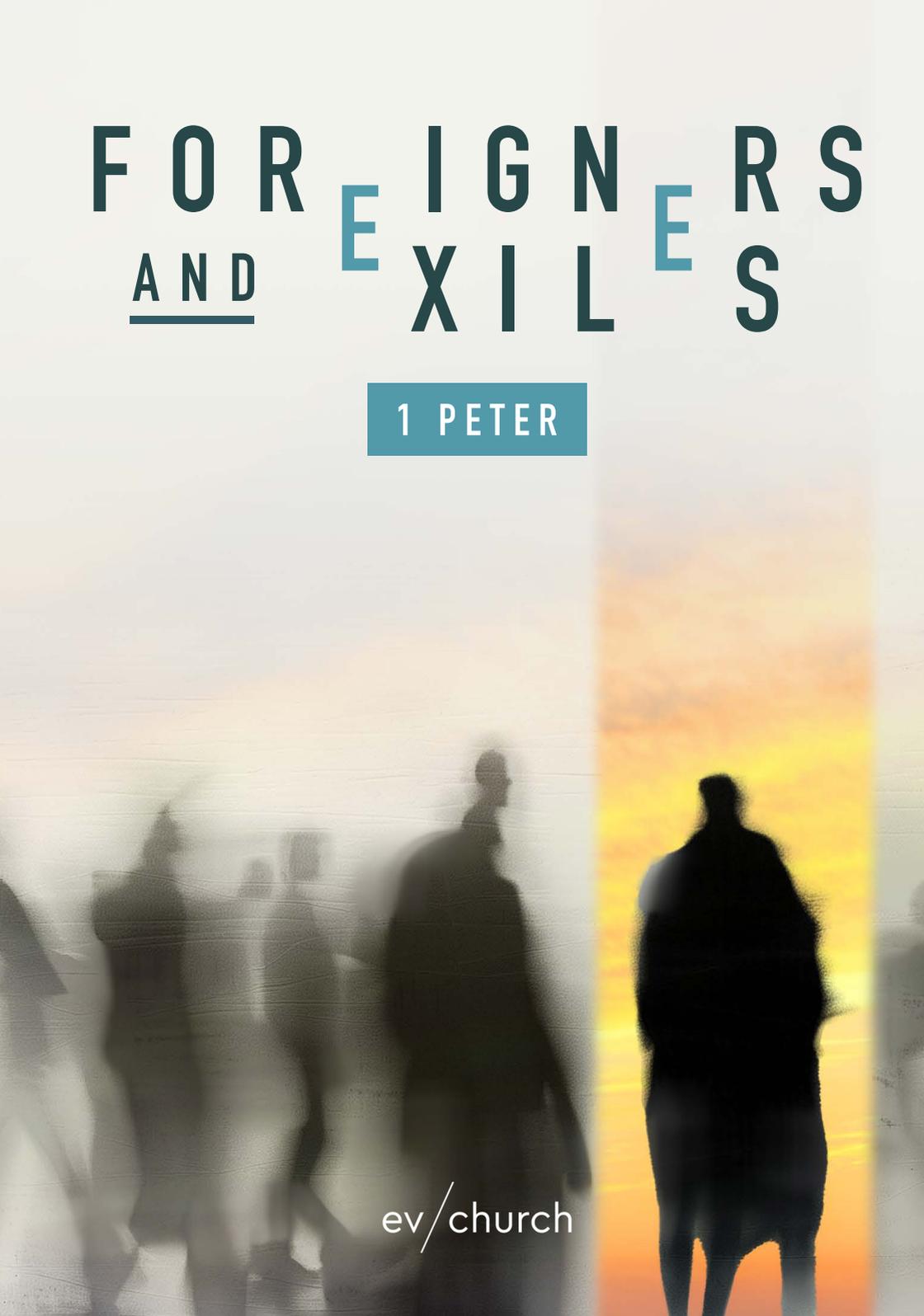


FOR E I G N E R S AND E X I L E S

1 PETER

ev/church

The background of the entire page is a blurred photograph of a group of people walking in a hallway. The lighting is soft and diffused, with a prominent vertical band of bright, warm light (yellow and orange) on the right side, suggesting a window or a light source. The silhouettes of the people are dark and out of focus, creating a sense of movement and a shared, somewhat anonymous experience.

1 PETER: FOREIGNERS AND EXILES

TERM 2	PASSAGE	TITLE
Week 1	1 Peter 1:1-9	A Living Hope
Week 2	1 Peter 1:10-12	The Prophets Spoke For Us
Week 3	1 Peter 1:13-2:3	Be Holy, For Many Reasons
Week 4	1 Peter 2:4-10	Living Stones
Week 5	1 Peter 2:11-25	Follow The Shepherd
Week 6	1 Peter 3:1-7	Wives and Husbands, Fear God
Week 7	1 Peter 3:8-22	Suffer For Doing Good
Week 8	1 Peter 4:1-11	Do God's Will
Week 9	1 Peter 4:12-19	Expect Suffering
Week 10	1 Peter 5:1-14	One Shepherd

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

TERM 2 – 2025

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by his Spirit, through his Word.

2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.



EV CHURCH SUBSCRIBE



Sign up to keep up-to-date with EV news, or to receive these notes as a daily email at evchurch.info/subscribe



SOCIAL MEDIA



like us on facebook page **EVChurchErina**



follow at Instagram **@evchurch**



join the 'EV Church All In' group:
facebook.com/groups/evchurch

GIVING AT EV CHURCH

The New Testament teaches us to give generously, regularly and joyfully. Please join with us in bringing to the Coast solid hope in Jesus.

More info on giving and account details: evchurch.info/giving

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible – amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God’s purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It’s totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term’s suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Week 5	Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Exodus 11-15, Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 1: TERM 2

Week 1	Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

YEAR 1: TERM 3

Week 1	Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: TERM 4

- | | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 1

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 2

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Week 5 Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8
- Week 6 Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10
- Week 7 Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12
- Week 8 Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14
- Week 9 Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16
- Week 10 Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20

YEAR 2: TERM 3

- Week 1 Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1
- Week 2 Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40
- Week 3 Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50
- Week 4 Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6
- Week 5 Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10
- Week 6 Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20
- Week 7 Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30
- Week 8 Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Week 9 Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4
- Week 10 Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

YEAR 2: TERM 4

- Week 1 Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7
- Week 2 Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13
- Week 3 Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5
- Week 4 Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John
- Week 5 Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5
- Week 6 Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10
- Week 7 Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21
- Week 8 Haggai 1-2; John 1-12
- Week 9 Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17
- Week 10 Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

INTRODUCTION

According to the opening verse, this letter was written by Simon Peter, who was one of Jesus' disciples from the very beginning (Luke 5:1-11). Some people have noticed that the style of writing in 1 Peter seems to be too advanced for a Galilean fisherman. It's likely that while Peter provided the content of the letter, it was penned by Silas, or he at least helped Peter (1 Peter 5:12). It was probably written before Pontus and Bithynia were joined into one region in 72AD, which could be why they're listed separately in 1:1. It also probably wasn't written as late as John's Gospel, or Revelation, as Peter doesn't seem to feel the need to deal with the kinds of heresies that popped up at those later dates around Jesus' humanity and divinity.

Peter's big goal is to see God's people recognise themselves as foreigners and aliens (1:1, 17 and 2:11). This language of "foreigners and exiles" isn't so much stressing the idea that we're looking forward to heaven as our real home, like Hebrews 13:14 does. Rather, Peter wants us to recognise that our pattern for living shouldn't come from the people around us. Abraham describes himself using the same words in the Greek version of the Old Testament in Genesis 23:4. He's not thinking vertically about heaven, he's thinking horizontally about how different he is from those around him. Don't just copy the way of life of those around us, Christ is the pattern for our lives. How do we pattern ourselves from Christ? Peter will show us the way.

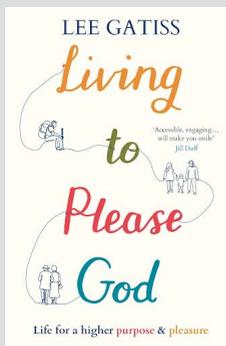
This Term of Daily Reading Notes

Reading the Bible isn't too difficult. It's a very normal process of reading carefully, figuring out what God is saying to us. This term, the Daily Reading Notes will take a simple approach to help you read 1 Peter naturally and carefully. In Growth Group, your leader might lead studies in a similar way. It's amazing what you can realise is in a passage, asking the same questions but with a group of people with God's Spirit in them. Our hope is that this term will give you more confidence in your own Bible reading, and demystify the whole process. God's word is clear and alive and active.

FOREIGNERS AND EXILES

Book Recommendation:

Living To Please God by Lee Gatiss



1 Peter includes many encouragements about how God views us. We're precious to him, we're his children, special (holy), we're a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, and more! God has done so much for us, and promises to do so much for, in, and through us. Naturally, we want to live to please our loving Father.

Lee Gatiss' book is another encouragement, among many, to live in the way that pleases God. What are the things we can do to please God? What are the ways of thinking that please God? But also, as someone who wants to please God, what impact will pleasing God have on me? Are there tricks from our world that though they might seem like they'll make us happy, in fact they're nothing but Satan's cunning deceptions?

This book will help you to please your heavenly Father, so it's worth it!

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV®

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.

Used with permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

WEEK 1: 1 PETER 1:1-9

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 1:1-9

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of 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, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with 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. This inheritance is 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 all 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 the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—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 end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (NIV)

Prayer: Pray that God would help you see more praiseworthy things from these verses as you come back to them again and again.

A LIVING HOPE

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 1:1-9 (again)

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41;
Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24

1. How could you break the passage down into smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading.

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 1: 1 PETER 1:1-9

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 1:1-9 (again)

Think about this passage and the idea of inheritance. This letter was written to people who had little hope of earthly inheritance. See in verse 1, they're exiles, and they're scattered. Like refugees or migrants, exiles are people who've had to leave their lands behind. Their intergenerational inheritance had to be abandoned.

However, they're God's elect (verse 1). They've also been chosen by God (verse 2). They might have lost everything, but God has found them.

They've been given "new birth into a living hope" (verse 3). This "living hope" is living in several ways. It comes from Jesus' resurrection to life (verse 3). It is a hope that is alive in them because of their new birth (verse 3). It is also a hope that looks forward to a future life (verse 4).

It's not only that their inheritance is protected for them, but also that they are protected for their inheritance. All believers also share in the same two-sided protection. And what is the inheritance? It's "the salvation of your souls," from the end of verse 9.

What a great comfort this would have been to them from God. What a comfort it is for us. Despite our own fragility, even the fragility of our faith, God will make sure to bring us into our inheritance.

Prayer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Take some time to pray.

A LIVING HOPE

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 2: 1 PETER 1:10-12

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

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 the Messiah 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. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

THE PROPHETS SPOKE FOR US

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12B

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3;
Matthew 25-26

1. How could you break this tiny passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Put each section into your own words.
3. Summarise what's in each section.
4. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 2: 1 PETER 1:10-12

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12

Sometimes people try to separate the Old Testament (OT) from the New Testament (NT). They might do this by saying that the God of the OT was different. Perhaps he was all about rules, and earning your salvation. Then, in the NT, Jesus came and saved the day! But the NT doesn't see itself or the OT that way. Notice the links here.

The OT prophets spoke of God's grace, in verse 10. They spoke of God's salvation. And not a salvation earned by obedience. Peter is saying it was "Concerning this salvation" that the prophets spoke about. That's the salvation of verses 1-9: Grace, sanctification, election, great mercy, new birth, a living hope, imperishable inheritance, a salvation by faith, because of Jesus' death and resurrection.

In verse 11, you see that it was "the Spirit of Christ" who was in those prophets, predicting the sufferings of the Messiah. Christ was with them, in them, telling them about his future salvation. Surely it was a salvation that they too would be saved by. Christ isn't only spoken about in the OT, it's Christ himself who speaks in the OT.

Verse 12 shows you another OT-NT connection. Those prophets were serving us. We'd be the ones to see these things fulfilled. The same Spirit who was in the prophets, was speaking through the apostles and NT preachers. When they preached the Gospel, they were preaching the same salvation as those OT prophets.

Prayer: Praise God for his connected grace through all of salvation history.

THE PROPHETS SPOKE FOR US

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 3: 1 PETER 1:13-2:3

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

1 13 Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. 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 person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners 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 ancestors, 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 each other, 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 people 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 endures forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

2 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. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

BE HOLY, FOR MANY REASONS

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28

1. How could you break this passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 3: 1 PETER 1:13-2:3

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:3

Another way that people sometimes drive a wedge between the Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT) is by attempting to drive a wedge between the Father and the Son. But see how impossible that is in these verses in 1 Peter.

First, holy living is motivated both from the future grace that the Son brings (verse 13) and the holy character of the Father (verses 15-16).

Second, live in fear of the Father's impartial judgement because you've been bought by the Son's precious blood (verses 17-19), which the Son spilled for you because the Father chose him to do this (verse 20).

Third, it's by having faith in the Son that you have faith in the Father (verse 21).

This connection is so inseparably close that Peter moves to the language of "word". A person's word is very close to who they are. Even more so with God whose word is the perfect communication of himself.

So, just as we were not purchased by perishable metals but the Son's precious blood (verses 18-19), and given new birth through the Son's resurrection (verses 3-4) into an imperishable inheritance (verse 4), we've also been born again not by any perishable seed, but by God's word (verse 23), which endures forever (verses 24-25).

Prayer: Praise the Father for the salvation we have from his Son, and praise the Son for the salvation we have from his Father. And don't sin.

BE HOLY, FOR MANY REASONS

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 4: 1 PETER 2:4-10

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans 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 cornerstone,” 8 and, “A stone that causes people 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, God’s special possession, 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. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

LIVING STONES

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

1. How could you break this passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 4: 1 PETER 2:4-10

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

Peter uses the technique of contrast here to show us how absolutely opposed people's responses to Jesus are.

The first contrast is in verse 4, and it's the contrast between humanity's rejection of Christ (the living stone), and God's delight in him as precious. It shows how deeply opposed we are to God.

The second is between those being built into the living building with that living stone (verses 5-6). They are called "those who believe" (verse 7). They are contrasted with those who don't believe, who reject Christ like a builder rejects a bad brick (verse 7).

The outcome is also a contrast, as for one group they'll never be put to shame because of this stone (verse 6), the stone is precious to them as he is to God (verses 7 and 4). To the other group, the stone will cause them to stumble and fall (verse 8).

These two "destinies" aren't random, but have been brought about by God (verses 8-9). The God of the Bible is a choosing, destining, deliberate God (1:2, 3, 15, 20, 23, 2:5, 8, 9).

The result of God's sovereign rule is the gathering together of people who were nothing into God's glorious people. God's sovereign rule means that his mercy is mercy all the way down to the depths.

Prayer: Praise God for his great mercy to us in Christ, which is in stark contrast to what we deserve for our rejection of him.

LIVING STONES

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 5: 1 PETER 2:11-25

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 2:11-25

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage 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 human authority: whether to the emperor, 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 people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

18 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are 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 cross, 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. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 2:11-25

1. How could you break this passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 5: 1 PETER 2:11-25

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 2:11-25

There are a whole range of motivations for holiness in the Christian life.

We're to be motivated by our own well being – sinful desires aren't good for us, they wage war against our soul (verse 11). God motivates us by our desire for his future glory (verse 12). God motivates us by our desire to see truth and goodness protected, as the ignorant talk of fools is silenced (verse 15). He motivates us by calling us to be who we truly are – free but not to sin, freely enslaved to him (verse 16). God motivates us simply by telling us what to do, as pure simple obedience (verse 17).

God motivates us by the intrinsic goodness of putting up with pain for God's sake (verse 19), in contrast with the justice of deserved punishment (verse 20). Again, God sees our suffering for his sake as precious. God motivates us by explaining to us that suffering is intrinsic to our Christian calling, because we've been called to follow Christ (verse 21-22). God reminds us that he judges justly; our unjust suffering is not the end of the matter (verse 23).

Most significantly, God motivates us by suffering for us. As an example, yes (verses 22-23), but not merely as an example. He suffered as our saviour. He suffered because of our sins not his own. He submitted to death to free us from our sins, and gave us a new life of righteousness. He was wounded for our healing. God motivates us by gathering us to himself. He wages peace against our hostile souls.

Prayer: Praise the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls.

FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 6: 1 PETER 3:1-7

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

1 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes.

4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. 5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS, FEAR GOD

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6

1. How could you break this passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 6: 1 PETER 3:1-7

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 3:1-7

This passage helps us see the equality and difference between men and women and some ways this is to be expressed within marriage. A similar passage you might like to read is Ephesians 5:21-33.

Verse 7 especially raises questions. It sounds quite blunt. Claire Smith's book helpfully highlights the way we can't just dismiss this passage as culturally time-bound. Her whole book is worth reading, and chapter 6 is incredibly helpful on 1 Peter 3:1-7. It helps us think more clearly about submission and obedience, what it is and what it is not (Claire Smith, *God's Good Design*). Though men and women are different, in a more important sense they are equal, created equal (Genesis 1:27) and equally heirs of eternal life (1 Peter 3:7).

Wives (and husbands), notice what true beauty is. Beauty and goodness are two sides of the same coin in God's world. Yes, nice hair, clothes, and jewellery can look nice, but true goodness is lasting inner beauty. Christ-likeness should be the aim for us all. This passage isn't a prohibition of wearing nice clothes, but it helps us think about the heart behind how we dress - there is much to think about and consider.

It's calling us to have our beauty come from somewhere else. Adorn yourself as the God-hoping women of the Old Testament did. True beauty never goes out of fashion in God's eyes.

There may still be questions, but there will be opportunities to think more in Church on Sunday and at a Hot Topics event on the 23rd of June.

Prayer: Pray for husbands and wives, men and women, for yourself and for others, that we would all obey these words from the heart.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS, FEAR GOD

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 7: 1 PETER 3:8-22

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

8 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. 11 They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17 For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits. 20 to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8

1. How could you break this passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 7: 1 PETER 3:8-22

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22

It is much easier to love sinful people when you realise that you've already won.

When you're wronged, how difficult is it to "be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble" (verse 8)? The temptation is surely to repay evil with evil. But Christ truly is the Lord. He is risen, seated on his throne, and will return to judge the living and the dead. He is at God's right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him. You have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

If the one wronging you is an unbeliever, they're in terrible danger. They have, probably hidden deep down, an awareness of their own sin and God's coming wrath (Romans 1:18-20). Perhaps they're conscious that this life will be as good as it gets for them. But without hearing the Gospel, they'll have no sense that there is a period of amnesty, where there's a safe way to come to God. The way of grace and forgiveness.

So, remembering that Christ is Lord, be gentle. Be respectful. Love them, pray for them, and tell them that there's hope. Your hope is based on the same God that they're afraid to face. It's based on his mercy in Christ.

Prayer: God's ears are attentive to your prayers. Pray for God to forgive those who are mistreating you. Thank God for the Gospel of grace.

SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 8: 1 PETER 4:1-11

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. 2 As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. 3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. 4 They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. 5 But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

DO GOD'S WILL

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10

1. How could you break this passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 8: 1 PETER 4:1-11

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

See how closely Peter thinks we're connected to Christ. Since Christ suffered, we should have his mindset. Not because we've suffered, but because he has suffered. Because you have faith in Christ, you have suffered in the body – Christ's body! Therefore, since we're connected to the sufferer, we're done with sin. To live in sin now would be like being drunk. Unaware of our surroundings. Unaware of what's appropriate. Unaware of the time we live in.

The Gospel was preached before Jesus came. Again, Peter sees the rich connections between the Old and New Testaments. The faithful remnant of Israel, who died well before Christ arrived, believed in the Gospel. Some of them died in the wilderness. Some of them were killed by their own people. From a human perspective, they were judged by God. But, because of the Gospel of Christ, they're alive!

This world won't go on forever. Peter sounds like a crazy person, "the end of all things is near" (verse 7). But he's alert, sober, and sane. God is coming back, and everything he has planned will come to be, for the praise of his name through Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Pray that God's "Spirit of glory" would help you to suffer gloriously.

DO GOD'S WILL

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 9: 1 PETER 4:12-19

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" 19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

EXPECT SUFFERING

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57;
Acts 11-12

1. How could you break this passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 9: 1 PETER 4:12-19

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

Consider how glorious Jesus' sufferings were.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. – Isaiah 53:7 (NIV, 2011)

³⁷Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ³⁸Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴²"He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. – Matthew 27:37-44 (NIV, 2011)

What a blessing, to be insulted because of the name of Christ. How could we be ashamed to bear the name "Christian"!? Yes, of course we're weak, but wow, we do have a faithful Creator.

Prayer: Pray that God's "Spirit of glory" would help you to suffer gloriously.

EXPECT SUFFERING

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

WEEK 10: 1 PETER 5:1-14

DAY 1

Read 1 Peter 5

The passage for this week is printed below. Circle or underline anything that seems interesting or important. Keep using this page as you go through the week.

1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And 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. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

12 With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you briefly, encouraging you and testifying that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. 13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. 14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (NIV)

Prayer: Bring your reflections to God in prayer.

ONE SHEPHERD

DAY 2

Read 1 Peter 5

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3;
Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14

1. How could you break this passage down into even smaller sections?
2. Summarise what's in each section.
3. Give each section a heading

Prayer: Pray based on the smaller sections you identified. There might be something to praise God for, ask him for, or tell him.

WEEK 10: 1 PETER 5:1-14

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 5 and Ezekiel 34

1. What connections do you see between the New Testament and the Old Testament here?
2. What do we learn about leaders among God's people in these two passages?
3. What sort of impact do you think God is intending to have on us as we read these words today?

Prayer: Thank God for his long promised "true grace" (1 Peter 5:12).

ONE SHEPHERD

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

