

# faith, hope, love

1 Peter 2:1-25  
Inductive Discovery Lesson 9

**Walking in Hope** What do babies, building blocks and aliens have in common? Peter uses them to illustrate what life is like for a Christian. We are God's child, growing up in our faith. We are His church, fitted into the place of service He fashions us for. We are His people, living in a manner that shows we don't belong to this world.

When you began to follow Jesus as Savior and Lord, the path of your life changed—for better and forever! You are “born again to a living hope,” Peter says, and heaven is waiting for you. But hope doesn't fold its hands and daydream; *living* hope puts on its shoes and starts walking.

In this chapter, Peter tells us that a growing relationship with Jesus must affect all other relationships we have. Everyday life and activities become opportunities to grow spiritually and show others that love has changed our attitudes and behavior.

Walking in hope doesn't mean we move through life wondering if something good will turn up; it means stepping out in obedience and confident trust, knowing that God has charted our course and our destination is sure. While heaven surely awaits us, are we making the most of our life here on earth? As you study this chapter, invite the Lord to take you on a heart walk and show you where He wants you to grow.

**background** “First-century building practices often included cutting new stones from fresh quarries, then fitting the fresh-cut stones perfectly into place. But a faster and less expensive way of gathering building materials was to use stones from old or toppled buildings, chiseling them to the appropriate shape and fitting them into new buildings. In fact, archaeologists often unearth buildings that had incorporated many stones from earlier centuries. And some of these recycled blocks may even have traces of old inscriptions, revealing the original identities of those earlier stones.

“The early church saw in these construction practices a great metaphor for God's work in building His church with ‘living stones.’ Whether the stones come from new quarries (Gentile believers) or from old buildings (Jewish believers), they both require some cutting, chiseling, and shaping to fit them into a unified and stable structure.

“By using the temple as a metaphor for the church, with its individual stones as members, Peter emphasized the unity of the body of Christ and the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit as believers gathered for worship and communion with God.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Insights on James, 1 and 2 Peter*, p. 170 ©2010 by Charles R. Swindoll

**1** 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 men 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 capstone,” **8** and, “A stone that causes men 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, a people belonging to God, 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 aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which 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.

**13** Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, 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 men. **16** Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. **17** Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

**18** Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. **19** For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is 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 tree, 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.

## 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 2:1-3

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

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## 1 Peter 2:4-12

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

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**1 Peter 2:4-12** continued

Facts from the passage:

My Research and Personal Observations:

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**1 Peter 2:13-25**

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 **chief cornerstone**” (vs. 6) \_\_\_\_\_  
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“**sojourners** and **pilgrims**” (vs. 11) \_\_\_\_\_  
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“**Shepherd** and **Overseer** of your soul” (vs. 25) \_\_\_\_\_  
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## 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 2 :1-3

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

### 1 Peter 2 :4-12

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

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Application: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

### 1 Peter 2:13-25

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God  
a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

1 Peter 2:19 NAS



### Memorize God's Word

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

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### 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.)

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

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

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

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

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### **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.

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### **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?

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### **Something to Think About . . .**

Hope has a thick skin and will endure many a blow;  
It will put on patience...it will wade through a sea...  
It will endure all things for the joy that is set before it.  
It is hope that makes the soul exercise patience and long-suffering under the cross,  
until the time comes to enjoy the crown.

- John Bunyun -

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