

GRACE COLLEGE CLASS BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE
THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

Passage	Skill
Introduction to 1 Peter and Bible Study Methods/Evangelism training	
Overview and 1:1-2	Read Survey
1 Peter 1:3-12	Read Observation
1 Peter 1:13-25	Read Constructing a Summary Sentence
1 Peter 2:1-12	Read Interpretation, Interpretive Questions
1 Peter 2:13-25	Read Application
1 Peter 3:1-12	Read Figurative Language
1 Peter 3:13-22	Read Mechanical Layout
1 Peter 4:1-11	
1 Peter 4:12-19	
1 Peter 5:1-14	
Biblical Theology and Outline	Read Synthesis

PETER PARAGRAPH TITLES

1:1-12

1:1-2

1:3-5

1:6-9

1:10-12

1:13-2:12

1:13-21

1:22-25

2:1-3

2:4-10

2:11-12

2:13-3:12

2:13-17

2:18-20

2:21-25

3:1-7

3:8-12

3:13-4:19

3:13-17

3:18-22

4:1-6

4:7-11

4:12-19

5:1-14

5:1-4

5:5-7

5:8-11

5:12-14

1 PETER

Theme (What is the controlling idea that holds all the parts together?):

Purpose (Why did Peter write? What did he hope to accomplish through this letter?):

Author (What do you know about Peter and his ministry? Review the gospels and Acts for more information)

Date:

Audience (To whom did Peter write? What do you know about their history, ethnicity, geography, economy, current situation, etc. that might help you to understand 1 Peter?)

Outline:

Repeated Themes:

Key Verses:

1 PETER 1:1-2 AND OVERVIEW ASSIGNMENT

Prepare your heart for Bible study through prayer and confession. Ask for the illumination of the Holy Spirit as you study, and then read through 1 Peter completely at one sitting.

Read the introduction and survey section of your Bible study methods manual. Even if you read it last semester, take time to review it again.

Read the background articles on Peter and 1 Peter.

Re-read 1 Peter 2-3 more times

Complete the steps described for surveying the book of 1 Peter (e.g. paragraph titles, theme, date, etc.). List the major interpretive questions that we will need to answer.

Memorize 1 Peter 1:3

Write a summary sentence for 1:1,2.

List 6 observations/questions from 1 Peter 1:1,2. After you have come up with your own observations/questions, then answer the questions below. As the semester progresses, I will give you fewer and fewer questions.

From 1:1 what does it mean to be “elect” or “chosen” (Col 3:12; John 15:16; Acts 13:17; 15:7; Eph 1:3,4; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Peter 2:4,6,9,10; Rev 17:14)? Are all people “chosen” by God (Mt 22:11-14)? Are all believers “chosen” by God (cf. Romans 8:30-39)? How should this affect our evangelistic efforts (cf. 2 Tim 2:10)?

What is “foreknowledge” (1:2; cf. Romans 8:29; 9:11-13; 11:1,2; 1 Peter 1:20; 2 Peter 3:17; Acts 2:23; you may want to use an English dictionary for this word and “sanctify”)?

What does it mean to “sanctify” (1:2; cf. John 17:17,19; Acts 20:32; 26:18; Romans 15:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; 1 Thess 4:3,4,7; 5:23; 2 Thess 2:13; Hebrews 10:10; 12:14; 1 Peter 3:15)? Are all believers “sanctified”?

What is the significance of being “sprinkled with His blood” (1:2; cf. Heb 9:13,14,19-22; 10:22)?

What is the meaning of “grace” in this greeting (cf. Luke 2:40; Rom 12:3; 15:15; 1 Cor 1:4,5; 15:10; 2 Cor 12:9; Eph 3:2,7; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Peter 3:18)?

How would you explain/summarize the activity of each member of the Trinity as described in 1:2? What is the end or goal of this activity?

1 Peter 1:3-12

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with the rest of your group.

Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week.

Read the section on "Observation" in your Bible study manual. List ten observations from 1 Peter 1:3-12. Remember to begin with the fundamental questions as you read each verse (WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? HOW?). Also glance over the pages on "Structural Indicators" for ideas on what to look for.

List and discuss the reasons given in verses 3-12 for a believer to maintain joy and hope in the midst of difficult circumstances. Does this joy exclude the intermingling of sorrow? Is it *possible* to have joy given your present circumstances? Is it reasonable? How can we obtain this joy?

Of the themes that you saw recurring throughout 1 Peter in last week's study, which ones are found in this section? How are they related to one another, and what is the significance of them being mentioned at this point in the letter?

Why does Peter in verse 4 describe the believer's "inheritance" with these three words? In light of their situation, why would these believers need to focus upon their heavenly inheritance? Is every believer's inheritance the same (cf. Mt 5:5; 19:29; Heb 6:12; 1 Pet 3:9; Rev 21:6,7)?

In this context (1:7), who will receive "praise and glory and honor" at Christ's revelation? Jesus Christ Himself or faithful men (cf. 1 Peter 4:14; 5:4,6; Rom 2:7)?

Define "salvation" (w. 5,9,10) in this section. Does it have the same definition in each instance? Do we have our salvation now? Support your answer. Note: komizomai ("to obtain") normally refers to receiving what is deserved in contrast to receiving something as a gift (e.g. an earned wage or recompense; cf. 2 Cor 5:10; Eph 6:8; Col 3:23-25; Heb 10:35,36; 11:13,39). It may also be important that the verb is in the present tense here. "The salvation of your soul" is a common and important phrase/theme in the New Testament, especially in the teaching of Christ. I would encourage you to carefully read through these cross-references: Mt 10:39; 16:24-27; Mk 8:34-38; Lk 9:24-26; 17:33; Jn 12:25; Heb 10:39; James 1:21; 5:20.

In what ways will you live differently (attitudes and/or actions) this week in light of these verses?

1 Peter 1:13-25

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with your group. Review your verse from last week.

Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week.

Make 2 observations per verse (or **more** if you can).

Read the section on "Constructing a Summary Sentence." Write a summary sentence for each paragraph up to and including 1:13-25. Create a brief outline for 1:13-25.

What is the significance of "therefore" in v. 13? How does it relate to the previous passage (1:3-12)?

Define "holiness." How does the context of Leviticus (1 Pet 1:16; Lev 11:44ff; 19:1ff; 20:7) inform your definition? What does holiness look like in day to day life?

What are the motivations for personal holiness in this section?

What is "the fear of God" (v. 17; cf. Exod 20:20; Deut 1:17; 5:29; 6:2,13; 2 Kings 17:34-36; Prov 1:7; Jer 5:22-24; 2 Cor 5:11; 7:1; Rev 14:7; 19:5)? What is the role of "fear" in our lives, and what reasons does Peter give that we should "conduct ourselves in fear during the time of our stay upon earth"?

How is God pictured in v. 17? What is the significance of this two-fold portrait (cf. Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6,7; Rev 19:11-16; 20:11-15)?

Why was their former way of life "futile" (1:18)?

What would you know about Jesus Christ if this were the only passage that spoke of Him in the entire Bible?

Why is the word of God compared to a seed (1:23)? What is the significance of this "seed" in our lives?

1 Peter 2:1-12

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with your group. Review your verse from last week.

Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week.

Make 2 observations per verse (or **more** if you can). Write a summary sentence for this paragraph.

Briefly outline this section and integrate it with your outlines for the previous assignments (your summary sentences should provide a basic outline). Is there any significance to the order in which Peter approaches topics within these three sections?

Read the section on "Interpretation" and "Interpretive Questions" in your Bible study manual. Write down 10 interpretive questions from 2:1-12.

What is the significance of "therefore" in 2:1?

What things interfere with the work of God's word in our spiritual growth? Why is it that we often don't "long" for God's word? Why does v. 1 precede v. 2? (cf. Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:5-10; Jas 1:21; II Pet 1:5)

What does it mean to have "tasted the kindness of the Lord" (2:3)? Is there genuine doubt in Peter's mind that his readers have "tasted" or is this verse in some sense rhetorical?

What are some of God's reasons for establishing our priesthood as given in vv. 4-10? What is the means to being "built up as a spiritual house"?

What significance is there in each of the descriptive terms applied to God's people (2:9,10)?

Why does Peter address his readers as "aliens and strangers" (2:11; cf. 1:1)?

How could our good works give rise to unbelievers "glorifying God in the day of visitation"?

Whom do you think Peter regarded as the Rock of the Church (cf. cf. Mt 16:13-19; cp. 1 Cor 3:10,11)?

1 Peter 2:13-25

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with your group. Review your verse from last week.

Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week.

Make 2 observations per verse (or **more** if you can). Write a summary sentence for this paragraph. Briefly outline this section and integrate it with your outlines from the previous sections.

Write down 5 interpretive questions from this paragraph.

Read the section on "Application" in your Bible study manual.

How does "submission" relate to the overall theme of 1 Peter?

What authorities exist in your life? Are they worthy of your respect? Is their worthiness the basis for our submission?

Under what circumstances is suffering commendable? When is it not? Why is this distinction important?

How and in what sense do we earn the "favor" (literally "grace") of God (1:19-20)?

What is the significance of "for" in 2:21? What is the relationship between 2:13-20 and 2:21-25?

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

Discuss Christ's example. What are the circumstances surrounding His suffering which make it exemplary? Why did He undergo such suffering? How did He respond to undeserved suffering?

Is the phrase, "by whose stripes you were healed" best understood as physical or spiritual healing? Why?

To whom do the stray sheep refer? Why do you think Peter uses this image here? Meditate on the plight of a lost and straying sheep. How should this affect our outlook on unbelievers?

1 Peter 3:1-12

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with your group. Review your verse from last week.

Make 2 observations per verse (or **more** if you can). Write a summary sentence for this paragraph. Briefly outline this section and integrate it with your outlines from the previous sections.

Write down 5 interpretive questions from this paragraph.

Read the section on "Figurative Language" in your Bible study manual. Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week. As you are reading, write down any figures of speech used by Peter.

To whom is a wife to submit? (3:1,5; cf. Eph 5:22-24) Does a wife's submission to her unbelieving husband guarantee his conversion? (cf. 1 Cor 7:13-16) What then is the goal of proper "behavior"? (cf. 2:12)

What is God's standard of beauty for women (cf. Is. 53:2,3; 1 Sam. 16:7; Gal. 5:21,22)? What bearing does this have on our priorities?

Why might a woman be "frightened by fear" (3:6)? Is this fear different from the fear in 3:2? How can this fear be faced and overcome effectively? (cf. 3:13-17; 4:19)

What is the significance of "likewise" in v. 7?

What are the keys to a man's correctly responding to his wife? What does Peter mean by "heirs together of the grace of life"? (cf. Rom 8:17; Eph 3:6; Heb 11:9) What is our inheritance (3:9)? In what sense is a woman a "weaker vessel"?

1 Peter 3:13-22

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with your group. Review your verse from last week.

Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week.

Make 2 observations per verse (or **more** if you can) and write down 5 interpretive questions. Write a summary sentence for this paragraph. Briefly outline this section and integrate it with your outlines from the previous sections.

Make one application from this section that you will work on this week.

Read the section on "Mechanical Layouts" and re-read the section on "Structural Indicators" in your Bible study manual. Do a mechanical layout for 3:13-22.

What does it mean to "sanctify" the Lord God in your hearts (3:15)? How should this help a person in the midst of unjust suffering? What is the role of "hope" (1:3,13,21; 3:5; 4:19; 5:10) in 1 Peter?

Read Isaiah 8:11-18. How does this passage relate to 1 Peter 3:13-17?

Describe the role of a good conscience in 3:16,21 (cf. 2:19)?

Who are "the spirits in prison" (3:19)? Explain verses 19, 20. Why does Peter use the example of Noah and his ark? Is there a second chance for those who do not respond to the gospel in this lifetime (cf. Heb 9:27)?

In what sense does baptism save us? How does Peter define baptism in this context (3:21)? That is, to what kind of baptism is Peter referring?

What is the significance of Christ being seated at the right hand of God? What theme do you see running throughout 1 Peter from the following verses (1:6,7,11; 2:13,18,21-23; 3:1,22; 4:12,13; 5:5,6)?

1 Peter 4:1-11

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with your group. Review your verse from last week.

Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week.

Make 2 observations per verse (or **more** if you can) and write down 5 interpretive questions. Write a summary sentence for this paragraph. Briefly outline this section and integrate it with your outlines from the previous sections.

Make one application from this section that you will work on this week.

When did Christ “suffer in the flesh” (4:1)? When do (or did; note verb tense) we “suffer in the flesh”? Based on your answers, what does it mean to have “ceased from sin”? Is Peter saying that there is the possibility that a believer might never sin again? Use the other verses in 1 Peter that talk about suffering, death, and the spirit to help answer these questions (e.g. 3:18; 4:2,5,6; cf. Rom 8:11).

In what sense has the gospel been preached to those who are dead (4:6)? How do you define “death,” “flesh” and “spirit” in this verse?

Was Peter wrong when he wrote almost 2000 years ago, “The end of all things is at hand...”? Is the end of all things still at hand?

Peter gives a series of commands in 4:7-11. How do they relate to the end of all things being near (note the “therefore” in 4:7)? That is, why are these commands, separately and collectively, important given the nearness of the end?

Define “grace” in 4:10 (recall our definition from 1:2). In what sense are we stewards of God's grace (note: a “gift” is literally a manifestation or bestowal of “grace”)? What is your gift(s) from God? How can you begin to employ it this week?

1 Peter 4:12-19

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with your group. Review your verse from last week.

Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week.

Make 2 observations per verse (or **more** if you can) and write down 5 interpretive questions. Write a summary sentence for this paragraph. Briefly outline this section and integrate it with your outlines from the previous sections.

Make one application from this section that you will work on this week.

How do you reconcile verse 12 with 3:13? Are they contradictory?

What is the significance of the phrase “to the degree (or, insofar as) that you share the sufferings of Christ...”?

What are our natural responses to “fiery trials” and undeserved suffering (cf. 4:12,16)? What beliefs that we have about the way life ought to be cause these responses?

What are the present and future reasons for rejoicing in suffering for Christ's sake (13,14)?

Where else in 1 Peter do we find the themes of Christ's future revelation and glory and our participation in that glory?

Is it conceivable that a Christian could suffer “as a murderer, or thief...” (v.14)?

What does it mean to “glorify God”? What are some specific ways we can “glorify God” (v. 16) in the midst of undeserved suffering? Give some biblical examples of men or women who did this.

In what sense are the righteous saved “with difficulty” (4:18)?

1 Peter 5:1-14

Memorize one verse from 1 Peter with your group. Review your verse from last week.

Read the entire book of 1 Peter this week.

Make 2 observations per verse (or **more** if you can) and write down 5 interpretive questions. Write a summary sentence for this paragraph. Briefly outline this section and integrate it with your outlines from the previous sections.

Make one application from this section that you will work on this week.

When did Peter witness Christ's sufferings (5:1; John 18,19,21)? What influence do you think this event as well as living with Christ for 3 years had on Peter's life and on the lives of the other disciples (2 Peter 1:16-18; 1 John 1:1-4; John 15:27; Acts 1:22)?

What principles for spiritual leadership do you find in verses 1-4? What motivations for leadership are to be carefully avoided? Read Ezekiel 34 to contrast godly and ungodly leadership. What critical truth for effective leadership is found in verse 3? In what ways are we to be "examples" (cf. 1 Tim 3:1-7; 4:12)?

What are some specific ways that we can be "submissive to one another"? What does it mean to be "clothed with humility"? What motivations are given in verses 5-7 for cultivating humility? What incident in Christ's life might Peter be thinking of here (cf. John 13)?

What are some of the ways Satan seeks to "devour" Christians? How are we to respond to his attack?

What does Peter mean by "true grace" in verse 12 (that is, Peter says, "*this* is the true grace of God." What is *this*)? Are there ways that the grace of God can be falsely portrayed? If so, how (cf. Jude 4)?

Biblical Theology of 1 Peter

Read the section on “Synthesis” in your Bible study manual.

Create a “biblical theology” of 1 Peter, using the categories of theology listed in your Bible study manual and any others that you think are relevant to this book.

Now that you have worked through the entire book, write a concise summary sentence for 1 Peter and complete/refine your outline of the book.