

1 Peter Discussion Questions

These questions are best used for small group discussion AFTER doing an inductive study.

1 Peter 1:1-12

1. Think of a time when you felt hopeless. How did you cope?
2. Peter begins the letter by reminding his readers of the greatness of salvation. How does understanding and appreciating our salvation help us live the Christian life?
3. How does 1:1-12 help Christians who are undergoing persecution because of their faith?
4. How does/should/could understanding our inheritance affect our priorities in this life?
5. Is rejoicing in trials an unrealistic expectation? If not, what would it look like in our lives?
6. What prevents us from being joyful in trials?
7. What does it mean to our everyday lives that God plans to make us holy?
8. In what ways does your hope for the future change your daily life?
9. In what ways has a trial strengthened your faith?
10. In what ways do you consider salvation a “blessing?”

1 Peter 1:13-2:3

1. Think of your life before you became a Christian. How is it different now? How is your spiritual life different from 5 or 10 years ago?
2. How would you describe a “holy” Christian life?
3. How does life change after conversion?
4. If we’re all forgiven, why does it make a difference how we live our daily lives?
5. What evidence do we see of pure, fervent love among believers? How is it different than among non-believers?
6. Is it possible to stop conforming to the world’s beliefs and assumptions and habits? How?
7. Are the vices in 1 Peter 2:1 primarily attitudes or actions? Why do you think so?
8. What does this passage teach us about God’s character?
9. Were there insights about spiritual rebirth that were new to you?
10. How would you explain what it means to be born again to someone with no religious background?
11. In what ways do we trivialize Christ’s sacrifice?

1 Peter 2:4-10

1. What kind of “spiritual sacrifices” do believers offer to God?
2. It’s been said that Christian living involves a negative (separation from) and a positive (separation to or desiring for). How are these positives & negatives related to practical living?
3. Peter’s images are collective: we are not just individuals, we are living stones, priests, chosen people. How can our group reflect this fact?
4. What do you think these verses teach us about personal application and/or corporate application, particularly our participation in a local body?
5. How could Christ cause someone to stumble?
6. What makes it possible for us to obey God’s commands, particularly his command to love one another?

7. How does obeying the command to love one another enhance witness to non-believers?
8. How often do you go through a week without reading or studying your Bible? Do you think you “long for the milk” of God’s word? How can we help each other in that area?
9. Does this passage change your sense of value in God’s eyes? How or why?
10. Think about the level of enthusiasm you had when you first believed. Why is that level difficult to maintain?

1 Peter 2:11-25

1. Think of a fellow believe you greatly admire. In what ways would you like your life to be like that persons?
2. Why didn’t Jesus seek revenge?
3. How do we tend to react when others hurt us? What tempts you to retaliate?
4. Have you had to forgive someone who hurt you deeply? What helped you do it?
5. How can you resist the urge to get back at those who treat you (or those you love) unfairly?
6. Some have suggested that the Christian life can be described as “Go against the flow”. Do you agree? Why?
7. Do you think authority structures result from the Fall? Or did God build them into human existence despite the fall? What authority structures must you submit to? What makes it easy or difficult?
8. Have you ever been slandered because of your faith? How did you respond? What did God teach you?
9. Since none of us are slaves in the way Peter’s readers were, does this mean we can ignore his teaching to slaves? Which of your relationships might compare to the slave/master?
10. What problematic relationships might newly converted slaves have encountered in Peter’s day? How would Peter answer them and how is that answer relevant today?

1 Peter 3:1:12

1. Think of a woman you know who displays inner strength and beauty. What have you learned from her example?
2. How can we help each other cultivate inner beauty? How can we teach our daughters and younger women?
3. Should we pay more attention to what people do? Or what people say? Why?
4. How does our culture encourage us to enhance our outward rather than our inward appearance? How can the church help?
5. What about our lives should attract people to Christ?
6. When is it most difficult to demonstrate a loving attitude toward others?
7. What should a wife do if her husband asks her to do something illegal? What if he hits her? Or forbids her to attend church?
8. How might Peter’s words affect how decisions get made in your home?
9. If a younger woman asked you to describe the perfect husband, what would you say?
10. What does this passage teach us about what God values?

1 Peter 3:13-4:11

1. Describe a time when someone showed Christ's love for you in a practical way.
2. How might you show compassion for someone who is grieving? Financially poor? Doubting their faith?
3. Why is it better to suffer for doing good than for doing wrong? Isn't it all suffering?
4. What kind of issues create tension and conflict between believers? What practical steps can we take to promote harmony instead?
5. Describe a time when you found great joy in serving your church or community. What made that experience joyful.
6. Describe someone you know who frequently uses his/her gifts to serve God. How has that person encouraged you?
7. What do you think is the purpose of the gifts God gives us?
8. What usually motivates you to serve? What keeps you from serving?
9. How do you cope when you serve and no one notices or seems to appreciate it?
10. What blessings have you received from serving others?

1 Peter 4:12-5:14

1. Describe a time when God showed his trustworthiness to you. How did that stretch your faith?
2. What kind of suffering should we avoid and what kind should we welcome?
3. What hope is there for those of us who have been emotionally wounded?
4. Describe a time when God used suffering to do you good. How long did it take before you saw the good?
5. In practical terms, how can you trust God through difficult circumstances?
6. Describe someone you respect as a leader. How has that person been a good example?
7. What do you think are the responsibilities of church leaders?
8. Have you seen the fruits of humility among believers in your church or community? Or have you seen the "fruits" of lack of humility?
9. Why is it difficult to be humble?
10. Think of a person in your life who can help you be accountable (or who you help hold accountable). How do you best help each other?
11. Why is pride so strong a temptation for those in leadership?
12. What does your life have to do with the glory of God?