

The Study of 1st Peter and 2nd Peter

Peter was a fisherman from Galilee and became one of the most prominent leaders of the early church. He was known as Simon; Jesus gave him the name Peter which means “rock”. Jesus said Peter would be the rock or foundation the church would be built on.

He sent those believers to spread out and share the gospel. Separating them from Peter. Jen Rhine our children’s director had a great demonstration for the “Shine Kids”. She took a bowl of water-representing the world, pepper-representing the believers and disciples, and dish soap-representing the Holy Spirit. She sprinkled the pepper on top of the water and then dropped a few drops of dish soap in the bowl. The pepper spread all over the top of the water but when the soap was added. The pepper scattered together around the outside of the rim of water.

That is you and I. We gather together for worship and study and then when we receive the Holy Spirit we are asked to spread out and share the gospel to others as Peter teaches.

Like today, we are scattered from one another in our homes caused by the crisis of the virus. But that shouldn’t stop us!! God is showing us and challenging us to be the church outside the walls of the Church. So, think about taking a step outside your comfort and think of one person who God has put on your heart to share the gospel of Jesus. It could be a friend, a co-worker, neighbor or a family member. In spite of the “conditions” of today, can you see the opportunity God is giving us?

What better time? We are forced to be at home. For some it may have caused some fear. But if you think about it....this is probably the first time that we as humans have NO control or understanding of this virus. Doesn’t that lead you to see WHO IS in CONTROL? GOD!! Ask yourself what better time than now to pick up the phone and call that person God has put on your heart that may need to know the truth of the gospel and not to fear. For God is with us! Let’s be a Peter today.

DEVOTIONS FOR THIS WEEK: 1 Peter 1:1-25

Monday- Meditate on 1 Peter 1:1-2, then ask yourself these questions:

- How am I being a servant and disciple for Jesus?
 - How can I serve and be a disciple today?
 - How did I see Gods' grace and peace today?
 - What area in my life do I need to pray for more grace and peace?
- Now think about these three key words and what they mean to you.
 - **RIGHTEOUSNESS – acting in a just, upright manner, morally right**
 - *Scriptures to help you reflect on.*

Proverbs 12:28 (NIV) 28 In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.

Isaiah 64:6 (NIV) 6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 3:9-12 (NIV) 9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

- **GRACE – the love and favor of God. "Gods' Riches At Christs' Expense"**

Exodus 34:6 (NIV) 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV) 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV) 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

Romans 8:1-2 (NIV) 8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

2 Timothy 2:1(NIV) 2 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

- **PEACE –calmness, freedom and silent**

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15 (NIV) 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Galatians 5:22 (NIV) 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Psalms 29:11 (NIV) 11 The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Psalms 85:8 (NIV) 8 I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants— but let them not turn to folly.

Tuesday- Meditate on 1 Peter 1: 3-12, then ask yourself these questions:

- We just celebrated Easter. Do I rejoice and celebrate the Risen Christ every day?
- Do I understand and see in my life how Jesus sacrificed himself for me?
- How can I praise God the Father and Jesus Christ?
- Do I understand and accept the inheritance Jesus gave me?

- Today we are going to look at some new words and see how they apply to your life.
 - **PRAISE – to glorify**
 - *Scriptures to help you reflect on.*

Exodus 15:2 (NIV) 2 “The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

1 Chronicles 29:10-11 (NIV) 10 David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, “Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

11 Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Psalms 9:1-2 (NIV) 1 I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

- **MERCY –unwarranted forgiveness, given freely**
 - *Scriptures to help you reflect on.*

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NIV) 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

- **INHERITANCE – something inherited or handed down**
 - *Scriptures to help you reflect on.*

Luke 10:25-29 (NIV) 25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” 27 He answered, “Love

the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind', and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Hebrews 9:15 (NIV) 15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

- **SALVATION- is the deliverance from sin and from the penalty of sin.**
 - Scriptures to help you reflect on.

2 Samuel 22:47 (NIV) 47 "The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior!

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 (NIV) 50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

- ***FAITH – complete trust in God.***
 - Scriptures to help you reflect on.

Romans 4:20-21 (NIV) 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV) 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...

James 2:17 (NIV) 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

What Hope have you received from Praising God, Receiving His Mercy, Being a child of God and in Faith receiving Salvation, Eternal Life?

Wednesday- Meditate on 1 Peter 1:13-21 and then ask yourself these questions.

- Think back when you first received the full hope of Christs' grace.
- Who revealed that truth of Jesus Christ in your life?
- How did that change your way of thinking and influence how you live your life today?
- When you read verse 15 how can you be holy?
- Today we are going to look at some new words and see how they apply to your life.
 - **HOLY- spiritually pure, sinless.**
 - Scriptures to help you reflect on.

Leviticus 19:2 (NIV) 2 “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

1 Thessalonians 4:7(NIV) 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

Hebrews 12:14 (NIV) 14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Revelation 4:8 (NIV) 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”

- **REDEEMED – to ransom, to deliver from sin, to restore**
 - Scriptures to help you reflect on.

Psalms 34:22 (NIV) 22 The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

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1 Corinthians 1:30 (NIV) 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Ephesians 1:7-8 (NIV) 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding,

- **LAMB- gentle and innocent, sacrificial**
 - Scriptures to help you reflect on.

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) 7 Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

John 1:29 (NIV) 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Remember you have been chosen to be in the image of Christ! What does this mean to you that Jesus being the perfect lamb poured out His blood for YOU, so you may be holy?

What does your Hope and Faith rely on?

1 Peter 1:21 New International Version (NIV)

21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

Thursday - Meditate on 1 Peter 1:22-25 and then ask yourself these questions.

- What am I learning about God?
 - What is God asking me to do with my heart?
 - How can I make a difference in other people's life with this renewed heart and truth to love others?
- Today we are going to look at some new words and see how they apply to your life.
 - **Purified- to be made clean, free from sin**
 - Scriptures to help you reflect on.

Acts 15:9 (NIV) 9 He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

1 John 1:7-9 (NIV) 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 3:3 (NIV) 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Psalms 51:1-2, 10 (NIV) 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- **Born Again- life again, renewed**
 - *Scriptures to help you reflect on.*

Titus 3:5 (NIV) 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

James 1:18 (NIV) 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV) 9 If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Romans 6:4 (NIV) 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:6 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

- **LOVE- a passionate affection**
 - *Scriptures to help you reflect on.*

John 13:34-3 (NIV) 34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (NIV) 9 Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 10 And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more,

Mark 12:30-31(NIV) 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself There is no commandment greater than these.”

Romans 12:10 (NIV) 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

John 3:16 (NIV) 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Friday- Day of reflection. Now that you have deeply searched the meaning of 1 Peter chapter one. Take time to look back and ask yourself these questions?

- What verse stood out to me?
- What verses tugged at my heart?
- What did I discover about myself I didn't know?
- How will this chapter change my life going forward?

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father as I read the words of Peter and search my heart for a meaning, help me grow in who you have made me to be and who you want me to be. Let me focus on the redeeming grace and sacrifice of the Lamb of God to help me be renewed, redeemed and purified so that I may receive your righteousness, your perfect peace and unfailing love each day. Make me into your image dear Jesus. This is my prayer. Amen