

Day 1

READ or LISTEN to 1 Peter from beginning to end.

1. Has a familiar passage taken on deeper meaning for you with repeated reading this week?
2. Has the Holy Spirit brought other passages of Scripture to mind as you read? If so, which ones?
3. Now look back at this week's section of text: **2:1-12**. What does this passage teach us about God?
4. What main idea do you think Peter wants to communicate in **2:1-12**?
5. How does this section fit with Peter's objective to encourage his readers in the face of difficulty?

Day 2

READ 2:1-3

1. What does the first word of **2:1** tell us about what Peter is about to say?

How does the idea in this section flow from the previous one?

2. We may be tempted to rush through the rich vocabulary Peter has chosen in **2:1**. Let's look up definitions for each of these carefully selected words.

malice:

deceit:

hypocrisy:

envy:

slander:

3. Which of these sins do you need to “put away”? Take some time to examine your thoughts, speech, and actions. Write at least one specific relationship you want to improve by putting away these sins.

4. What do you think Peter means by “that you may grow up into salvation” (2:2)? Read this verse in the NASB and NKJV to help with your answer.

5. Rewrite 2:1-3 in your own words.

Day 3

READ 2:4-8

1. What image does Peter use to describe Christ and Christians in 2:4-5?

Note how this image builds on his words from earlier sections of the letter:

1:3 “he has caused us to be born again to a _____”

1:23 “you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the _____ and abiding _____”

2. What Old Testament parallel does Peter want to bring to mind through images like spiritual house, holy priesthood, and spiritual sacrifices? Why do you think he wants to make this connection?

3. In what ways does the body of believers function as a spiritual house? What is the parallel to the Old Testament temple Peter wants us to understand? Read **Exodus 25:1-22** and note as many parallels as you can find.

4. What spiritual sacrifices can believers offer to God? Look up the following verses to help with your answer.

Psalm 51:17

Romans 12:1

Romans 15:15-16

Hebrews 13:15-16

5. Four types of “stone” metaphors are applied to Jesus in this passage—one is Peter’s, noted in question 1, and three come from Old Testament passages he quotes (Psalms 118:22; Isaiah 8:13-15 & Isaiah 28:16). Explain why each metaphor describes Jesus well.

2:4

2:6

2:7 (read in the NIV to catch the difference in vocabulary)

2:8

6. What do you think is meant by the phrase “and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame” (**2:6b**)?

7. What do you think is meant by the phrase “they stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do” (**2:8b**)? Who is “they”? Look at **Romans 9:30-33** to see if Paul can help you with your answer.

8. Like Christ, what kinds of rejection have you faced as a “living stone”? How does such rejection shape your understanding of what it means to follow Him? Of what it means to enjoy fellowship with other “living stones”?

9. Rewrite **2:4-8** in your own words.

Day 4

READ 2:9-10

1. In these two verses, Peter gives six different descriptions of who we are as believers. List them in your notes.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

2. Peter says believers are a “chosen race.” Look back through the text we have studied thus far, note how the knowledge that you are “part of a chosen people” affects your relationship with actions toward:

God

other believers

unbelievers

3. Peter says believers are a “holy nation,” a people for God’s own possession. Think about what is trying to gain possession of you in this world. How does the knowledge that you are “His possession” affect your relationship with and actions toward:

God

other believers

unbelievers

4. Peter says of believers in 2:10: “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Is this thought a reiteration of what he has said previously, or does it communicate a new idea?

5. Rewrite **2:9-10** in your own words.

Day 5

READ 2:11-12 in ESV and NIV

Look up the following words in a dictionary to help you understand Peter’s meaning.

exile (see Week 1, Day 2):

sojourner (sojourn):

abstain:

passions:

2. How many times has Peter mentioned “exiles” in his letter up to this point? How does his addition of the word sojourners expand your understanding of a believer’s relationship to the world around her?

3. Look up the following verses and note what they add to your understanding of exiles and sojourners, and what it means to live like they do.

Luke 12:32-34

2 Corinthians 5:1,20

2 Corinthians 5:6-9

Philippians 3:20-21

4. Give some examples of what Peter might have in mind with the term “passions of the flesh.” How would remembering that you are an exile and a sojourner help you to do battle with these passions?

5. What reason does Peter give for living honourable lives among the Gentiles (unbelievers)?

6. Have you ever given up a behaviour, pastime, or preference because it could send the wrong message to an unbeliever? Has the Lord been showing you anything you need to set aside? Pray and ask that He would keep you more interested in His glory than your desires or comfort.

7. Rewrite **2:11-12** in your own words

WRAP-UP

What impacted you the most within this week’s passage of 1 Peter? How has Peter challenged you to look beyond your current circumstances to a future inheritance? How has he encouraged you?