

faith, hope, love

1 Peter 1:1-25 Inductive Discovery Lesson 8

Living in Hope It's been said that the trouble with life is that life is trouble. How do you respond when life heats up? Do trials shake you or shape you? Peter wrote this letter to believers who were experiencing trouble. He reminded them that God had charted their course and their destination was sure. First Peter is a letter for every Christian. If you are suffering, this encouraging letter is for you. God wants to give you His perspective and power to stay on course and deal with every difficult circumstance. If you aren't facing trials today, rejoice! But get ready. Trouble may find you tomorrow. When trials bear down and threaten to derail us, Peter reminds us that the secret of learning to cope is living in hope.

author Simon was first brought to Jesus by his brother, Andrew. It was a memorable meeting to say the least. Jesus took one look at Simon and promptly changed the young fisherman's name to Peter ("rock"). Later on, the brothers were fishing when Jesus came to the shore of Galilee. "Follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). It was the beginning of a new life for Peter—one he would hardly have imagined for himself! As one of Jesus' twelve disciples, Peter lived and trained daily with the Master. From the start, Peter stood out. His enthusiasm and outspoken nature made him a natural leader. But he could also be impulsive and short-sighted, characteristics that hardly suited a man called "rock." For all his zeal, there were moments when Peter buckled under fear and pressure. But God had charted Peter's course and, by the Holy Spirit's power, Peter grew into his name. Despite his early failures, God developed Peter into an outspoken servant with a rock-solid witness. Peter's life is a powerful testimony to the fact that God changes lives. He has charted a course for you, too.

background Peter was an old man near the end of his life when he wrote this letter. The year was probably A.D. 64 and Peter was in the capital city of Rome. Never an easy place to live, Rome was becoming more hostile toward Christ followers. They were viewed with suspicion because of their practices. Refusal to participate in pagan festivals was seen as being antisocial. Since Christians rejected emperor worship, they were considered atheists. Distorted accounts of the Lord's Supper sounded, to uninformed Roman ears, like some bizarre cannibalistic ritual. With such negative impressions, Christians were an easy target for Emperor Nero to blame for the fire that devastated Rome in A.D. 64 (Nero himself remains the prime suspect in that fire).

Peter lived in Rome, but where did those who received this letter live? The letter is addressed to believers scattered throughout lands that make up the northern part of modern-day Turkey. If he were writing today, Peter could have emailed his letter to thousands in a matter of minutes. But it was more difficult to reach out and encourage fellow believers in Peter's day. To connect with these Christians, Peter's letter was hand carried across dangerous seas and over hundreds of miles of rugged terrain. The letter circulated through large cities and isolated villages to believers from different social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Peter wanted these scattered believers to know that God was with them *no matter what* and would use their experiences of suffering to strengthen their faith.

Working Text for 1 Peter 1:1-25

New International Version (NIV)

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout 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, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by 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—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 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 your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and 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 goal 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 Christ 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.

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. **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 man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers 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 forefathers, **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 your brothers, 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 men 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 stands forever.” And this is the word that was preached to you.

OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage.** (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions**. *Do your best to follow Peter's train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

1 Peter 1:1-9

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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1 Peter 1:10-16

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

1 Peter 1:17-25

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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1 Peter 1:17-25 continued
Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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Key Words and Phrases

Write the definition of the following words and phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a Bible concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“...a **living hope**” (vs. 3) _____

“**purified** your souls...” (vs. 22) _____

“...in **obeying** the truth” (vs. 22) _____

INTERPRET

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

1 Peter 1 :1-9

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

1 Peter 1 :10-16

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

1 Peter 1:17-25

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.

Up close and personal

Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit,
fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you
at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:13

➞ Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.

➞ Meditate on God's Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

When darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.

His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

-The Solid Rock-

Lyrics and Music by Edward Mote and William Bradbury

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