

Daily Bible Readings

1 PETER

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WEEK 1: 1 PETER 1:1-13

Day 1: 1 Peter 1:1-2 and 5:12

1 Peter 1:1-2

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.

1 Peter 5:12

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.

Exploring the passage

1. How does Peter describe those he is writing to? 1:1
2. Why are they elect exiles? 1:2
3. Why does Peter write to the elect exiles? 5:12

Explaining the passage

Peter calls believers elect exiles of the dispersion. 'Elect' because God chose us to be his people. 'Exiles' because we are often maligned in this world precisely because God has chosen us. 'Dispersed' because we are waiting for God to bring us together in his eternal home.

God has made us his elect exiles. By God's grace and initiative, the Spirit has set us apart to be the holy people who serve Jesus in an unbreakable covenant relationship that Jesus won for us on the cross. ('Obedience and sprinkled' are covenant words - see [Exodus 24:3-8](#) and [Hebrews 12:24-25](#) and [Hebrews 9:13-15](#).)

Peter reminds us that we have been saved by God's grace alone so that we will stand firm when suffering as exiles tempts us to waver, 5:12.

Extra: Believers are chosen exiles just like the father of faith, Abraham – see [Genesis 23:4](#) and [Hebrews 11:8-10](#) and [Hebrews 11:13](#).

Day 2: 1 Peter 1:3-6a

So far in 1 Peter ...

God has made us his elect exiles by his grace in the gospel.

1 Peter 1:3-6a

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...

Exploring the passage

1. How does Peter describe God? 1:3a
2. Why does Peter praise God? 1:3
3. What assurances does Peter give that our eternal future is certain? 1:4 and 5
4. How are we to respond? 1:6

Explaining the passage

Praise God! By his undeserved mercy in Jesus, sinners are born again – God the Father of Jesus Christ becomes our God and Father too. Through the costly death and resurrection of God's only son we have a new father, a new family and a new future.

Hope, inheritance and salvation all refer to the life we will enjoy with God and his family when Jesus returns at Judgement Day. Our inheritance is imperishable because it has been won by Jesus's death and resurrection and because God keeps it – nothing or no-one can destroy it. Not even our weak faith can stop us reaching our eternal future because God guards our faith. Unlike all worldly hopes and inheritances which are destroyed by sin and death, our eternal future is certain. Rejoice!

Day 3: 1 Peter 1:6-9

So far in 1 Peter ...

We rejoice that God has made us his elect exiles by his grace in the gospel with a certain eternal future.

1 Peter 1:6-9

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.

Exploring the passage

1. How long are our grievous trials? 1:6
2. What do trials do? 1:7
3. What do we rejoice in now? 1:8-9

Explaining the passage

God's elect exiles experience grievous trials in this world which are short when compared with our eternal glory, 1:6 and 5:10. Trials assures us that our faith in Jesus is the real thing and our future with Jesus is certain.

Gold is refined by fire to make it more precious and less impure. In the same way trials refine our love, joy and faith in Jesus now, and will result in glory when Christ returns. We rejoice in Jesus, not in the trials. How wonderful it is that God can produce faith in us that even though we have not seen Jesus, we love him and rejoice in him now.

Tested faith is part of God's grace towards us – trials help us stand firm in Jesus.

Day 4: 1 Peter 1:10-13

So far in 1 Peter ...

God's elect exiles rejoice in Jesus and their certain eternal future with him, even more so because of faith-refining trials now.

1 Peter 1:10-13

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.

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.

Exploring the passage

1. What does the Old Testament tell us about the Christ? 1:10-11
2. What reasons does Peter give us to rejoice in Jesus? 1:12
3. How are we to respond to all that we have learnt about God's grace so far in 1 Peter? 1:13

Explaining the passage

In the Old Testament, God promised salvation by grace through his Christ who would suffer to save people from sin and then receive eternal glory. We are assured of our salvation because God's promise has been fulfilled in Jesus, and has come to us by the Spirit in the apostle's gospel. We rejoice in this salvation because we have the joy and privilege of knowing Jesus is the Christ – the very thing the prophets and the angels longed for.

We are to set our hearts on the grace that we will receive when Jesus comes to judge. Our certain future hope changes our lives now. It gives us a new purpose, new mindset and new lifestyle. It even enables us to suffer like Christ did while we wait for his eternal glory.

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

Day 1: 1 Peter 1:13-21 – Part A

So far in 1 Peter ...

By God's grace in Jesus, we have been born again as his elect exiles who rejoice in Jesus and our eternal future with him, even in trials.

1 Peter 1:13-21

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.

Exploring the passage

1. Who are the two fathers in this passage? 1:17-18
2. How are these fathers different from each other? 1:16-18
3. How have we moved from the family of our forefathers to God's family? 1:18-21

Explaining the passage

We were all born into our forefathers' family, inheriting their futile ways of rejecting God. But by his precious blood and perfect sacrifice, Christ has paid the price to ransom us from our sinful forefathers and make us the obedient children of God the Father.

No-one is worthy of being in the family of the holy God and Judge. Only the death and resurrection of Jesus could satisfy God's just condemnation of sinners and bring us into relationship with God. This was always God's plan even before the creation of the world. What a joy it is for us to know Jesus who fulfils God's plan.

When we know the cost God's only son paid to ransom us, we will stand firm in God's precious grace.

Day 2: 1 Peter 1:13-21 – Part B

So far in 1 Peter ...

By his costly sacrifice, Christ has ransomed us from the futile ways of our forefathers to be the obedient children of God the Father.

1 Peter 1:13-21

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.

Exploring the passage

1. What are we commanded to do in:
 - a. 1:13?
 - b. 1:14-16
 - c. 1:17

Explaining the passage

Because we are those who will receive grace when Jesus returns to judge, we are to let this future reality shape our whole lives now.

Because we are obedient children of the holy Father, we are to reflect the family likeness of our Father in holiness. Peter does not say ‘become obedient children by being holy’. He says be what you are. By God’s grace and Christ’s sacrifice you have been made obedient children of the holy Father, so be like your heavenly Father in holiness.

Being ransomed by Christ enables us to live for God. Because we are now those who fear God, not man, we will be exiles in this world and no longer conform to the ways of our forefathers. Instead, fixing our eyes on God’s grace we will live God’s way.

Day 3: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3 – Part A

So far in 1 Peter ...

By his costly sacrifice, Christ has ransomed us from the futile ways of our forefathers to be the obedient children of God the Father. We imitate our Father's holiness.

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

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 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.

Exploring the passage

1. God commands his family to love one another, 1:22. How is loving one another possible? 1:23
2. How is the word of God described? 1:23-25
3. 'Spiritual milk' in 2:1 is literally 'wordy milk'. What is to be our attitude to God's word? 2:2-3

Explaining the passage

We can only love one another because we have been 'born again' through God's word which is the good news of salvation in Jesus given by the apostles.

Our physical birth was of perishable seed. Like flowers and grass our flesh has some glory, but it is not a lasting glory – it fades and dies because we are born sinners. In comparison, God's word is his imperishable seed that is living and abiding – it lasts forever. God's word, the gospel of Jesus, brings new birth and new hearts to death-bound sinners and makes them loving members of God's family.

Like newborn infants we grow in love by continually feeding on God's word. Are you craving God's word?

Day 4: 1 Peter 1:22-2:3 – Part B

So far in 1 Peter ...

By Christ's costly sacrifice we have been ransomed from our forefathers' futile ways to be the obedient children of God the Father in holiness. By Christ's imperishable gospel word, we have been born again to love God's family.

1 Peter 1:22-2:3

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 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.

Exploring the passage

1. What does love for God's family look like? 1:22
2. What doesn't love for God's family look like? 2:1
3. How do we grow in love? 2:2-3

Explaining the passage

When we were born again through God's word of salvation in Jesus, we were made pure and enabled to love our Christian family with a genuine brotherly love. Sincere and earnest love strips off all malice (evil), deceit (manipulation), hypocrisy (saying one thing and meaning another), envy (wanting what another has, literally wishing them dead), slander (backbiting) – behaviours which place me, not Christ and his family, at the centre.

It is the word of God that keeps us in the gospel of grace and enables us to stand firm in it. Pray we keep God's word at the centre of our gatherings so that we stand firm in the gospel and grow together in genuine brotherly love that is wise and deep.

WEEK 3: 1 PETER 2:4-10

Day 1: 1 Peter 2:4-6

So far in 1 Peter ...

Rejoice! By God's mercy:

- We have new birth to imperishable inheritance in God's family through Christ's death and resurrection
- We have been made his obedient children with his family likeness of holiness through Christ's costly ransom
- We have pure hearts that love God's family through God's imperishable word of salvation in Christ.

1 Peter 2:4-6

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone— rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵you 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. ⁶For 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.”

Exploring the passage

1. How does humanity regard Jesus Christ? 2:4
2. How does God regard Jesus Christ? 2:4
3. What is God doing for believers? 2:5-6

Explaining the passage

Jesus, who is chosen and precious to God, was rejected and put to death by humanity. God raised Jesus to life again to be the stone on which his new temple is founded. By God's mercy we become members of God's new temple through Jesus. No longer is the temple a physical building in Jerusalem. It is the gathering of those who are like living stones because they believe in Jesus, the living stone.

God is building those who believe in Jesus into his spiritual house to be his holy priesthood. In the Old Testament, the priesthood referred to those who were set aside to serve God by proclaiming God to the people and praying to God for the people. Now all believers are servants of God in this priesthood. What a joy and privilege we have in Jesus.

Day 2: 1 Peter 2:6-8

So far in 1 Peter ...

We have been made servants in God's new temple through Jesus the living stone.

1 Peter 2:6-8

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.

Exploring the passage

1. How do humanity and God differ in their regard of Jesus Christ? 2:6-8
2. What do those who believe in Jesus receive? 2:6d-7a
3. What is it to reject Jesus? 2:8

Explaining the passage

Jesus is chosen and precious to God – he is the cornerstone, the foundation, on which God builds his new temple. We become members of God's household when we rest on Jesus the cornerstone for salvation by believing his gospel word. Believers will not be shamed, but honoured, on Judgement Day.

Jesus was rejected and put to death by humanity. People continue to reject Jesus as they 'disobey the word' – that is, they fail to believe the gospel of salvation in Jesus. Everyone deserves God's eternal condemnation for their rejection of Jesus. But by his mercy God brings some to believe in the gospel and so be living stones in his temple. Thank God that Jesus is the cornerstone and in him we are members of God's household.

Day 3: 1 Peter 2:4-5 and 9-10

So far in 1 Peter ...

Those who believe the gospel of salvation in Jesus are members of God's eternal household and no longer under his condemnation.

1 Peter 2:4-5 and 9-10

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. ...

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.

Exploring the passage

1. What terms are used to describe God's people? 2:9a
2. What are we to proclaim about God? 2:9b
3. What were we and what are we now? 2:10

Explaining the passage

People from all nations who believe in Jesus are the new Israel, 2:9. The Old Testament descriptions of God's chosen nation, Israel, are now applied to the church. The church is God's:

- Chosen race – through Jesus, God gives new birth to people from all nations to be his race.
- Royal priesthood – through Jesus, God makes people priests to serve his royal King Jesus.
- Holy nation – through Jesus, people are ransomed from sin to be like God in holiness.
- Own possession – through Jesus, God has created his church to do his will.

We are all born into the kingdom of sin (darkness), but by God's mercy in Jesus, we have been given new birth into his kingdom (light). As God's church we proclaim God's mercy in Jesus to each other and to the world.

How are we going as a church that glorifies God by proclaiming the gospel?

Day 4: Review 1:1-2:10

So far in 1 Peter ...

1 Peter 1:1-2:10 is the first of three sections in Peter's letter, and it starts and ends with God's mercy, see 1:3 and 2:9. It explains God's grace so that we stand firm in it.

Reviewing 1 Peter 1:1-2:10

Read the whole of [1 Peter 1:1-2:10](#), or read the excerpts below, and note:

- What does Peter teach us about the grace of God?
- What does Peter teach us about how we are to stand firm in the grace of God?

Excerpts from 1 Peter 1:1-2:10

1 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. ...

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. ...

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. ... ²⁵ And this is the word that was preached to you.

2 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 ...

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. ...

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.

Explaining the passage

God's grace in Christ changes all of life.

Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we stand firm in God's grace by rejoicing in our new birth into his imperishable family

Because of Christ's costly ransom, we stand firm in God's grace by imitating our Father's holiness

Because of Christ's imperishable word of salvation, we stand firm by loving God's family and craving his word

Because Christ died and rose again as the cornerstone, we stand firm in God's grace by proclaiming God's mercy in Christ to each other and to the world.

WEEK 4: 1 PETER 2:11-3:7

Day 1: 1 Peter 2:11-12

So far in 1 Peter ...

By God's mercy:

- We have new birth to God's imperishable family through Christ's death and resurrection
- We have been made his children to live holy lives through Christ's costly ransom
- We have pure hearts that love God's family through God's imperishable word of salvation in Christ
- We are priests in God's household praising God for his mercy in Christ the cornerstone.

In 1 Peter 2:11-4:11, Peter shows us what it is to glorify the God of mercy.

1 Peter 2:11-12

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.

Exploring the passage

1. Who are we? 2:11a
2. How are we to live?
 - 2:11b
 - 2:12a
3. How will we be received in this world? 2:12b
4. What will happen when we live God's way? 2:12c

Explaining the passage

Believers are God's beloved exiles. Beloved because God has brought us into his family by his mercy in Christ. Exiles because we are not at home in this world as we proclaim our Father's praises on our way to his home.

Believers face a spiritual battle on two fronts. Firstly, the sinful passions of our forefathers remain in our flesh. Secondly, in the world and in some households, we will be spoken against as evildoers for living God's holy way. When we are rejected, we are to remember who we are in Christ and so fight against our natural passions and do what is right. This is God's way for unbelievers to hear the gospel and glorify God when Christ returns.

Pray for the opportunity to sacrificially love someone who maligns your faith in Jesus.

Day 2: 1 Peter 2:13-17

So far in 1 Peter ...

When we are maligned for declaring God's mercy in Christ, we aren't to respond sinfully. Instead, we are to do good so that unbelievers may hear the gospel and glorify God when Christ returns.

1 Peter 2:13-17

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.

Exploring the passage

1. Highlight references to obeying God.
2. What is it to do good as citizen? 2:13-14 and 17
3. How does God use our godly citizenship for his glory? 2:15
4. How does the grace of the gospel enable us to do good? 2:16

Explaining the passage

We submit to authorities for the Lord's sake – as his servants who fear him and do his will. Honouring the people God has placed in authority glorifies God and silences the foolish who ignorantly accuse God's people of doing evil.

The struggle we have with submission is exemplified in Adam and Eve's failure to even submit to God's perfect authority in Eden. In contrast, Jesus didn't not consider submission demeaning but willingly submitted to God's will so that we would receive God's forgiveness. Knowing God's grace in forgiving our sin enables us to submit. God's grace gives us the freedom of being his servants who desire not to sin, even when obedience is costly. What a privilege and joy it is that God uses our obedience to achieve his purposes.

Extra: Obedience to God determines both our submission and the rare times we are not to submit – recall Peter's example in [Acts 5](#), especially verses 27-29 and 40-42.

Day 3: 1 Peter 2:18-25

So far in 1 Peter ...

When we are maligned for declaring God's mercy in Christ, we are to do good which includes submitting to human authorities.

1 Peter 2:18-25

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.

Exploring the passage

1. Highlight references to obeying God in 2:18-20. Note: ‘respect’ in 2:18 is ‘respect for God.’
2. What are servants to do and not to do? 2:18 and 20a
3. How does God view our suffering for doing good? 2:19 and 20b
4. How does Christ enable us to suffer unjustly? 2:22-25

Explaining the passage

Servants are to submit to just and unjust masters because they fear God. Servants are not to sin but they are to do good even if that means suffering unjustly. Twice Peter says that it a ‘gracious thing’ in God’s eyes to suffer unjustly.

Christ suffered unjustly to reconcile unjust sinners to God. When Christ was unjustly punished, he did not sin but entrusted himself to God. Peter highlights Jesus’ sinless speech. Jesus did not respond in kind when he reviled and threatened. Jesus sought the good of those who mistreated him by sacrificially giving his life for them.

God's way is counterintuitive, countercultural, and counterproductive to our earthly minds. But when we know God's grace, we won't retaliate against those who malign us. Instead, we will sacrificially seek their good as Jesus did. In this way God's mercy to us will overflow to those who, like us, are undeserving of it.

Day 4: 1 Peter 3:1-7

So far in 1 Peter ...

When we are maligned for declaring God's mercy in Christ, we are to do good which includes submitting to human authorities and suffering unjustly.

1 Peter 3:1-7

3 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.

Exploring the passage

1. What are wives to do and not to do? Why? 3:1-6
2. Read the example of Sarah in [Genesis 12:10-20](#)
3. What are husbands to do? Why? 3:7

Explaining the passage

Wives are to submit to their own husbands with pure conduct because they fear God. It is God, not the husband, who defines what good conduct is. In God's eyes the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit is very precious. It can even win over unbelieving husbands to hear the gospel. Power dressing for one's gain will not have this effect.

When couples face hardship because they trust God like Abraham and Sarah did, wives are to follow Sarah's example. Sarah did not fear her terrifying circumstances but hoped in God and submitted to Abraham.

Husbands are to seek the good of their wives because husbands and wives are co-heirs in God's grace. A husband's care for his wife will reflect his relationship with God, as the reference to his prayers being hindered signifies. God hears the prayers of the righteous, not those who are opposed to him – [Psalm 34:15-16](#).

Extra: Hardship does not include any type of domestic abuse where for the sake of doing good for one's spouse and children, it is wise and godly for a spouse to seek help.

WEEK 5: PSALM 34 IN 1 PETER

Day 1: Psalm 34:1-3

So far in Peter's letter ...

When we are maligned for declaring God's mercy in Christ, we are to fear God and do good. This week we will look at Psalm 34 because Peter quotes it three times in his letter. Psalm 34 teaches what it is to fear God and do good.

Psalm 34:1-4

Of David. When he pretended to be insane before Abimelek, who drove him away, and he left.

¹ I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.

² I will glory in the Lord;

let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

³ Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.

[Click here](#) if you would like to read the whole of Psalm 34.

Exploring the passage

David, God's king, wrote this psalm after God delivered him from those who sought to kill him. When God rejected Saul as king of Israel, Saul pursued David to kill him. When Saul's supporter, Doeg the Edomite, found David, Ahimelech the priest helped David flee to Gath, the land of Israel's enemies. The king of Gath, Abimelech, (aka Achish), wanted to kill David too. Read [1 Samuel 21](#) for the account of the fearful situation that David faced.

1. What does David praise God for? See first line of Psalm 34 and verse 4
2. What does David call God's people to do? Psalm 34:2-3

Explaining the passage

David faced fearful situations both inside and outside of Israel because he was God's anointed king. David entrusted himself to God who delivered him. God's people, 'the humble', also experience fearful situations like David because they trust in God, see [Psalm 34:19-21](#).

David writes this psalm to teach God's people that because God delivered his king from fearful situations, they can be assured God will deliver them. We can be even more assured because God rescued Jesus, the true David.

Day 2: Psalm 34:4-7

So far in 1 Peter ...

When we are maligned for declaring God's mercy in Christ, we are to fear God and do good. We can be assured God will rescue us because he has rescued his king, Jesus.

Psalm 34:4-7

⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.

⁵ Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with
shame.

⁶ This poor man called, and
the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around
those who fear him,
and he delivers them.

Exploring the passage

1. What name does David use for God?
2. What was King David's experience? 34:4 and 6
3. What was true for David that is also true for God's people? 34:5 and 7

Explaining the passage

'LORD' written in capitals is God's personal name which he revealed to assure his people that he will keep his unbreakable covenant promise to rescue them and bring them into his presence – see [Exodus 6:1-8](#).

Because God has delivered his king from his fears, we too can trust that God will deliver us from our fears. Like David, we can entrust ourselves to God, fearing him and not our circumstances, because our covenant God is steadfast in love and faithful to his promises.

When we experience shame or trouble for being God's people, we are to remember that we are radiant in God's eyes – we will never be put to shame but will be delivered into God's kingdom. As an old preacher said to those threatened him with death, 'You threaten me with heaven!'

Day 3: Psalm 34:8-14

So far in 1 Peter ...

When we are maligned for declaring God's mercy in Christ, we are to fear God who will keep his promise to deliver us.

Psalm 34:8-14

⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

⁹ Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing.

¹⁰ The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

¹¹ Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

¹² Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,

¹³ keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.

¹⁴ Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

Exploring the passage

1. Highlight 'good' and 'fear'.
2. What are we exhorted to do?
3. Read how Peter applies these verses to our lives in 1 Peter [1:25-2:3](#), [2:16-19](#) and [3:9-14](#).

Explaining the passage

When we fear the LORD, we will experience his goodness because he is good – we can taste and see that God is good. We will lack no good thing but will see good days and we will do good, even during trouble.

No wonder David exhorts us to listen to his teaching on fearing God. David teaches us that to fear God is to keep our speech godly; to turn from evil to do good; and to seek and pursue peace.

Peter says: when we have tasted God's goodness in the gospel, we fear God and live his way. God's gospel enables us to love others, not fear those who malign us for proclaiming Jesus, and to know that suffering for Jesus is a blessing, 1 Peter [1:25-2:3](#), [2:16-19](#), [3:9-14](#).

Day 4: Psalm 34:15-22

So far in 1 Peter ...

When we are maligned for declaring God's mercy in Christ, we will experience God's goodness as we fear God and do good.

Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵ The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;
¹⁶ but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth.
¹⁷ The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.
¹⁸ The Lord is close to the broken hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;
²⁰ he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.
²¹ Evil will slay the wicked;
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.
²² The Lord will rescue his servants;
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Exploring the passage

1. Highlight the word 'righteous'.
2. What is life like for the righteous? 34:17-19, 21b
3. What does God do for the righteous? 34:15, 17-20, 22

Explaining the passage

The righteous are those God has redeemed from sin to live in righteousness ([Psalm 34:22](#) and [1 Peter 2:24](#)). In this world the righteous will experience heart and spirit breaking troubles, especially when hated by those opposed to God. They will stand firm in God's mercy because God is near them – he hears their prayers, sustains, protects and delivers them. Peter quotes Psalm 34:15 in [1 Peter 3:12](#).

Christopher Ash writes, "Jesus Christ the King ... has gone before us through deeper troubles than David". In affliction, he feared God, doing good for sinners. "Jesus was not alone, for the Father was close to him, heard his prayers and rescued him by bodily resurrection, so that none of his bones were broken." ([John 16:32](#), [John 11:42-43](#), [John 19:36](#); Psalm 34:20)

"As we sing this psalm with Jesus, he exhorts us to walk in the footsteps of trust, of righteousness of life, and of glad praise for the good covenant Father who will most certainly rescue us in the end."

Quotes: Christopher Ash, Teaching Psalms, Vol. 2, pp. 85-86.

WEEK 6: 1 PETER 3:8-22

Day 1: 1 Peter 3:8-9

So far in 1 Peter ...

God has made us his church to proclaim his mercy in Christ. When maligned for glorifying God, we are to do good, even suffer unjustly as Christ did, so that unbelievers will hear the gospel and glorify God when Christ returns.

1 Peter 3:8-9

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.

Exploring the passage

1. How are we to relate to one another as God's church? 3:8
2. How are we not to relate? 3:9

Explaining the passage

Our relationships at church matter because they declare God's gospel to the watching world. As Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another", John 13:35.

And our relationships at church matter because when we are maligned for believing in Jesus, we need the support of one another. We must take care not to turn inward and revile each other, (as Christian discussions in social media sometimes do).

When our minds are united and humbled by God's grace to us in Jesus, we will love each other with a compassionate and tender brotherly love. A humble and loving church displays God's grace to a watching world and sustains each other in suffering.

Day 2: 1 Peter 3:9-14

So far in 1 Peter ...

God has made us his church to proclaim his mercy in Christ. We do this by having a love for one another that springs from humble minds set on God's grace, and by blessing those who revile us.

1 Peter 3:9-14

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.”

Exploring the passage

1. Highlight words to do with blessing.
2. How are we to respond when we are maligned for proclaiming Christ? 3:9-11
3. Why are we able to respond this way? 3:12-14

Explaining the passage

When we proclaim Christ and live his righteous way, we will sometimes be mistreated and reviled. We are not to retaliate or retreat but are to bless those who malign us. In 3:10-12, Peter uses Psalm 34 to show us what this looks like. Instead of replying with evil and deceitful words we will speak gracious and true words that benefit the other person. Instead of seeking revenge we will do good for the other person and seek peace.

As we saw last week in Psalm 34, God is good, and we experience his goodness and blessing when we fear him and live his way. When we are mistreated, God cares for us and hears our prayers. Fearing our good God, enables us to bless others and not fear them.

Day 3: 1 Peter 3:14-17

So far in 1 Peter ...

When we are reviled for proclaiming Christ we are not to retaliate with evil and deceitful words, but we are to seek the good of the other person.

1 Peter 3:14-17

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.

Exploring the passage

1. When we are reviled for proclaiming Christ, who are we to fear and who aren’t we to fear? 3:14-15
2. What are we to be ready to speak? 3:15
3. How are we to speak of our hope in Christ? 3:15-16
4. Why is it better to suffer for doing good than doing evil? 3:16-17

Explaining the passage

When we fear those who want to malign us for being Christ’s people, we will not speak the gospel. But when we fear Christ, we will speak the gospel even to those who malign us.

When we respond to people who reject us by seeking their good, they will want to know what makes us tick. We must share the gospel in a manner that reflects the grace of the gospel – we are to speak with gentleness and a respectful fear of God.

When slandered for doing good in sharing the gospel message, remember ours is the privilege of knowing God’s blessing rather than experiencing the shame of his condemnation. Are you ready to explain why your hope is in Jesus?

Day 4: 1 Peter 3:18-22

So far in 1 Peter ...

When we are reviled for proclaiming Christ we are not to retaliate or retreat, but we are to seek the good of the other and speak the gospel.

1 Peter 3:18-22

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.

Exploring the passage

1. What did the suffering Christ achieve? 3:18
2. What did the risen Christ do? 3:19-20
3. What is the risen Christ doing? 3:21-22

Explaining the passage

Christ is our reason, and motivation, to suffer for the salvation of others. By his suffering, righteous Christ reconciled the unrighteous to God. Raised to life, Christ proclaimed his victory to those who rejected God's gospel in the time of Noah – their rebellion against God failed. The risen Christ continues to proclaim his gospel that saves people as baptism, which symbolises the forgiveness of sins in Christ, shows.

Christ is seated in heaven as God's ruler, judge and saviour. Therefore, we can be assured that his gospel will achieve his purposes in bringing salvation, and in bringing judgement on those who reject him and malign his people.

Now that we belong to Christ, we will follow him in suffering for the salvation of others and in proclaiming his gospel to those who, like us, do not deserve to be reconciled to God.

WEEK 7: 1 PETER 4:1-19

Day 1: 1 Peter 4:1-6

So far in 1 Peter ...

By his grace, God has made us his church to proclaim his mercy in Christ. As we proclaim Christ in word and deed we will suffer like Christ.

1 Peter 4:1-6

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.

Exploring the passage

1. Highlight text that indicates we are in a spiritual battle.
2. How are we to arm ourselves for the battle? 4:1
3. How do unbelievers judge our behaviour in Christ? 4:4
4. How will Christ judge believers and unbelievers? 4:5-6

Explaining the passage

When we belong to Christ we are engaged in a spiritual battle because we live according to God's will and not according to our sinful natures. We fight this battle by arming ourselves with Christ's thinking – Christ suffered to do God's will.

Now is the time for those in Christ to do God's will, even if this involves suffering. The time for living like an unbeliever has passed. The time of Jesus returning to judge is coming. Those who reject the gospel of forgiveness in Jesus, and so reject Jesus' people, will be condemned. But the living and the dead who have accepted the apostle's gospel will pass through judgement to live with God.

Suffering for being a Christian assures us that we belong to God.

Day 2: 1 Peter 4:7-11

So far in 1 Peter ...

Now is the time to suffer like Christ as we cease from our past sinful ways, do God's will, and look forward to Christ's coming in judgement.

1 Peter 4:7-11

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.

Exploring the passage

1. How does Christ's imminent return shape our lives now?

Explaining the passage

Now is the time to shape our lives around the reality that Christ is returning to judge and establish his kingdom. Having ceased from living for sin and the unbeliever's lifestyle, we are to get on with loving each other as God's family for God's glory.

This will require godly living, godly thinking, and prayer. The gospel humbles us to love one another and overcome the sin that spoils our relationships. Love is especially displayed in willing hospitality which is so necessary when people are suffering for Christ. Love uses the gifts that God has given us to serve one another for God's glory – whether it be with God's words or with loving deeds done in God's strength.

How are you going in your love for Christ's family?

Day 3: Review 2:11-4:11

So far in 1 Peter ...

The first section of Peter's letter focussed on God's mercy in making us his people who proclaim his glory in the gospel of Jesus.

1 Peter 2:11-4:11 is the middle section in Peter's letter, and it starts and ends with glorifying God see 2:12 and 4:11.

Note: the middle and final sections start with the word 'beloved'.

Reviewing 1 Peter 2:11-4:11

Read the whole of [1 Peter 2:11-4:11](#), or read the excerpts below, and choose one or two verses that summarise how we glorify God.

Excerpts from 1 Peter 2:11-4:11

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... ¹⁵ For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people...

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.

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.

3 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...

⁷ Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect...

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.

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... 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...

4 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.

⁸ Above all, love each other deeply...
^{11b} 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.

Explaining the passage

We are to glorify God with our words and deeds in every relationship, suffering as Christ suffered, so that others will hear the gospel and glorify God. We can only do this when we know God's true grace in Jesus, that we are no longer under God's condemnation but look forward to life in God's eternal family when Jesus returns.

When we fear God instead of those who malign us, we will do God's will and suffer like Christ. This way people will come to glorify God and God will bless us by keeping us firm in his grace.

Day 4: 1 Peter 4:12-19

So far in 1 Peter ...

We are to glorify God for his mercy to us in Christ. This will involve suffering for being a Christian. Today we begin the final section of Peter's letter.

1 Peter 4:12-19

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.

Exploring the passage

1. Highlight what Christians are to suffer for and not suffer for.
2. Why is suffering a reason for rejoicing? 4:12-14
3. Why isn't suffering a reason for shame? 4:16-18
4. What should we do when we suffer for being a Christian? 4:19

Explaining the passage

The 'fiery trial' isn't a strange surprise because we know it is God's way of refining our faith just as fire tests gold, recall [1:6-7](#). We rejoice when we suffer for Christ's name because suffering assures us of our future glory. Those who share in Christ's sufferings will share in Christ's glory. Those who suffer have the Spirit – the assurance of the hope of glory.

Suffering for being a Christian isn't a reason for shame but a reason to glorify God because it means God has taken us through judgement to be with him in glory.

1 Peter 4:19 teaches us to ask these questions when we suffer:

- Is my suffering due to God's will or my sin?
- Am I entrusting myself to God like Jesus did? ([2:23](#))
- Do I still think God has been amazingly good to me?
- Am I continuing to do good?

WEEK 8: 1 PETER 5:1-14

Day 1: 1 Peter 5:1-4

So far in 1 Peter ...

By his mercy in Christ, God has made us his people to proclaim his gospel to each other and to the world. As we glorify God in this way we will be rejected and suffer like Christ.

1 Peter 5:1-4

5 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.

Exploring the passage

1. How does Peter describe himself? 5:1
2. What are elders to do? 5:2
3. How are the elders to shepherd God's flock? 5:2-3
4. What will Jesus, the chief Shepherd, give to the elders when he returns? 5:4

Explaining the passage

Because God's church proclaims God's glory, it is not surprising that Peter ends with more teaching on how we are to relate to one another in the church.

The apostle Peter humbly identifies himself as a fellow elder. He reminds elders that sharing in Christ's suffering ends in glory. Elders shepherd God's flock by feeding them on God's word, [John 21:15-21](#). Humble leadership is willing, eager to give, and an example of suffering service. It is like Jesus, the chief Shepherd, who came to serve and willingly give his life for his sheep. Those who lead out of compulsion, for gain, or in a proud and domineering manner are like the hired hands who don't stick around when the going gets tough, [John 10:11-15](#).

The normal Christian life is suffering now and glory later, so churches need leaders who shepherd and suffer now like Christ did, as they wait for him to return with glory.

Day 2: 1 Peter 5:5-7

So far in 1 Peter ...

Our relationships at church are pivotal as we suffer to proclaim the gospel before sharing in Christ's glory when he returns.

1 Peter 5:5-7

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.

Exploring the passage

1. What are non-elders in the church to do? 5:5a
2. How are all believers to relate to one another? 5:5b
3. How are believers to relate to God? 5:6-7

Explaining the passage

In the church, non-elders are to be subject to elders, hearing their teaching from God's word and following their example of Christlike service. All believers are to be humble like Christ and seek the interests of others in sacrificial service.

Like Christ, all believers are to humbly trust that God cares for them in suffering and that he will exalt them. Holding onto anxieties is a form of pride as I try to sort things for myself. The humble pray to God about their anxieties knowing God cares more about our worries than we do.

The pattern of the Christian life is suffering now and glory now. Suffering can make us look out for ourselves. But God says: humbly care for one another other and trust me to care for you.

Extra: [Philippians 2:1-11](#) and [4:4-7](#)

Day 3: 1 Peter 5:8-14

So far in 1 Peter ...

Humility in our relationships at church and our relationship with God is necessary if we are to endure suffering for proclaiming the gospel while we wait for God to exalt us when Christ returns.

1 Peter 5:8-14

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.

Exploring the passage

1. What danger do we face when we suffer for the gospel? 5:8
2. How are we to combat the devil? 5:8-11
3. Why has Peter written his letter? 5:12

Explaining the passage

In suffering we risk believing the devil's lies and not standing firm. But God can even use the devil's lies to strengthen our faith. We resist the devil by being sober-minded, watchful and firm in faith. The sober-minded fix their eyes on the grace that is theirs when Jesus returns – recall [1:13](#), [4:7](#). We stand firm in faith when we know that the normal Christian experience is suffering for a short while before eternal glory, and suffering is part of God's grace to us.

Peter writes to encourage us to know God's grace and stand firm in it. Peter has shown us God's grace in the death and resurrection of his son who has ransomed us from sin to be his church that proclaims his glory. We stand firm in grace by suffering for the salvation of others as Jesus did, knowing ours is the joy of praising God for eternity.

Day 4: Review 4:12-5:12

So far in 1 Peter ...

Rejoice! By grace, God has created us to be his church that glorifies God by proclaiming his gospel of mercy in Jesus, 1:1-2:10.

Glorify God! By suffering as Christ suffered when we are rejected for proclaiming the gospel so that others will come to glorify God, 2:11-4:11.

1 Peter 4:12-5:14 is the final section in Peter's letter. It starts and ends with suffering before glory, see 4:13 and 5:10.

Reviewing 1 Peter 4:12-5:14

Read 1 Peter 4:12-5:14 and highlight all the references to suffering now and glory later.

1 Peter 4:12-5:14

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.

⁵ 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.

Explaining the passage

Through God's grace in Christ, we are born into his eternal family to glorify him by proclaiming his mercy in the gospel of Jesus. Sometimes we will be maligned as evildoers when we speak the gospel. But unbelievers will come to glorify God when we fear God and not them – when we submissively suffer unjustly, neither retreating nor retaliating, but actively seeking the good of others and continuing to speak the gospel. We rejoice when we suffer for Christ's name because this suffering assures us of our future glory with him. We stand firm in suffering by trusting God in prayer and humbly serving in his church, knowing that the God of grace will exalt us.

Rejoice and glorify God, even as you suffer for being a Christian. This is how we stand firm in his grace.