

Introduction to 1 Peter Manuscript Study

This fall, we will be studying the book of 1 Peter in a way in which you may not be familiar. Manuscript Bible study is a very interactive way to learn and it can be surprisingly engaging and memorable. It can also take some getting used to, so hang in there, let the Holy Spirit guide you and your group, and have fun!

Each person in the group will need a manuscript, so please make sure everyone has their own copy. You will also need colored pens and pencils to mark up your manuscripts. Please print out the manuscripts ahead of time so that everyone has their own copy.

Here is a short video that introduces you to the basics of how to do manuscript Bible study.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ytHYFTC5SM&t=51s>

In addition to that, each week's study guide has an ice breaker question and some guided notes to help you and your group work through each passage.

If you have any questions about this or need a tutorial, please call Kendra Green. May the Lord bless your time in His Word!

1 Peter 1:1-2 (or 1.1-1.5 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: If you were to write a letter to our First Presbyterian congregation in Bakersfield, what encouragement/comfort/hope would you want to give them? Why?
- Pray for this time in God's Word— to hear from the text and from each other as the Holy Spirit leads!

Mark it up!

- **Individually** read the passage and write some observations on your manuscript. Who is writing this letter, to whom is it written, and what do we know about each of them? What connections do you find between words and phrases here? Write any questions you have in the margins.
- Discuss **together** what you discovered. Can you answer any of the questions that you wrote down? After discussing your own thoughts, feel free to use a Bible Dictionary or online resources to discover more of who is writing and receiving this letter and the situation in which they are living.
- Read the rest of the manuscript out loud together. As you read, listen for the major themes of the letter. Discuss what you discovered.

Live it up!

- Looking again at the first few verses/lines, in what ways can you relate to the early Christians receiving this letter? What encourages you? What do you hope to learn through this letter?
- Pray together around what you have discussed and learned.

1 Peter 1:3-9 (or 1.5-1.18 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Describe a time when something you hoped for came to pass. What was that like for you?
- Pray for this time in God's Word— to hear from the text and from each other as the Holy Spirit leads!

Mark it up!

- OBSERVATION: Read the passage **individually**, drawing connections from the previous verses and keeping in mind the cultural context of the original readers. Note the characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, and reactions. Imagine yourself receiving these words from Peter— how would they make you feel? Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect. Develop some questions based on your observations and what stirs your curiosity. Write your questions in the margins.
- INTERPRETATION: After 10-15 minutes, share your observations with each other, discussing what you all discovered. Together, can you answer any of the questions that you wrote down using the context of this passage? Why is this passage here— what does Peter want the believers to know and how does he want them to respond to this knowledge? Together, try to summarize the main theme of this passage in one phrase or sentence and write it down.

Live it up!

- APPLICATION: How does this passage challenge how I see God, myself, or the world? Is there a command to obey or a promise to hold on to? How can I live this out with my community? How does this change what I'll do tomorrow? Write your responses on the back of page one of your manuscript.
- Pray together around what you have discussed and learned.

1 Peter 1:10-21 (or 1.18-2.18 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Describe a time when you were (or just felt like) a foreigner among others. What feelings did you experience? What actions did you take?
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Mark it up!

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1 Peter 1:22-2:3 (or 2.18-3.8 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Tell about how you have grown and matured in one specific area of your life. How do you see God's fingerprints in that growing process?
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- Pray together around what you have discussed and learned.

1 Peter 2:4-10 (or 3.8-4.2 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Describe a time when you were “chosen” for something exciting (i.e., a team, an award, etc...). How did that make you feel and what was your response?
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Mark it up!

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1 Peter 2:11-17 (or 4.2-4.12 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Do you believe in aliens? Why or why not?
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Mark it up!

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- Pray together around what you have discussed and learned.

1 Peter 2:18-3:7 (or 4.12-5.19 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Who is someone you would love to see come to know Christ as their Savior & Friend? Pray together for the people mentioned.
- Pray for this time in God's Word— to hear from the text and from each other as the Holy Spirit leads!

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- Pray together around what you have discussed and learned.

1 Peter 3:8-15a (or 5.19-6.10 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Name three things that happened to you last week that you consider “blessings”.
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Mark it up!

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1 Peter 3:15-22 (or 6.10-7.4 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: If you have been baptized, tell about the experience and what it meant to you.
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Mark it up!

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- Pray together around what you have discussed and learned.

1 Peter 4:1-11 (or 7.4-8.3 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: What is one of your spiritual gifts? If you are not sure, ask the rest of the group to help you figure it out!
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1 Peter 4:12-19 (or 8.3-8.16 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Have you ever “suffered” for your faith, either in big ways or tiny ways? Explain.
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Mark it up!

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1 Peter 5:1-7 (or 8.16-9.8 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: Describe a time when you served as a leader (in school, work, sports, church, or another organization). What was one of the hardest things about leading? What was the best thing?
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1 Peter 5:8-14 (or 9.8-9.19 in manuscript)

Open it up!

- Icebreaker: In the 1960s & 70s, the comedian, Flip Wilson, popularized the phrase, “The devil made me do it!” Describe a time when you felt like you literally could have used that phrase in your own life.
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- What did you learn from the letter of 1 Peter? Anything you want to take with you into the future?
- Pray together around what you have discussed and learned.