Introduction to 1 & 2 Peter

Simon Peter was a fisherman who became a disciple of Jesus Christ and one of His closest friends. He wrote these two circular letters to Christians living in the northwest section of Asia Minor, (present day Turkey) which was part of the Roman Empire.

The first century was a dangerous time for Christians to be alive. They were considered “atheists” because they did not worship the Roman “gods”. Many Christians were driven from their homes, persecuted, deported to the outer borders of the empire, and forbidden to worship openly. Many were killed, just because they were followers of Jesus. Meanwhile, the church was splintered by internal doctrinal disputes. It was a dark season in the life of the church.

Peter, who himself was martyred for his faith, wrote these letters from Rome, before his upside-down crucifixion, to encourage the believers. His letters are full of hope and practical counsel on how to endure rough, uncertain times, such as the times we’re living in. 1 & 2 Peter are as applicable today as they were in the first century.

May God bless you and bring you even closer to Him through your study of 1 & 2 Peter.

With Aloha

Susie Lam

**1 & 2 Peter**

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**The Culture of “Women in the Word”**

We come together for the purpose of studying the Word of God and growing in Christ together. We believe that every woman is valuable to God and we intentionally choose to establish a culture where:

**Women are loved and respected.**

We avoid cliques, welcome new ladies to our groups, and treat each other with honor, respect and courtesy.

**Relationships are very important**. Since we come from a broad range of backgrounds, and are at various stages of spiritual development, we make room for new opinions and points of view, and don’t criticize other people’s opinions or their churches. We do not give advice unless it is asked for.

**Each woman is encouraged to share, and her input is considered valuable.** Please monitor yourself, as to how much or how little you are sharing, so you do not monopolize the conversation at your table, but you do contribute something to the discussion. The vitality of the group depends on each member participating and contributing her thoughts and insights.

**Prayer for each other and the study of God’s Word are taken seriously**. We do our homework and come prepared. In case you did not get your homework done, come anyway and enjoy learning from others, but please don’t “wing it”. Just answer questions for which you prepared in advance. Please try to stay on target in your discussion of the homework. Also, please remember to pray for the other members of your small group throughout the week.

**Accountability is important.** Please make attending Women in the Word and your small group’s social gatherings a priority. Please call or text your small group shepherd to let her know if you are going to be late, or must be absent, or drop out of the group.

**Healthy boundaries are maintained**. Please come on time, keep confidences, and do not gossip or criticize others. Anything of a personal nature that is shared in your small group is to remain strictly confidential. Please help with responsibilities, such as putting away tables and chairs when necessary, or helping bring food, if your small group decides to have a meal or snacks.

Jesus is glorified when love, appreciation, affection, praise and encouragement are openly and generously expressed. Thank you for expressing your love and encouragement to the other ladies in your group and to all the volunteers who make Women in the Word possible.

Mahalo!

**Bible Study & Journaling Instructions for 1 & 2 Peter**

This Bible study is suitable for those who have never studied the Bible before as well as those who have been studying God’s Word for years. The method of study is simple:

Begin by praying that God will speak to your heart as you get into His Word, and read the passage. Be open to encouragement, direction or correction from the Lord as you read. Underline key phrases or make notations in the margins of your Bible or notebook, as the Lord brings to mind people or situations you should pray for, promises to stand upon, or lessons you need to apply to your life.

After reading the passage, answer the questions.

Then select a verse or paragraph that particularly spoke to you and caught your attention. If nothing “jumps off the page”, select a sentence or two that you think might have some spiritual significance to your life.

Copy that verse or passage word for word. Writing out the verse or verses will help you remember what God is saying to you.

Then, in your own words, write what you observed in that verse or paragraph. (Consider: What is the context? What or who is it about? How would I have felt or reacted had I been there? What is really being said? What does it mean? Why is it important?)

Next, and most importantly, write out how this passage applies to your life. Is there something you need to change? A promise to stand on? An order to follow? Write out how you will be different because of what you have just read.

Finally, write a brief prayer to God, based on this passage. Thank Him for speaking to you. Tell Him what’s on your heart. Ask Him to help you change based on what you have just read.

A simple acrostic to help you remember these steps is **“SOAP”**

**S = Scripture**

**O = Observation**

**A = Application**

**P = Prayer**

Example:

**S:** 1 Peter 1:7 "These trials have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

**O:** Faith is more valuable than gold. Just as the purity of gold is brought forth by intense heat, faith is refined by trials. If faith is genuine it will only grow stronger and purer, as a result of fiery trials. Gold is only temporary. It will be left behind when a believer goes to heaven, but faith lasts forever, and will be rewarded and bring glory to Jesus.

**A:** When God allows me to suffer various trials, He's giving me opportunities to strengthen and purify my faith. If my faith is strong, it will bring Jesus great glory and bring me eternal rewards. When trials come, instead of complaining or asking "why me?" I need to remember that God is building a great treasure in me that will last forever . . .my faith.

**P:** Dear Lord, when you allow me to suffer, please remind me of this truth right away, so I don't waste time complaining and feeling sorry for myself. Help me to focus on You and exercise my faith, relying on You to bring me through the trial victoriously. I trust in Your great love for me and Your promise that I will be rewarded and You will be glorified by genuine, strong faith that has developed and been purified through the trials You bring me through. In Jesus Name, Amen

**1 Peter 1:1-12**

**Lesson 1: Our Living Hope**

*1Peter, 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.*

***Praise to God for a Living Hope***

***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.*

***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.*

1. In verse 1, Peter refers to Christians as “strangers in the

world”. Have you ever felt like a stranger in the world because of your faith? Describe that experience. What helped you during that time?

***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:*

2. What is God the Father’s role in initiating a Christian’s salvation, according to verse 2, and what is the believer’s role?

***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.*

3. Peter says that God has given his people “new birth”. According to verses 3-5, what grows out of that new birth?

***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*

4. In verse 6, Peter warns that believers may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. Share a time when you suffered grief as you were tested in a “fiery trial”. How did you get through that experience? Did you get to know Jesus better? What did you learn?

***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.*

5. What information does Peter share in verses 3-9 that might help you through your times of suffering?

***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. How aware are you of God’s “shielding power” that Peter mentions in verse 5? Give an example from your life or that of a friend or loved one, of God’s shielding power.

***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.*

7. Despite their suffering, how does Peter describe true Christians’ spiritual relationship and outlook in verses 8-9?

8. In times of crisis, do you tend to lean more on God, or blame God and feel sorry for yourself? Has suffering made you bitter or better? Explain.

***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.*

9. Read verses 10-12 and jot down in your own words what Peter’s saying. How does this make you feel?

10. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**1 Peter**

**Lesson 2: Walking in Holiness & Love**

**1 Peter 1:13 – 2:3**

*13Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

*17Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. 18For 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 forefathers, 19but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20He was chosen before the creation of the world but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*

*22Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. 24For,*

*"All men are like grass,*

*and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;*

*the grass withers and the flowers fall,*

*25but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.*

***1 Peter 2***

*1Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

1. Peter writes in verse 13: “Prepare your minds for action.” Some translations say: “Gird up the loins of your mind.” This figure of speech comes from the fact that the people to whom he was writing had to gather up their long robes with a belt, in order to run or fight. When Peter says “prepare for action”, what kind of mental or physical action do you think he’s talking about?

2. Also in verse 13, Peter says: “Set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you.” How does this help people going through trials?

*15But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

3. What is Peter talking about in verses 15-16? How does this challenge you regarding your attitude and the way you act at home, work, church and among your friends? How is it possible to obey this verse?

*17Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.*

4. Read verse 17. Do you ever feel like a stranger here on earth? If so, explain. Why do you think Peter reminds Christians facing persecution that God is the judge and they should live their lives as strangers here, in reverent fear?

*22Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*

5. How do you know, according to verse 22, if a person has truly had a change of heart and is walking with the Lord?

***1 Peter 2***

*1Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

6. Two characteristics are listed in 1 Peter 2:1-3 that go together and result in spiritual growth. What are they?

***1 Peter 2*** *1Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.*

7. In 1 Peter 2:1-3 Peter’s talking about growing in Christ. What does he liken the word of God to?

*13Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

***1 Peter 2***

*1Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation*

8. Which of the characteristics in verses 1:13-16 and 2:1-2 is the greatest challenge for you?

9. If you were to tell another person who has recently become a Christian, how to grow in Christ, based on these verses, what would you tell them?

10. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**1 Peter**

**Lesson 3: Called to A Royal Priesthood**

**1 Peter 2:4-12**

***The Living Stone and a Chosen People***

*4As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men 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."* *7Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,*

*"The stone the builders rejected*

*has become the capstone, 8and,*

*"A stone that causes men to stumble*

*and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.*

*9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10Once 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.*

*11Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12Live 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.*

1. What do you think it means that Christ is a “living stone?” (clue: contrast him with the huge stone temple of the Jews in Jerusalem, and the Gentiles stone idols.)

2. What are the implications for our own lives that we are also called living stones? What would you expect to see in a person who had become a living stone?

*7Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,*

*"The stone the builders rejected*

*has become the capstone, 8and,*

*"A stone that causes men to stumble*

*and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.*

3. In verses 7-8 Jesus is referred to as both a “cornerstone” and a “stone that causes men to stumble”. How is it that Jesus trips some people up, but for others, He is the foundation of their lives? Explain.

4. Think of someone you know who has “tripped” on Jesus. What might you do or say to help them get back up and help them find Jesus as the cornerstone of their lives?

*9But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

5. In verse 9, believers are called “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation”. What do you think each of these titles and roles mean?

A chosen people:

A royal priesthood:

A holy nation:

*11Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*

6. What other words does Peter use to describe Christians in verse 11? Do you ever feel like this? Explain.

*11Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. 12Live 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.*

7. Now that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood and a holy nation, and are aliens and strangers in the world, how then are we to live, according to verses 11-12?

8. What good deeds in the life of a Christian might cause people to glorify God? Give some examples.

9. Can you think of a person in the Bible, in history, or alive today, whose good deeds caused people to glorify God? Explain.

10. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**1 Peter**

**Lesson 4 The Definition of True Beauty**

**1 Peter 2:13 – 3:7**

*13Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, 14or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. 16Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.*

*18Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. 20But 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.*

*21To 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." 23When 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. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

***1 Peter 3***

***Wives and Husbands***

*1Wives, in the same way be submissive to your 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, 2when they see the purity and reverence of your lives**.* *3Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4Instead, 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. 5For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands,* *6like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

*7Husbands, 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.*

1. Find several examples of submission in this passage. What is difficult about each?

*18Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.*

2. Have you ever suffered under a “cruel master”, such as verse 18 mentions? (Please don’t name them.) How did you respond?

*21To 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." 23When 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. 24He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

3. Read verses 21-25. What most impresses you about the way Jesus suffered for us?

4. How can Jesus’ example help you face hardships and suffering that you can’t change?

5. What is to be the main source of a wife’s beauty?

*3Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. 4Instead, 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.*

6. Do you think 1 Peter 3:3-4 is saying that it’s wrong to spend time arranging your hair or putting on nice clothing and jewelry? Explain. Would you say you work more on your outer beauty or your inner beauty?

7. Why does Peter call a woman’s inner beauty “incorruptible”? How do you think a woman can maintain a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious in the sight of God?

*1Wives, in the same way be submissive to your 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, 2when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.*

8. What is the most effective way for a wife to win her unsaved husband to Christ, according to chapter 3:1-2?

*6like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

9. Why do you think wives are asked to submit to husbands, and how does the phrase “do not give way to fear” in 3:6 impact your thinking about submission?

*1Wives, in the same way be submissive to your 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,*

*7Husbands, 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.*

10. What does the phrase “in the same way” refer to in 3:1 and 3:7?

11. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**1 Peter**

**Lesson 5 How to Love Life & See Good Days**

**1 Peter 3:8-22**

*3:8 Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. 9Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.* *10For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. 11He must turn from evil and do good;*

*he must seek peace and pursue it. 12For 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."*

*13Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." 15But in your hearts set apart 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, 16keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, 19through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison 20who disobeyed 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, 21and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.*

1. Peter was teaching on submission in 1 Peter 3:1-7. In your own words explain what he says in verses 8-9, and then jot down how this relates to being submissive to the Lord.

*9Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.*

2. How easy or difficult is it for you to obey verse 9? Explain how it’s possible to obey this.

*10For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. 11He must turn from evil and do good;*

*he must seek peace and pursue it.*

3. According to verses 10-11, how are we to live if we want to love life and see good days?

*13Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." 15But in your hearts set apart 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, 16keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 17It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.*

4. Peter knew that in spite of godly living, Christians would still encounter hardship and suffering. Jot down in bullet form what he says in verses 13-17, and then write which of these instructions is hardest for you to follow. Explain.

5. How does having hope in Christ help you be kind in the face of persecution, and bless instead of curse those who are persecuting you? Why might this behavior cause people to ask you about the hope you have?

6. What situation(s) have seemed hopeless to you, until God brought hope? Would you like prayer about a situation now that is robbing you of hope?

7. Have you ever been asked why you’re hopeful or why you don’t get upset when you are unjustly treated? Explain.

*18For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, 19through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison 20who disobeyed 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, 21and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him*

8. Read verses 18-22. What did Jesus’ godly suffering accomplish?

9. How is the salvation of Noah and his family through the flood like our baptism in water, once we’ve put our faith in Jesus Christ?

10. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**1 Peter**

**Lesson 6: Living for God**

**1 Peter 4:1-19**

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

*7The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 8Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it 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.*

***Suffering for Being a Christian***

*12Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.* *13But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"*

*19So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

1. According to verses 1-2, how can suffering change a person’s life for the better? Have you found this to be true in your own life? Explain.

2. Why could a big change in the lifestyle of a person who comes to Christ be upsetting to friends and relatives? Have you experienced this?

*5But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.*

3. What is one consolation we have when we are being persecuted by non-believers, according to verse 5?

*7The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.*

4. Why does Peter say in verse 7 that we should be clear-minded and self-controlled?

*8Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it 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.*

5. The people to whom Peter was writing were suffering a lot of persecution for their faith. Jot down, in bullet points, what verses 8-11 say we should do while we’re suffering here on earth.

*12Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

6. Read verses 12-13. What false assumption does Peter set straight in verse 12? What does he instruct Christians to do when they are suffering?

7. How is rejoicing in suffering different than just enduring suffering? How is it possible to rejoice in suffering? Have you experienced this?

*13But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

8. In verses 13-14 Peter gives some reasons to rejoice when we are suffering. What are they?

*19So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

9. What is the ultimate secret for enduring trials, according to verse 19? How does one do this? How are you doing in regard to this?

10. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**1 Peter**

**Lesson 7: Be Humble & Sober**

**1 Peter 5: 1-14**

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

*5Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because "God opposes the proud*

*but gives grace to the humble." 6Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

*8Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

*10And 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. 11To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

***Final Greetings***

*12With 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. 13She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark. 14Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.*

1. Peter is writing to Christians and Christian pastors and elders who were facing possible torture and death at the hands of Nero, yet he refers to their suffering as though it were almost insignificant. Why does he look at suffering this way? (Clue: see verses 1, 4 & 10)

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

2. List some characteristics that spiritual elders should have, according to verses 1-4.

*5Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because "God opposes the proud*

*but gives grace to the humble."*

3. Why do you think God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble? (verse 5)

*5Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because "God opposes the proud*

*but gives grace to the humble." 6Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.* *7Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

*8Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

*10And 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. 11To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

4. God’s Word speaks to us in a variety of ways. What joy, comfort or warning in verses 5-11 particularly stands out to you today?

*7Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

5. Read verse 7. Do you do this? Is it hard for you? Explain.

*8Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

6. Verse 8 says that we should be self-controlled and alert because our enemy, the devil, is prowling around, seeking to devour us. How do being self-controlled and alert keep us from falling prey to the enemy?

*8Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

7. Read verses 8-9 again. Make a list below of some of the ways the devil “roars”, and next to each point, write how you can resist him by standing firm in the faith.

8. Verse 9 says “Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” Is it a comfort to you to know that your brothers and sisters around the world are suffering the same types of struggles and temptations? Explain.

9. Peter states in verse 10 that God “will personally restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little.” Have you experienced this in your life? Explain.

10. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**2 Peter**

**Lesson 8: Firmly Established in the Truth**

**2 Peter 1:1-21**

*1Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,*

*To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:*

*2Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

***Making One's Calling and Election Sure***

*3His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness**. 4Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

*5For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.*

*10Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

***Prophecy of Scripture***

*12So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.13I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.*

*16We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."[*[*a*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%201:1-21;&version=31;#fen-NIV-30481a)*] 18We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

*19And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.* *20Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

1. According to verses 3-4, God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. What are some of the things He has given us?

*4Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

2. What causes the corruption in the world, according to verse 4?

*5For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.*

3. According to verses 5-7, how do we participate in the Divine nature and escape the corruption of the world.

*5For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.*

4. Which of the seven qualities listed in verses 5-7 do you most often display? Which quality would you like to have more of in your life?

*8For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.*

5. Why are developing these Christ-like character qualities so important, according to verses 8-9?

*10Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

***Prophecy of Scripture***

*12So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.13I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, 14because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 15And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.*

6. Read verses 10-15. Why did Peter keep reminding these suffering believers to persevere in developing the character qualities of Jesus?

*16We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."[*[*a*](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter%201:1-21;&version=31;#fen-NIV-30481a)*] 18We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

7. What event in Jesus’ life does Peter recall in verses 16-18? Why is this so significant?

*19And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

7. Read verses 19-21. They didn’t yet have the New Testament like we do, but what else did Peter say we have that’s like a light shining in a dark place?

8. Not all people proclaimed as prophets are real prophets. Have you ever heard someone give a word of prophecy that wasn’t fulfilled? How did that make you feel?

*20Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. 21For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

9. According to verses 20-21, how are the Old Testament prophecies different than the words of false prophets you may have heard?

10. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**2 Peter**

**Lesson 9: Beware of False Teachers**

**2 Peter 2:1-22**

***2 Peter 2***

***False Teachers and Their Destruction***

*1But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*

*4For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 5if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men 8(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. 10This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority.*

*Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; 11yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord. 12But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.*

*13They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. 14With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood!* *15They have left the straight way, and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness. 16But he was rebuked for his wrongdoing by a donkey—a beast without speech—who spoke with a man's voice and restrained the prophet's madness.*

*17These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them**. 18For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him**. 20If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. 22Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."*

***Matthew 13:24-30 (NLT)***

***24****Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field.* ***25*** *But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away.* ***26*** *When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.*

***27****“The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’*

***28****“‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed.*

*“‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked.*

***29****“‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do.* ***30****Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’”*

*1But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.*

*10This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; 11yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord.*

*12But these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.13They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. 14With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed—an accursed brood! 15They have left the straight way, and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved the wages of wickedness.*

*18For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.*

1. At the end of the last chapter, Peter commended true prophets who were spokesmen for God. In this whole chapter he strongly warns against false teachers. Jot down, in bullet points, the prominent characteristics of false teachers, that Peter mentions in verses 1-3, 10,12 -15 & 18-19.

***Matthew 13:24-30 (NLT)***

***24****Here is another story Jesus told: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field.* ***25*** *But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away.* ***26*** *When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew.*

***27****“The farmer’s workers went to him and said, ‘Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?’*

***28****“‘An enemy has done this!’ the farmer exclaimed.*

*“‘Should we pull out the weeds?’ they asked.*

***29****“‘No,’ he replied, ‘you’ll uproot the wheat if you do.* ***30****Let both grow together until the harvest. Then I will tell the harvesters to sort out the weeds, tie them into bundles, and burn them, and to put the wheat in the barn.’”*

2. Read Jesus’ parable of the wheat and the weeds above, from Matthew 13:24-30. Who did Jesus say was responsible for the weeds being in among the good wheat? What was the purpose of the weeds being planted? When would the weeds be dealt with and rooted out, and why did Jesus say this would be?

3. What was Jesus warning about in this parable?

4. Have you personally heard a prophet/teacher who has characteristics like these that Peter describes? Without giving that person’s name, did that person seem genuine at first? Did he/she have a big following? How did that person’s ministry make you feel? Explain.

5. Have you seen Christians fall away from the Lord because of false prophets, when their sins were finally exposed? Have you heard non-Christians say “Christians are hypocrites” and use that as a reason for not following Jesus? Explain.

*4For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; 5if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men 8(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

6. Peter recites God’s track record in 2:4-9, regarding how He dealt with various ungodly people in the Old Testament. What did he want people to understand from this passage?

7. Since it is so clear that judgment awaits these false teachers, why do you think they dare to act as they do, and why do you think anyone follows them*?* What is their appeal?

*20If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. 21It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.*

8. How do these false teachers get so far “off”, according to verses 20-21?

*22Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."*

9. What is verse 22 talking about?

10. How can you protect yourself from falling for the “ministries” of false prophets?

11. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

**2 Peter**

**Lesson 10: Final Warnings and Reminders**

**2 Peter 3:1-18**

*1Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. 2I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.*

*3First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

*8But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.* *9The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

*10But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*

*11Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

*14So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 15Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

*17Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. 18But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

***John 14:1-3****. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

***Acts 1:6-11****. 6So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority*. 8*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*

1. Read two of the promises about Jesus second coming in John 14:1-3 and Acts 1:6-11 above. Do you ever wonder why Jesus hasn’t returned yet? Have you heard people scoff about the fact that people have been predicting His return for years and years?

*3First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."*

2. According to verse 3-4, what “must” the readers first understand?

3. Why do scoffers scoff at the prophecies about Jesus’ return?

4. Does God view and reckon time the same way we humans do? Explain.

*9The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

5. What does Peter say in verse 9 to reassure his readers about Jesus’ return and the coming judgment? What does this tell you about God?

*10But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.*

6. Why does God’s creation of the earth support Peter’s contention that He will also destroy the earth? (Verse 10)

7. Describe “the Day of the Lord” in your own words. Since everything will be destroyed by fire, how then should we be living?

*12as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.*

8. Remarkably, verse 12 says we can “speed” (hasten) the Lord’s coming. How do we do this?

*14So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

9. Read verse 14. Would you say you are looking forward to Jesus’ coming, and making every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him? Explain.

10. Journal this passage, using the SOAP method, described in the introduction of this workbook.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Shepherd’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**1 & 2 Peter Study Evaluation**

1. What memorable lesson stands out to you from this study?

2. What book of the Bible or topic would you like to see us study in “Women in the Word” in the future?

3. What is your favorite aspect of “Women in the Word”?

4. If you could change anything about “Women in the Word” what would it be?

5. Is your life any different because of studying 1 & 2 Peter, or because of being part of “Women in the Word”? Explain.

6. Is there an area in which you would like to get involved in serving in Women’s Ministries?

(for example, Child care, special events planner, hospitality, sound, producing, technology, mentoring, shepherding, childcare, social media, graphic design, worship, etc.)