter 2:11–17), and a worker (1 Peter 2:18–25).

Pray and answer the following questions:

- 1. Why is submission a sticky subject for believers?**

- 2. What misunderstood interpretations of this concept have made it so controversial?**

- 3. Choose one verse or phrase from 1 Peter 2:11–25 that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Record your insight here:**

“Looking Inward”

“Take a moment to reflect on all that you've explored so far in this study of 1 Peter 2:11–25. Review your notes and answers and think about how each of these things matters in your life today.

- 4. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word submission?**

- 5. How does that affect the way you view this biblical concept?**

- 6. What about submission appeals to you? What troubles you?**

“Going Forward”

- 7. Who are the authorities you must honor in your life?**

- 8. What challenges do you face as you attempt to honor them as Peter taught?**

- 9. Do you need to practice biblical submission in a particular relationship or arena? Be specific. Go back through 1 Peter 2:11–25 and put a star next to the phrase or verse that is most encouraging to you. Consider memorizing this verse.**

“Real- Life Application Ideas”

- 10. Consider all the places where you must submit to authority (work, church, home, community). Are there areas where you are prone to challenge the authority rather than offer it due respect? Ask God for wisdom in dealing with those circumstances.**

- 11. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you’d like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It’s better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don’t try).**

- 12. Write a prayer below (or simply pray one in silence), inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you’ve noted above. Be honest about your desires and fears.**

Study through 1 Peter

Lesson 5

Love and Blessing

1 Peter 3:1-17

Before you begin, Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson:

Read 1 Peter 3:1-17

In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over² by observing your pure and reverent lives.³ Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes.⁴ You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.⁵ This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.⁶ For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right without fear of what your husbands might do.⁷ In the same way, you husbands must give honor to your wives. Treat your wife with understanding as you live together. She may be weaker than you are, but she is your equal partner in God's gift of new life. Treat her as you should so your prayers will not be hindered.⁸ Finally, all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude.⁹ Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will bless you for it.¹⁰ For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies."¹¹ Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.¹² The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil.¹³ Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?¹⁴ But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats.¹⁵ Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.¹⁷ Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! 1 Peter 3:1-17 NLT

Commentary

"The phrases "for in this manner" (vs. 5 NKJ) refer us back to Peter's discussion of the example of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:21-25). Just as Jesus was submissive and

obedient to God's will, so a Christian husband and wife should follow His example. Much of our learning in life comes by way of imitation. Grandparents have a delightful time watching their grandchildren pick up new skills and words as they grow up. If we imitate the best models, we will become better people and better achievers, but if we imitate the wrong models, it will cripple our lives and possibly ruin our characters. The role models that we follow influence us in every area of life.

Pray and answer the following questions:

1. Review 1 Peter 3:1, 7. How is an understanding of Christlikeness critical to building a good marriage?

2. Peter pointed to Sarah as a model for Christian wives to follow. Why would Peter choose Sarah as a role model?

3. What qualities did she have that line up with what Peter was teaching?

“Looking Inward”

Take a moment to reflect on all that you've explored so far in this study of 1 Peter 3:1-17. Review your notes and answers and think about how each of these things matters in your life today.

4. If you're married, how do you relate to Peter's advice to husbands and wives? If you're not, what can you glean from this advice to improve your relationships with those you love?

5. What is the hardest piece of Peter's marriage advice? Do you agree with all of it? If not, explain.

6. What is most challenging to you about the command to love your enemies? Describe a time when you were successful at this. Describe a time when you failed.

7. How do God's Word and God's Spirit help you to love those who are difficult to love?

“Going Forward”

8. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you'd like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It's better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don't try).

9. Go back through 1 Peter 3:1–17 and put a star next to the phrase or verse that is most encouraging to you. Consider memorizing this verse.

“Real –Life Application Ideas”

10. If you are married, how can you be a better spouse this week?

11. How can we experience God's best, even in the worst of times?

12. How could you more faithfully set apart Christ as Lord of your thoughts and actions?

Study through 1 Peter

Lesson 6

Lessons from Noah

1 Peter 3:18-22

“Before you begin, Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson:

Read 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.¹⁹ So he went and preached to the spirits in prison²⁰ those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.²¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.²² Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority. 1 Peter 3:18-22 NLV

Pray and answer the following questions:

1. In his second letter, Peter wrote that some of what Paul said was “hard to understand” (2 Peter 3:14–16). How might this also apply to Peter’s own message in 1 Peter 3:18–22?

“Looking Inward”

2. What are some of the essentials of the faith that bind believers together?

3. Read 1 Peter 3:18-22 again. What do you learn about Christ’s ministry from His death? His resurrection? His ascension?

4. Why does Noah have a notable place in Scripture?

5. What relationship did Peter see between the readers of his letter and the ministry of Noah? (See 2 Peter 2:5–9.) What circumstances might his readers have been experiencing that were similar to Noah's? How is this true for Christians today?

“Going Forward”

6. “Think of one or two things that you have learned that you'd like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It's better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don't try).

7. How is the flood like a Christians experience of baptism?

8. What are the main lessons for Christian living that Peter taught in this passage?

9. What is your experience with baptism? What role does it play in your faith story? In what ways is it an important symbol to you?

“Real- Life Application Ideas”

10. Using this passage, how would you explain salvation to an unsaved person?

11. “Write a prayer below (or simply pray one in silence), inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you've noted above. Be honest about your desires and fears.

Study through 1 Peter

Lesson 7

Time and Trials

1 Peter 4

“Before you begin, Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson:

Peter had a great deal to say about time. If a person really believes in eternity, then he will make the best use of time. If we are convinced that Jesus is coming, then we will want to live prepared lives. Whether Jesus comes first or death comes first, we want to make “the rest of the time” count for eternity.

Read 1 Peter 4

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.² You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.³ You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.⁴ Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you.⁵ But remember that they will have to face God, who will judge everyone, both the living and the dead.⁶ That is why the Good News was preached to those who are now dead so although they were destined to die like all people, they now live forever with God in the Spirit.⁷ The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.⁹ Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay.¹⁰ God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.¹¹ Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.¹⁴ So be happy when you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you.¹⁵ If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs.¹⁶ But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!¹⁷ For the time has

come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News?¹⁸ And also, "If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?"¹⁹ So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you. 1 Peter 4 NLT

Pray and answer the following questions:

"Looking Inward"

1. How much time in a typical day do you spend on the job? With your family? With God? Doing other things like watching TV?

2. Why does believing in eternity encourage us to make the most of our time? What does it mean to make time count as a believer?

3. Choose one verse or phrase from 1 Peter 4 that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Record your insight here:

"Going Forward"

"Christians in the early church expected Jesus to return in their lifetime. The fact that He did not return does not invalidate His promise. No matter what interpretation we give to the prophetic Scriptures, we must all live in expectancy. The important thing is that we shall see the Lord one day and stand before Him. How we live and serve today will determine how we are judged and rewarded on that day. This attitude of expectancy must not turn us into lazy dreamers or zealous fanatics. Peter gave "ten commandments" (1 Peter 4:7-19) to his readers to keep them in balance as far as the Lord's return was concerned:

1. Be sober-minded—vs. 7
2. Watch unto prayer—vs. 7
3. Have fervent love—vs. 8
4. Use hospitality—vs. 9
5. Minister your spiritual gifts—vs. 10–11
6. Think it not strange—vs. 12
7. Rejoice—vs. 13
8. Do not be ashamed—vs. 15–16
9. Glorify God—vs. 16–18
10. Commit yourself to God—vs. 19

4. According to Peter, how can suffering, in addition to Christ, help us have victory over sin? How does being identified with Christ's suffering give us victory over sin?

5. What are some of the “fiery ordeals” you’ve faced? How has persecution helped you to grow? How has it challenged your faith? What have you learned from seasons or moments of persecution?

6. What does commitment to God look like to you? In what ways is it more than one action? What are the ongoing actions you take to commit to God?

“Real life Application Ideas”

7. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you’d like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It’s better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don’t try).

8. “Make a plan this week to spend time with nonbelievers, learning about their lives, listening to their concerns. If it feels appropriate, share the important elements of your story. Don’t forget to talk about the faith aspects. But as Peter would warn, don’t be surprised if they don’t understand your beliefs. Be loving ” “and kind and patient with them, and pray that God will use you to reveal His truth to them.

9. Write a prayer begin inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you’ve noted above. Be honest about your desires and fears.

Study through 1 Peter

Lesson 8 A Good Shepherd 1 Peter 5

“Before you begin, Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson:

Peter did not introduce himself in this letter as an apostle or a great spiritual leader, but simply as another elder. However, he did mention the fact that he had personally witnessed Christ’s sufferings. The Greek word translated “witness” gives us our English word martyr. We think of a martyr only as one who gives his life for Christ, and Peter did that, but basically, a martyr is a witness who tells what he has seen and heard.

Read 1 Peter 5

“And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share in his glory when he is revealed to the whole world. As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ²Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. ³Don’t lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. ⁴And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor. ⁵In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.” ⁶So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. ⁷Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. ⁸Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are. ¹⁰In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. ¹¹All power to him forever! Amen. ¹²I have written and sent this short letter to you with the help of Silas, whom I commend to you as a faithful brother. My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God’s grace for you. Stand firm in this grace. ³Your sister church here in Babylon sends you greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴Greet each other with Christian love. Peace be with all of you who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.” 1 Peter 5 NLT

Pray and answer the following questions:

1. How does knowing Peter personally witnessed Jesus' suffering affect the message of 1 Peter 5?

2. What does it mean to be a shepherd leader? What responsibilities did Peter remind shepherd leaders that they have?

“Looking Inward”

3. What type of leader would you describe yourself as? How does Peter's message about shepherd leaders relate to your leadership role? What can you learn from this to help you be a better leader?

4. In what ways are you a good example to other believers? Why is this important? What are some ways you aren't such a great example? How can you work on these things?

5. The Bible reveals many ways God cared for Peter. What are some of the ways you've seen God's hand in your life? Have you ever experienced something you would call a miracle? Explain. How important is it for you to trust that God is caring for you in supernatural ways?

“Going Forward”

6. How is submission an act of faith?

7. "Do you want to learn more about how to be a shepherd leader? Go back through 1 Peter 5 and put a check next to the phrase or verse that is most encouraging to you. Consider memorizing this verse.

"Real Life Application Ideas"

8. What does it mean in a practical way to cast all our cares on God? Give an example.

9. What helps you believe that God cares for you? What prevents you from fully believing this?

10. What are the enemy's tactics that cause many of our worries? What specific worries are you carrying instead of letting God take them?

11. What steps of obedience will you take this week to live what you learned through this study?

12. " Since "hope" is Peter's overarching theme in this letter, take time to consider what it means to share hope with someone. Then think about ways you can be a hope giver to another. Perhaps you have a friend or family member who's hungry for encouragement. Make a plan for providing hope to that person in the coming weeks. For example, this could include such things as emails, letters, taking the person to lunch, and praying with him or her."