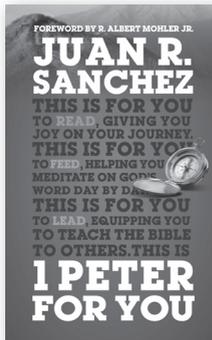




Living well on the way home

1 PETER

by Juan R. Sanchez



1 Peter For You

If you are reading *1 Peter For You* (see page 76) alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *1 Peter For You*:

Study One → Ch 1-2

Study Two → Ch 3-4

Study Three → Ch 5

Study Four → Ch 6

Study Five → Ch 7

Study Six → Ch 8-10

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The Good Book Guide to 1 Peter

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ISBN: 9781784980177

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Printed in the Czech Republic

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Introduction: Good Book Guides

Every Bible-study group is different—yours may take place in a church building, in a home or in a cafe, on a train, over a leisurely mid-morning coffee or squashed into a 30-minute lunch break. Your group may include new Christians, mature Christians, non-Christians, moms and tots, students, businessmen or teens. That’s why we’ve designed these *Good Book Guides* to be flexible for use in many different situations.

Our aim in each session is to uncover the meaning of a passage, and see how it fits into the “big picture” of the Bible. But that can never be the end. We also need to appropriately apply what we have discovered to our lives. Let’s take a look at what is included:

- ↔ **Talkabout:** Most groups need to “break the ice” at the beginning of a session, and here’s the question that will do that. It’s designed to get people talking around a subject that will be covered in the course of the Bible study.
- ↓ **Investigate:** The Bible text for each session is broken up into manageable chunks, with questions that aim to help you understand what the passage is about. The **Leader’s Guide** contains **guidance for questions**, and sometimes ☑ additional “follow-up” questions.
- ⋮ **Explore more (optional):** These questions will help you connect what you have learned to other parts of the Bible, so you can begin to fit it all together like a jig-saw; or occasionally look at a part of the passage that’s not dealt with in detail in the main study.
- **Apply:** As you go through a Bible study, you’ll keep coming across **apply** sections. These are questions to get the group discussing what the Bible teaching means in practice for you and your church. 🗨️ **Getting personal** is an opportunity for you to think, plan and pray about the changes that you personally may need to make as a result of what you have learned.
- ↑ **Pray:** We want to encourage prayer that is rooted in God’s word—in line with his concerns, purposes and promises. So each session ends with an opportunity to review the truths and challenges highlighted by the Bible study, and turn them into prayers of request and thanksgiving.

The **Leader’s Guide** and introduction provide historical background information, explanations of the Bible texts for each session, ideas for **optional extra** activities, and guidance on how best to help people uncover the truths of God’s word.

Why study 1 Peter?

Here is a letter written to churches like ours, about a time such as ours. Peter's first letter is one we need to read, treasure and believe in our day, because the post-Christian societies many of us live in now are very much like the pre-Christian society in which Peter's first-century readers lived then. Here is a letter for today.

Like the Christians in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) to whom Peter was writing, most of us don't face universal, state-sponsored persecution at this time—but we are encountering the reality of increasing hostility toward anything Christian as we live in a culture in which we are likely to be discriminated against simply because we identify with Christ.

We need Peter to teach us how to face the reality that following Christ and obeying what he commands makes us different— we are aliens and strangers in a foreign land. We need to learn how to endure unjust suffering in a society where Christianity is unwelcome. We need to remember what the identity and purpose of our local churches are in communities that see them as irrelevant. We need to learn how to live with joy and hope and love when we are mocked and maligned and misunderstood because of what we believe and how we live.

And in order to live like that, we need to be reminded of the “true grace of God” in which we can, and must, “stand firm” (5 v 12).

These six studies will excite you, reassure you and challenge you about your life now, as Peter shows you how to live well on the way home to your inheritance that (unlike everything in this world) is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading” (1 v 4).



BIBLE TIMELINE

Where does the book of 1 Peter fit into the whole story of God's word?

1 PETER EARLY 60s

1

1 Peter 1 v 1-12

CERTAIN FUTURE, JOYFUL PRESENT



talkabout

1. What do you expect the Christian life to be like between here and heaven?

- What makes you answer like that?



investigate

 **Read 1 Peter 1 v 1-5**

2. How does the apostle Peter describe the Christians in modern-day Turkey who he is writing to (v 1)?

E _____

E _____

- What does this tell us about how Peter wants us to view:
- our relationship with God?

DICTIONARY

Dispersion (v 1): scattering; a word often used to describe the Jewish people who, after the exile, lived all over the Mediterranean world.

Sanctification (v 2): the process of setting apart; here, it means the Spirit enabling people to trust Christ and be saved.

Sprinkling with his blood (v 2): in the Old Testament, a sacrificed animal's blood was sprinkled on the people to show that the animal's death had made possible their forgiveness.

- our life in this world?

3. What have the three Persons of the Trinity done for each Christian (v 2)? Put each phrase into your own words.

4. What has “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” done for his people (v 3-4)?

5. How could Peter’s first readers—and we—know they would reach this inheritance (v 5)? Why is this encouraging?

 **apply**

6. How do these verses encourage us to live for what we will have in the future, rather than what we could have in our present?



7. In what areas of life would thinking of yourselves as “elect exiles” change the way you think, feel or act?



getting personal

Does the description of Christians as “elect exiles” comfort you, discomfort you, or both? How, and why?

In what areas of your life do you need to stop compromising and start living as an exile? Are there ways in which you are living as an exile, and need to remember you are elect, so that you keep going?



investigate

▶ Read 1 Peter 1 v 6-12

8. How is it possible—and right—for Christians to rejoice in trials (v 6-9)?

DICTIONARY

Revelation (v 7):

Peter is referring to the return of Christ.

9. How is this different than how the world links trials and joy?

10. How are believers who live after Christ's death and resurrection in a privileged position compared to:

- the Old Testament prophets (v 10-12)?

- the angels in heaven (v 12)?



explore more

optional

What did the Spirit do in Old Testament times (v 11)?

▶ **Read Isaiah 52 v 13 – 53 v 12**

How does this prophecy point forwards to “the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories”?

Why is it a privilege to read it now, after Christ's death, resurrection and ascension, rather than to hear it as Isaiah's first listeners did?

What else has the Spirit done (1 Peter 1 v 12)?

Briefly share how he did this for you.



apply

11. What stops us from greatly rejoicing during “various trials”?

- How can we unwittingly discourage fellow Christians from rejoicing when they suffer?

- How can we consciously encourage each other to rejoice in these times?



getting personal

What trials are you facing right now? What grief are you experiencing?

You do not have to ignore it or seek to belittle it; but neither must you despair in it or be crushed by it. If you have trusted in Christ, God is at work in your life, and he will not waste your suffering. Keep trusting in Christ; keep loving Jesus. Remember the living hope you have; remember the inheritance you will enjoy; look at how God has guarded your faith through your trials; know that God is refining your faith in those trials—and rejoice!

In what way do you need to apply this encouragement? Is there someone who needs you to share it with them?



pray

Use verses 3-5 to spend time praising God.

Pray for yourselves, and those you know who are facing “various trials,” that those difficulties would show you the genuineness of your faith and that your certain future would enable you to rejoice.

