

THE BOOK OF

1 Peter

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

Promises Passed On By Peter

OPENING QUESTION

What have you inherited? What do you expect to inherit?

READ 1 Peter 1:1–25.

1. What would you expect Peter to write in his letter to believers?

- A. Promises Jesus shared during his ministry on earth.
- B. Promises the Holy Spirit revealed starting at Pentecost.
- C. Stories from Peter's own experiences (*John 18, 21; Acts 2, 10-12*).
- D. You have been called by God to live holy lives.
- E. We've never met, but God gave me this message for you.
- F. Followers of Jesus experience suffering; it's okay.
- G. Take a firm stand against Satan—that prowling lion.
- H. Love one another.
- I. Other.

2. According to vs. 2, what roles do the members of the Trinity play?

- A. They operate in unity.
- B. The Father sent the Son to earth.
- C. The Father chose you—YOU—a long time ago.
- D. The Son provided a role model for us—showing us how to live.
- E. The Son cleanses us by means of his blood.
- F. The Holy Spirit develops the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.
- G. The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts to serve others.
- H. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us to be holy.
- I. Other.

3. Why do God's followers experience trials?

- A. God promised his believers would have no trials.
- B. God promised his believers would have trials.
- C. Satan is out to get us.
- D. Trials build faith.
- E. Trials test faith.
- F. Trials destroy faith.
- G. This simply provides a contrast to the great joy ahead.
- H. Nobody knows the trials I've seen!
- I. Other.

4. How do you explain salvation?

- A. It's the main promise God gave us.
- B. It's only one of many promises God gave us.
- C. Old Testament prophets wrote about it, but couldn't figure it out.
- D. New Testament writers made salvation much easier to understand.
- E. Heaven's angels continue to be amazed by this.
- F. You won't receive it until Jesus returns.
- G. You receive it starting now.
- H. Other.

5. Why does God call his people to be holy?

- A. God is holy.
- B. God's people are God's children—holy like God is holy.
- C. This calls for obedience to God in all things.
- D. God's people have been "born again" (vs. 3, 23).
- E. It's impossible for us to be holy, so just forget about it.
- F. God promised to make us holy.
- G. God promised to help us become holy.
- H. Other.

6. What is the "Good News" that has been preached to you (vs. 25)?

- A. People die, but God is eternal.
- B. God loves you.
- C. God will one day judge the world.
- D. The Word of God lasts forever.
- E. Forgiveness is possible because of Jesus.
- F. We can now be born again.
- G. We can now live as born again people—obedient believers.
- H. Other.

7. Why do you love and trust Jesus (vs. 8, 21) even though you have never seen him?

8. How has Christ's power of cleansing you from your sins enabled you to sincerely love others (vs. 21-22)?

The Way To Grow As A (New) Christian

OPENING QUESTION

Who nurtured you in your early life as a Christian?

READ 1 Peter 2:1–25.

1. What is the “pure spiritual milk” Peter wanted believers to crave (vs. 2)?

- A. True doctrinal beliefs.
- B. The Holy Spirit living inside a person.
- C. Fellowship of believers.
- D. Breast milk from one’s mother.
- E. Kindness.
- F. Worship.
- G. Jesus.
- H. Basic Christianity.
- I. Other.

2. What makes Jesus the cornerstone of God’s temple?

- A. Jesus is the foundation.
- B. Jesus is the entire temple.
- C. God chose Jesus.
- D. We choose Jesus.
- E. Our faith rests on something solid but not always visible.
- F. Lots of other stones join the cornerstone for our foundation of faith.
- G. The Bible says it (Jesus is the cornerstone).
- H. Some reject Jesus—by choice or actions or indecision.
- I. Other.

3. What spiritual sacrifices do you offer that please God (vs. 5)?

- A. Prayers.
- B. Praise.
- C. Everything I do since I’m now a priest.
- D. It’s based on Jesus, not my sacrifices.
- E. Confession.
- F. Connecting God to people, and connecting people to God.
- G. Service activities.
- H. My materials goods and finances such as gifts and donations.
- I. Other.

4. How do you demonstrate God's goodness to others?

- A. Words.
- B. Actions.
- C. Beliefs.
- D. I function as a priest.
- E. God considers me His own—I'm special.
- F. I live as one called by God.
- G. The mercy God has given me—I pass it on easily and often.
- H. Other.

5. How do you place God first and still respect your human rulers?

- A. Don't get involved in politics.
- B. Do get involved in politics.
- C. Get involved only in church politics.
- D. Give primary attention to God and give human rulers second place.
- E. Keep a low profile.
- F. It depends on who the current human rulers are.
- G. It depends on what the current human rulers do.
- H. Proactively affirm human rulers frequently.
- I. Other.

6. Why did Peter seem to endorse slavery (vs. 18)?

- A. This is not an endorsement of slavery.
- B. The abolition of slavery wasn't a pressing issue for Peter.
- C. Christ's soon return would end slavery.
- D. How you live is more important than the role you play.
- E. Christians are slaves to Christ.
- F. Life isn't fair; deal with it (as Christ did).
- G. Let unjust masters get their due reward from God, not you.
- H. Other.

7. What is it about Jesus that makes him your cornerstone? What is it about Jesus that trips you up?

8. What determines if you suffer gracefully or if you fight against injustice?

How To Relate To Others

OPENING QUESTION

Are you usually treated the way you deserve to be treated? Better? Worse?

READ 1 Peter 3:1–22.

1. What is Peter’s counsel for how a wife should relate to her husband?

- A. Differently than how she relates to all other males.
- B. Peter describes a typical, male-dominated perspective.
- C. Because of Eve’s sin, females are now under male authority.
- D. Because of Christ’s redemption, females are free from male authority.
- E. Males and females are both under Christ’s authority.
- F. Husbands and wives are to submit to each other (*Ephesians 5:21*).
- G. Just go with your own cultural norms.
- H. Accept your husband’s authority even if he isn’t a Christian.
- I. Other.

2. How will an unbelieving husband come to believe in Christ?

- A. It takes a miracle.
- B. Because of what his believing wife says.
- C. Because of what his believing wife does.
- D. By the wife being a good wife.
- E. Exuding beauty—on the inside and the outside.
- F. Persistent nagging.
- G. His wife’s cooking and cleaning.
- H. Persuasive arguments.
- I. Other.

3. What is Peter’s counsel for how a husband should relate to his wife?

- A. The same as how his wife relates to him.
- B. Differently from how his wife relates to him.
- C. Be a good listener.
- D. Unequal in your culture, but equal in God’s eyes.
- E. The golden rule—treat her the way you would like to be treated.
- F. Provide safety and security.
- G. You should be the spiritual leader in your household.
- H. Treat her with honor or God won’t even listen to you.
- I. Other.

4. How should Christians relate to other Christians?

- A. The same way husbands relate to wives.
- B. The same way wives relate to husbands.
- C. Draw clear boundaries.
- D. Live as though you're in a commune.
- E. Be respectful.
- F. Find ways to live in unity.
- G. Don't keep score or give paybacks.
- H. Tenderly love each other.
- I. Other.

5. Why shouldn't we worry about suffering we might experience?

- A. Everybody suffers.
- B. Our own perspective might seem real to us, but it's heavily biased.
- C. We probably deserve some of the suffering we experience.
- D. Christ, our role model, suffered unfairly; a lot.
- E. Christians shouldn't be door mats.
- F. Christ suffered immensely, but look where he is now!
- G. Let God take care of it, in his time.
- H. Let God's rule guide you rather than reacting to how others treat you.
- I. Other.

6. What do *verses 18-22* mean—Christ preached to spirits in prison, the flood; what?

- A. Christ suffered for all sinners for all time.
- B. Jesus preached through Noah to people who ridiculed him.
- C. Water can drown a body, but it cleanses the spirit of believers.
- D. Baptism symbolizes death; Christ makes spiritual resurrection real.
- E. It sounds like everyone goes to purgatory for a while.
- F. Christ suffered death so all who believe can be resurrected like him.
- G. Suffering sucks, but it's no comparison to what Christ offers.
- H. Other.

7. How does Christ's suffering on earth compare to his present reality? How does your suffering compare to your future reality?

8. What is your 30-60 second testimony about Jesus when others ask (*vs. 15*)?

Faithful Suffering

OPENING QUESTION

What is something painful you've experienced in your life?

READ 1 Peter 4:1–19.

1. Why do followers of Christ suffer?

- A. Christ suffered, so naturally those who follow him will also suffer.
- B. It comes as a consequence from bad things we've done.
- C. It comes as a consequence from Satan, the persecutor.
- D. Everyone suffers, not just the followers of Christ.
- E. Christians are weak whiners—we complain about even little things.
- F. Christ promised it would happen (*John 16:33*).
- G. This continues until the new heaven and new earth arrive (*Rev 21:4*).
- H. It purifies us like fine gold.
- I. Other.

2. What evil desires do you no longer desire

- A. Hedonism.
- B. Pride.
- C. Selfishness.
- D. Partying.
- E. Materialism.
- F. Status.
- G. Domination.
- H. Actually I still have some evil desires.
- I. Other.

3. What makes you “friends” with someone else?

- A. Sharing similar interests.
- B. Sharing similar backgrounds.
- C. How you relate to God.
- D. How you relate to what the world offers.
- E. Friending someone on Facebook, or being “friended.”
- F. I'm friends only with Christians.
- G. I'm friends with everyone.
- H. God puts us together.
- I. Other.

4. Because the world will end “soon,” how does Peter instruct us to live?

- A. Always be on the lookout for the coming of the Lord.
- B. “Hasten” Christ’s return.
- C. Make prayer central in your life.
- D. Make love central in your life.
- E. Be super-hospitable.
- F. Sell all you have, give to the poor, and follow Jesus.
- G. Share your testimony with as many people as possible.
- H. Use the spiritual gifts God’s given you; not those he hasn’t given you.
- I. Other.

5. What “fiery trials” are you going through?

- A. Physical trials.
- B. Emotional trials.
- C. Financial trials.
- D. Relational trials.
- E. Spiritual trials.
- F. The fact that I’m not really experiencing “fiery trials” right now.
- G. My life is okay; not really a lot of “fiery trials” for me.
- H. Other.

6. Why does judgment begins with God’s household (vs. 17)?

- A. God’s people aren’t immune to God’s judgment.
- B. You start with those closest to you.
- C. God’s people come out pretty good in the judgment.
- D. God’s people serve as an example to the ungodly.
- E. God’s people won’t be judged (*John 5:24*).
- F. Some in God’s household actually need to be brought back to God.
- G. Peter experienced that as a disciple; so will disciples after Peter.
- H. Other.

7. Why don’t you experience intense suffering for your faith like people in other places now, or those who lived in previous times?

8. Why do you put your faith in God even though it’s possible that nothing happens when you do, or things might actually get worse?

Take Care

OPENING QUESTION

Who has been a spiritual mentor in your life?

READ 1 Peter 5:1–14.

1. What are good ways for church leaders to care for the flock (vs. 2)?

- A. Actively help church members who suffer from spiritual attacks.
- B. Make sure your church has lots of programs and activities.
- C. Help parents of kids with the challenges that come with parenting.
- D. Practice spiritual disciplines, and teach others how to do them.
- E. Make sure your church members meet the needs in the community.
- F. Do evangelism so you bring others into the church.
- G. Make sure there is a high-quality worship service each week.
- H. Be supportive as you encourage spiritual stability and growth.
- I. Other.

2. How should church leaders “lead by example”?

- A. Don’t expect lots of positive payback now as a spiritual leader.
- B. Talk about Jesus a lot.
- C. Pray—on your own and with others—frequently.
- D. Be on the platform during the church service.
- E. Be in people’s homes or spheres of influence during the week.
- F. Practice humility—be a servant leader rather than a dominant leader.
- G. Testify about many examples of what God is doing in your own life.
- H. Immerse yourself in Scripture so you share it in all situations.
- I. Other.

3. What would help the young accept the authority of those who are older?

- A. Recognize they don’t know everything.
- B. Have some respect, and demonstrate it.
- C. It helps when those who are older model respect for all ages.
- D. Don’t lord it over those younger than you.
- E. It’s just a phase young people go through—the time it takes varies.
- F. Expect young people to teach you some things, even if you’re older.
- G. Falling flat on their faces so they become teachable.
- H. God has to touch their hearts in some supernatural way.
- I. Other.

4. How do people become humble?

- A. Get knocked off their “high horse.”
- B. Get knocked off their “high horse” multiple times.
- C. Encounter something or someone much greater than themselves.
- D. You have to pray for it.
- E. Actively treat others better than yourself, until you start to believe it.
- F. Let God take care of you instead of trying to oversee it yourself.
- G. Have a low opinion of yourself.
- H. Keep submitting to God, asking for his grace (*Prov 3:34; James 4:6*).
- I. Other.

5. How should you deal with the devil?

- A. Fear him.
- B. Fight him.
- C. Forget about him.
- D. Watch out for him.
- E. Rely on your strong faith in the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
- F. He’s not just fighting you; he’s trying to take out all of God’s family.
- G. Remind him of Christ’s first coming, and his second coming.
- H. Other.

6. What is the firm foundation God places you upon (*vs. 10*)?

- A. Jesus Christ.
- B. The message(s) in the book of *1 Peter*.
- C. The entire Bible.
- D. The Holy Spirit actively living in you.
- E. The end product after suffering for Christ.
- F. A sense of God’s presence in your life.
- G. Your church.
- H. Other.

7. What is something you can say to encourage others in your group that God’s grace truly is with them?

8. Who have you spiritually mentored in the past? To whom will you be a spiritual mentor now?

