

1 PETER



LIVE DIFFERENT

...in a world that isn't our home

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1 PETER: BREAKUP

DATE	BIBLE	DATE	BIBLE
27 Apr – 1 May	1 Peter 1:1-2	1-5 Jun	1 Peter 3:1-7
4-8 May	1 Peter 1:3-12	8-12 Jun	1 Peter 3:8-18
11-15 May	1 Peter 1:13-25	15-19 Jun	1 Peter 3:18-4:6
18-22 May	1 Peter 2:1-10	22-26 Jun	1 Peter 4:7-19
25-29 May	1 Peter 2:11-25	29 Jun – 3 Jul	1 Peter 5:1-14

1 PETER: PRAYER

Our big prayer for this time in 1 Peter in Small Groups and Online Church is that it'll help us live different in a world that's not our home! We want to...

1. Better understand our God's work so we can praise Him and so we can live out the new identity we have through that work
2. Entrust ourselves to God in hardships, sufferings and persecution because of our certain future hope
3. Declare the gospel to unbelievers *and also* commend the gospel by the way we live
4. Live in order to please and honour God in all our relationships, like:
 - a. Loving Christian brothers and sisters
 - b. Submitting to the Government and our world's rulers
 - c. Loving spouses – husbands leading their wife, wives submitting to and supporting their husband, with mutual respect
 - d. Suffering unjustly for doing good and enduring it willingly
 - e. Leaders at Salt shepherding diligently & sacrificially, and all of us submitting to our leaders

1 PETER: LIVE DIFFERENT

Christians live between two worlds. We are 'God's elect' and yet at the same time 'exiles' (1:1). We live different in a world that isn't our home.

- *We have a new glorious identity:* born again, a holy nation, royal priesthood, sons and daughters, the temple of God.
- *Yet at the same time:* we're foreigners, aliens and strangers, living in exile in a hostile world.

To Christians like us Peter has a message of hope so we can live different in this hostile world. Peter tells us: *I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it (5:12).*

"Standing fast in the true grace of God" means going against the tide of this world; being counter cultural as we cling to Christ. Christians live in a war where we're threatened by *'sinful desires which wage war against your soul'* (2:11), by humans who reject God and who *'heap abuse on you'* (4:4), and by our *'enemy the devil [who] prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour'* (5:8).

The threat is real, the battle serious, but our hope is secure and certain. It is grounded on Jesus' resurrection...

In [God's] great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade... kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power... (1:3-5)

On the new life we have through Christ...

Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God (1 Peter 3:18)

For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (2:24-25)

On the power of the Spirit of God...

The Spirit of glory and of God rests on you (4:14)

And on God the Father's promise...

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. (5:10-11)

Living different, being counter, standing out and apart from our world is hard and will result in suffering for Christians. 1 Peter challenges us not to listen to the many voices that tempt us into thinking living for Jesus in this life ought to be pain-free & we can easily blend in with our world.

Instead it spurs us on to live holy lives, confident of our calling, entrusting ourselves to God, suffering like Christ then sharing in his glory to come when we finally arrive at our true home.

1 Peter: Christians live different in a world that isn't our home.

THE SWEDISH METHOD

In Small Groups for the 1 Peter Series we're going to use a Bible Reading Approach called 'The Swedish Method'. It's named after a Swedish Small Group where it was first used.

How It Works

- Check with your Small Group Leader if they want you to prepare your answers to the 5 icons (below) *before* you meet online, to make the most of your time together, or *during* your Small Group time.
- When you meet take it in turns to share a lightbulb moment each, then a question each, and so on, until you've finished all 5 for everyone.

The 5 Icons



Something that stands out from the passage



Something difficult to understand in the passage, or a question you want to ask the author or God



What you think the big point of the passage is, in a sentence



An application for your life from the passage



Something from the passage you want to share with a friend

Icons made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

- You can find a [printable version of the 5 icons](#) here

Why This Approach

Here's 5 reasons why the 'Swedish Method' is helpful for us...

1. God spoke to reveal not to hide Himself, which means the bible basically makes sense. It doesn't need experts to make it clear. Anyone with the Spirit can read and understand some of what God's saying. This approach helps us experience that truth for ourselves.
2. It puts us all on the same level, where we're all wrestling with what God's word says, rather than constantly deferring to the 'bible expert' in our Small Group or the study notes in our bible's margins.
3. It teaches the most basic but most difficult skill of reading the bible – actually observing what it says and letting God speak for himself.
4. It's a helpful model for how to read the bible, which you can use again anytime you read it.
5. God's word changes us. God didn't just speak through human authors in the past. He speaks to us right now by the Holy Spirit every time we read and think about His words. This approach helps us experience that truth, especially with the application and sharing icons.



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To God's elect, exiles... 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

(1 Peter 1:1-2)