

LESSON PREP

No other book of the Bible focuses on suffering and glory as much as First Peter. This epistle was written to give Christians a fuller understanding of what's going on: the present sufferings and the glories to come.

While Paul wrote to specific congregations and individuals, Peter, James, John, and Jude wrote to broader crowds known across the Roman Empire. Peter here is writing to the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia.

INTRODUCTION

The following video by The Bible Project gives a great overview of the book of 1 Peter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhP7AZQlzCg&t=2s>

1 Peter 1:1-12

- Verse 4 Peter mentions the inheritance is kept in Heaven. What is this inheritance?
- What is it about an inheritance that can make suffering worth it?
- In verse 7 what does Peter compare our faith with and why do you think so?
- Does knowing that you will be in a perfect relationship with the father in heaven make hardships worth it?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *The first 12 verses are about suffering and hardships and the reward of your faith in hardships. In life Peter wants to communicate that suffering, and hardships are guaranteed. The next few verses will tell us what to do since suffering is a part of this life.*

1 Peter 1:13-25

- What does it mean to be “fully sober?”
- How can being fully aware of your situation help you to set your hope on “the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”
- Why does Peter ask us to “Be Holy?”
- Peter in V18-19 speaks about how we were bought with something precious.
- Peter before that asked us to be Holy. If we were bought by the blood, what motivation should we have to be Holy?
- Peter finishes off encouraging us to love one another...think about the context we're in. Suffering, and hardships. How do these things cause us to love one another?

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *In chapter 2, Peter starts off with “Therefore.” He did the same in chapter 1 verse 13 and he will do it a few more times after that. The way he uses it can be put like this, “Because “A” happens to respond like “B.” For example, “Because persecution and hardships happen, respond by being Holy.” Peter here will show us that we need to get busy even while we are under fire. When people are shooting at you, you will focus on the fire. In persecution and hardships the church will only focus on the firing of the enemy. We are under fire because of what Jesus did, don't focus on the fire, focus on your behavior even while under fire.*

1 Peter 2:1-25

- Peter says to rid yourselves of all kinds of things and then ends with rid yourself of slander as well.
- When you are under hardships, do you find it easy to cut yourself some slack on your behavior?
- Why do we need to crave pure spiritual milk in hardships?
- What should be our response to verse 9 in the middle of hardships?
- “I don't care what people have to say about me, I will live how I want!” Does verse 12 agree with that statement or not? And how?
- Does Peter have any experience with being under fire? Hardships? If so, how does that make this letter special?
- In verses 20-25 Peter described what was done to Jesus in the midst of slander toward him. Why does Peter include that?

APPLICATION

Encourage your people to go and learn about the word “Holy.” Come back to the next life-group and discuss what they learned about the word “Holy.” This week even if the hardship is school, observe how you act and then share that with someone whom you trust.

Resource: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9vn5UvsHvM>

