

NAME

+ ST MATTHEW'S

LIFEGROUP STUDIES

TERM 3

1 PETER

THROUGH
SUFFERING
TO
GLORY



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ABOUT THIS SERIES

The Apostle Peter most likely wrote this short letter in Rome (codenamed Babylon in 5:13), one or two years before his execution around 64 A.D. under Nero. Peter was no stranger to suffering and persecution and is said to have been crucified upside down at his own request because He didn't consider himself to be worthy of being killed in the same manner as Jesus.

Most likely when Peter wrote this letter, Nero's persecution of Christians had not yet commenced. Instead, the recipients of the letter may have been part of the Jewish (and Christian) community that was expelled from Rome under the decree of Emperor Claudius around 49 A.D., as mentioned in Acts 18:2. Peter, having a shared association with these scatter Roman Christians, sought to encourage and strengthen them amidst their trials and challenges. The letter tells the believers who they are under God, so they know who they are to be in society.

The recipients were experiencing harsh treatment causing them varying degrees of grief and suffering. Their social status and possibly their livelihood may have been threatened. In response to their suffering, Peter writes to remind them of their salvation in Jesus the promises of a heaven and His return. The letter serves to encourage believers to stand firm in their faith, even in the face of a culture that mocks and treats Christians unfairly. Peter calls them to follow the example of Jesus, who was also chosen by God but rejected by the world.

1 Peter provides practical guidance on navigating relationships and living out the faith in various spheres of life, such as living under governments, submitting to authorities at work, home and within the church. Peter emphasises the importance of humility and engaging in good deeds, even to those who cause harm or hold authority over them.

Throughout each study you may want to consider whether each passage primarily addresses the themes of salvation or suffering (sometimes both). These two topics serve as a major lens through which the letter's message is framed. Additionally, the recurring themes of submission and serving are also intertwined, emphasising the main posture of a Christian in society.

Despite this being an ancient letter, it is immensely relevant for us today as our own culture see Christianity as strange and with some suspicion. We should not conform to the general patterns of the world, even if we face hostility. We are to remember our secure salvation in Christ, Jesus' example in suffering and to continue to do good to those around and above us.

ABOUT THESE STUDIES

At St. Matts, we want everyone to feel confident that they can read, understand, and apply God's word for themselves. This is one of the reasons we have introduced SOAP as a model for daily Bible reading.

In this booklet, you will see the SOAP headings of Scripture, Observations, Application, and Prayer, although there are a few subheadings to help direct the Observation phase. The basic elements are:

Scripture: We have a strong belief that Scripture is clear and can be understood. The text itself is the only data everyone is working with. Since everyone comes to the study with the same data, we all sit under the text, exploring what it says to work out what it means for us today.

Observation: As we see what the text says, to better understand the passage we may have **Questions**. Using the standard Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? questions on the text can help us go deeper in our understanding. We may have questions that the text doesn't answer. We can ask, but we must not force an answer from the text if an answer simply isn't there. The goal is to let the text guide us and not our own hang-ups, hobby horses, or even theology.

We also seek to find a **Key** to the passage. This is distilling the passage into one main idea. This could be a key verse that the whole passage hangs on, or a concise statement on the timeless principle in the passage.

Application: Since Scripture is living and active, with the help from the Spirit it will change us. From our observations and key, we ask what this passage is calling us to believe or how this passage is saying we are to behave. The more specific to your everyday life the better. In this series, a focus on our salvation in Jesus, or how we are to live in hard circumstance will help in our thinking for application.

Prayer: We mustn't ignore the text or the application when we come to our group prayer time. We should thank God for His word to us and ask for help to live our faith to those around us.

Helps: It is not wrong to use commentaries, devotional booklets, or even our Sunday sermons to help in our understanding of the Bible. These are good gifts to the church, but it is important to remember that they are *helps*, and not *replacements* for the word of God. Feel free to use these helps, but remember, the degree they are to be considered good, is measured against the text of the Bible itself. This booklet also has a series of **Extra Questions** that may help in getting you and your group to look more at the text itself.

WEEK 1 – 1 PETER 1:1-12

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood:

Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, what does each statement in verse 2 say about the three members of the Trinity? What does it say about who we are in Christ and why God saved us?
2. What does it mean to have a "living hope" in the context of your faith? How does this hope affect the way you navigate trials and challenges?
3. How does the assurance of an imperishable inheritance in heaven influence your perspective on earthly possessions and achievements?
4. How can knowing that God controls our trials comfort us when we're going through them? How do the trials you have experienced shape your relationship with God?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

Our Heavenly Father, blessed is your name! We thank you for clarifying our identity in this world. We praise you that you have called us for obedience to Jesus Christ. May his eternal glory be ever before us. May his season of earthly humiliation guide us. The inheritance you have planned astounds us. Help us, even before we receive it in full, to live lives that are undefiled. It is in your Spirit and the power of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead that we place our hope. Help us be a joyful people in the midst of our present sorrows and sufferings. We do love you. We do believe in you. And we long for the day when we shall both see you and dwell with you forevermore. Lord, have mercy. [Amen.](#)

WEEK 2 – 1 PETER:13-25

SCRIPTURE

¹³ Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 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.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For,

“All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever.”

And this is the word that was preached to you.

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. In what ways could you be more distinctive as a Christian within your society (vv. 14–16)? What practical steps can you take this week to become more holy?
2. What imperishable things should we remember and keep in mind? How does this help in a world which seeks after things that are perishable?
3. The Christian life is lived out in recognition that one day (v. 13) we will meet the One who bled for us (v. 19). How should our gratitude and devotion to Christ be shown towards others? Be as specific as you can.
4. What steps can you take to ensure that you are regularly immersing yourself in the enduring Word of God and allowing it to shape your thoughts and actions?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

O Lord, help us to set our hopes not on what we can do, but on what Christ has already done in redeeming us by his blood; not on our own agendas but on your plans for us; not on what we think we deserve but on your grace, your unmerited kindness to us. We praise you for your Word. We thank you for your love. As your children we pray that we might grow up in both. May your Word be ever open before us, and may your love be ever growing within us. We pray that by the power at work within us you might make us into mature family members and followers of your Son. In his name we pray, **Amen.**

WEEK 3 – 1 PETER 2:1-12

SCRIPTURE

2 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. From this passage, how are we similar to Jesus with our relationship to the God and the world?
2. How does Peter's description of the church in 2:4–5, 9–10 emphasize spiritual unity? What steps can you take to strengthen unity with other believers? What else do you get out of his description of the church?
3. In what ways do you find it challenging to live out your identity as a chosen and holy person in the midst of a world that may reject or oppose your faith? How can you seek support and encouragement within the family of believers?
4. How can we encourage each other to adopt Peter's strategy of 'good deeds' in the workplace, or within society, throughout the week?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

Dear Lord, we come to you. And though the world may reject you, we receive your rule with humble thanksgiving. We are honoured to be called your people, and we ask that our lives would proclaim the excellencies of your name. We thank you for the strong word from these verses. Indeed, you have called us to good deeds and honourable conduct. Forgive us for feeding for too long on the passions of the flesh. Return our hearts, our minds, and our wills to you. May we sojourn well, that the world might see and glorify you. Grant us the strength of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

WEEK 4 – 1 PETER 2:13-25

SCRIPTURE

¹³ Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, ¹⁴ or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. ¹⁷ Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

¹⁸ Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. ¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the state authorities when they work as they should (v. 14)?
2. Are there 'good' things you could do in your own community which might have the effect of silencing opposition to the gospel (v. 15)?
3. Consider the example of Jesus Christ and His willingness to endure suffering for our sake. How does Christ's example give you a motivation for submitting to authority?
4. Consider your attitude towards authority figures, such as governmental authorities or leaders in your workplace or community. How can you demonstrate respect and obedience while maintaining your commitment to righteousness and godly values?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

Our Heavenly Father, today we thank you for Jesus, your Suffering Servant and King. Having come today to the centre of this text, with Jesus' example before us, help us to live in such a way as to please you. Indeed, may all our submissiveness be rooted in love to you. May our obedience to these verses stem from our desire to grow in our relationship with you. For pleasing you is all we want to do. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

WEEK 5 – 1 PETER 3:1-17

SCRIPTURE

3 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

⁷ Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For,

“Whoever would love life
and see good days
must keep their tongue from evil
and their lips from deceitful speech.

¹¹ They must turn from evil and do good;
they must seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. If you are married, what are the main challenges to your behaviour and attitude from this passage? How can you be a better spouse this week?
2. Give some examples of how we can do the things Peter mentions in 3:8 in our daily lives. How could do these more and more?
3. How does Peter want believers to respond to evil? What response should they avoid and what behaviour does he encourage (vv. 9–11)?
4. Are you prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have? Spend some time giving your answer, so that you are prepared.
5. How does a good conscience help a believer in times of trial and opposition?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

Our Heavenly Father, help every man and woman, husband and wife to live in a way that pleases you. In this fallen world, where distortion of your Word and ways abound, have mercy. Where wicked acts against the vulnerable are still being perpetuated, bring relief, healing, and judgment. Help us to not fear others, but instead empower us to be prepared to love and bless others. Give us the right words to explain the hope that we have in you to those around us. **Amen.**

WEEK 6 – 1 PETER 3:18-22

SCRIPTURE

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits—²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. How does the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross impact your understanding of salvation and forgiveness? How does it inspire gratitude and a desire to live a transformed life?
2. What did Christ's sufferings achieve for us (v. 18)?
3. In the context of suffering and persecution why is it so helpful to hear of Christ's activity after His resurrection in verses 19 and 22? Why is it so helpful to be given the example of Noah (vv. 20, 21)?
4. Using this passage, how would you explain salvation to an unsaved person? How can you share this explanation of salvation this week?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

Our Heavenly Father, gladly do we submit ourselves to the teaching of this text. Our hearts are filled with fresh wind for the journey. To know that Jesus was vindicated shall sustain us. To be reminded that all things are now subject to him encourages us. To consider that our own vindication awaits—what joy rises with us. To him be the glory, **Amen**.

WEEK 7 – 1 PETER 4:1-19

SCRIPTURE

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. ² As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³ For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. ⁴ They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵ But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

⁷ The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. ⁸ Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹ Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. What kind of attitude should we have toward Christ's return? Why? In what ways does keeping an eternal perspective help us cope with difficulties in the present (vv. 5, 6)?
2. What is the ultimate goal of using gifts within the church family (v. 11)? How does this passage challenge your commitment to other church members, for example, in your participation in the church prayer gatherings?
3. How could we encourage each other to be more prepared to use our gifts and to serve within the church family? Are there any specific areas or ministries where you feel called to contribute?

4. Consider your relationships with fellow believers. How can you deepen your love for one another and demonstrate genuine care and hospitality within your Christian community?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

Dear Lord, help us to truly embrace our calling to suffer in Christ. May we receive it with open arms. We know that everything we bear for you in this life will be nothing to compare with the glory we will share in with you in Heaven. Make us people of resolve. Help us to do all things for your glory: be it self-control or sincere love, showing hospitality, serving or speaking. And now may we entrust our souls to you while doing good. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

WEEK 8 – 1 PETER 5:1-5

SCRIPTURE

5 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ’s sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: ² Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. In each of these areas, how does Peter encourage the elders or shepherds to imitate the Good Shepherd (vv. 2 and 3)? To whom does the flock belong and how much value is placed upon it?
2. Why is Peter so concerned about the character of the elders rather than about their ability to handle God's Word? What would be the danger of having a superb Bible teacher who nevertheless fell into the traps mentioned in verses 2 and 3?
3. What are the ways you could best support, encourage and pray for your church leaders to fulfil the pattern outlined in these verses?
4. Consider the qualities of humility and integrity in your own life. How can you intentionally "clothe" yourself with humility, making it a consistent and visible aspect of your character?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

Our Heavenly Father, we close out our reading on these verses by praying for those in your church who hold office as elders. Protect them in their labors. Encourage them in their struggles. Help them lead your church well and willingly. Grant humility to us all in order that your family on earth might reflect in greater glory the ways that you are already at work in Heaven. We pray this for your glory and our own good.

Amen.

WEEK 9 – 1 PETER 5:6-14

SCRIPTURE

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸ Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

¹² With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it.

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. ¹⁴ Greet one another with a kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

OBSERVATIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE TEXT

What verses are unclear? Does the rest of the text help answer your questions?

KEY

Which verse does this whole passage hang off, and why?

APPLICATION

From the key above, what is this passage telling us today?

EXTRA QUESTIONS

1. What does this passage teach us about God's character and how should this be a means of great comfort and encouragement?
2. How is the devil to be resisted (vv. 8, 9)?
3. What does God promise to do for believers, especially those who have suffered (vv. 10, 11)?
4. In what ways does our glorious destination help us to get things in perspective (vv. 6, 10, 11)?

PRAYER

Thank God for the truth in this passage. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live out that truth.

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for this picture of true grace. Give us the grace to finish well. In our trials, grant us patience. In our suffering, grant us your joy. May we know what it is to share Christ's suffering. To God be the glory, **Amen.**

EXTRA NOTES

EXTRA NOTES

REFERENCES & RESOURCES

THE INTRODUCTION USED THE FOLLOWING:

Jobes, K. H. (2005). *1 Peter* (Baker exegetical commentary on the New Testament).

MOST OF THE QUESTIONS BEEN TAKEN FROM:

MacLeay, A. (2008). *Teaching 1 Peter: Unlocking 1 Peter for the Bible Teacher*

Wiersbe, W. W. (2009). *Be hopeful (1 Peter): How to make the best of times out of your worst of times.*

ALL PRAYERS (SOME WITH SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS) FROM:

Helm, D. R. (2008). *1 & 2 Peter and Jude: Sharing Christ's sufferings.*