



# LEADERS

August 7-  
October 23

The background of the right side of the poster is a textured, greyish-blue sky. A large, dark, jagged silhouette of a storm cloud is in the upper right. Below the cloud, numerous white diagonal lines represent falling rain. In the middle ground, there are two large, dark blue, angular shapes that look like pieces of paper or cardboard, overlapping each other. The word "TESTED" is written in a bold, black, serif font across these shapes. Below the shapes are several layers of teal-colored, wavy lines representing the surface of the ocean. The overall style is graphic and textured, using paper-like materials.

**TESTED**

**A SERMON SERIES  
ON**

**1 Peter**





# 1 PETER

## A STUDY

*on the book of 1 Peter*

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**August 7 - October 23**

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Written by TJ Johnson

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# LEADERS

August 7

TESTED

IN THE WORLD  
NOT  
OF THE WORLD

1 Peter 1:1-12



# In the World Not of the World

1 Peter 1: 1-12

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.



# In the World

# Not of the World

This week we begin a new series in the book 1 Peter. I do hope you take some time to read through the book in one sitting. Surprisingly, it will only take you about sixteen minutes...probably some of the most productive sixteen minutes you will spend all week.

On Sunday we will discuss the first twelve verses of chapter one. It is a rich section loaded with wonderful truths about God the Father, Son, and Spirit.

The book itself is written to faithful followers of Jesus scattered throughout modern-day Turkey. At the time, it was a Roman controlled area and therefore paid homage (worship) to the Emperor. The believers are most likely not natives to the region, but have been dispersed there through regional persecution. In other words, they are outnumbered expats, learning what it means to live the Christian life in a hostile environment that sees the Christian worldview as backwards, exclusive, and threatening to their superior way of life which includes the worship of government (Caesar is Lord) and the embrace and indulgence of gross sins (including sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry), and yet in spite of this these Christians are not called to retreat from society, but rather suffer faithfully in order to be a witness to the world of the superior pleasures found only in Christ for there is coming a day when Jesus will return to judge the world and only those in Christ will find their temporary suffering transformed into eternal glory.

WOW....that was a really long sentence. Now you know a bit of what it's like to read 1 Peter 1:3-12 in the Greek...that too is one LONG sentence.



# In the World Not of the World

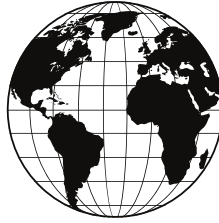
When we began Song of Solomon I cautioned against over-interpreting and encouraged you to step back and get the general picture rather than getting too bogged down in the details. I actually want to encourage the opposite with 1 Peter. The run on sentences and complex sentence structures makes this text hard to follow at times. Therefore, we must slow down and focus on the details. We must learn to ask good questions of the text. For example, are we elect according to the foreknowledge of God or are we exiles according to the foreknowledge of God? For that matter, what does foreknowledge even mean? Does Peter use it elsewhere that might give some clue as to its meaning? What is the “this” referring to in verse six? Is the “praise and glory and honor” mentioned in verse seven speaking of God’s or ours? Etc.

That being said, I hope you are not afraid to do the hard work of exegesis. This book is extremely practical for our present life. We too are exiles. We too live in a culture whose values are vastly different from ours. We too suffer for our faith in various ways. We too are called to suffer faithfully as a witness to the world around us until Christ returns to transform our temporary suffering into eternal glory.

Learning with you,

Pastor TJ





*Living hope*

## Discussion Questions

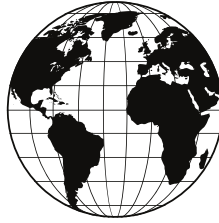
1. Take some time to discuss the context of this book. (Who wrote it, to whom, when, where, etc.)
2. Read 1 Peter 1:1 & Hebrews 11:13-16. In what ways were God's people in the Old Testament and New Testament exiles, and in what ways are we today exiles?
3. How does the exile mentality help us live holy lives in our homes, workplaces, and communities and what would be some wrong ways to think of ourselves as exiles?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:1, 6, Acts 8:1, and Acts 18:2. In what ways did the early church experience suffering as Christians?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. What are some ways you have suffered persecution (family, workplace, govt, etc) because of your faith and how you coped with that suffering?
6. Read 2 Peter 2:7-9. In what ways are you too grieved/suffering (tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds) over the sins celebrated by the world today?



*Living hope*

## Discussion Questions

7. Read 1 Peter 1:1. What does the word elect mean and how does Peter's use of this word bring hope to these suffering exiles? (Be sure to give Biblical support for your answers, not just opinions you feel...where else is this word used? In 1 Peter look for the word "chosen", it's the same Greek word).
8. Read 1 Peter 1:2, 20. What is the Father's role in your salvation and how does this reveal His great love for you?
9. Read 1 Peter 1:2, Acts 2:23. How does knowing the Father has foreknown our circumstances (exiles/suffering) give us hope and joy (see also v. 3, 6-9) in the midst of hardships?
10. Read 1 Peter 1:2, 10-12. What role does the Holy Spirit play in our salvation?
11. Why do you think Peter mentions the Holy Spirit so early in this book? How is this theological truth meant to encourage us in our lives now?
12. Read 1 Peter 1:2. What role does Jesus play in our salvation?
13. What Old Testament connection is Peter making about Jesus and why? What other Old Testament connections has Peter made in this text?

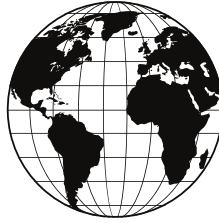


*Living hope*

## Discussion Questions

14. Read 1 Peter 1:3. Why does Peter call our hope “living” and how does that compare to the world’s hope?
15. Read 1 Peter 1:3. What is the inheritance that Peter speaks of and what does he reveal about that inheritance when he says it is “imperishable, undefiled, and unfading”?
16. Read 1 Peter 1:4-5. What comparison is Peter wanting us to make when he says that our true inheritance is kept in heaven, guarded by God and how can you apply that to your life today?
17. Read 1 Peter 1:5, 8-9. What role does faith and love play in salvation?
18. What is ONE thing you can do in response to your study today?





*Living hope*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



The background of the right side of the poster is a textured, greyish-blue sky. A large, dark, jagged cloud shape is in the upper right. White rain streaks fall from the cloud. Below the sky are teal-colored hills or mountains. The word "TESTED" is written in large, black, serif capital letters, slanted upwards from left to right, across the middle of the image.

**TESTED**

**OBEDIENCE  
STARTS  
WITH THE MIND**

A small, stylized grey brain icon is located in the bottom right corner, partially overlapping the text "WITH THE MIND".

**August 14**

**1 Peter 1:13-21**



# Obedience Starts with the Mind

1 Peter 1: 13-21

13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

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*Prepare your minds*

## Discussion Questions

1. Why did Peter write this letter to the believers in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia?
2. Why is it important for believers to be strong in the mind?
3. What does Peter mean when he writes to the church to “gird up the loins of your mind?” Give examples of this in your lives.
4. Read 1 Peter 1:14. Why do you think God hates ignorance? What is the cause of ignorance? What is the result of ignorance? Discuss a time in your life that you refuse the wisdom of God and the results.
5. Read 1 Peter 1:14 and Romans 12:2. What do these scriptures have in common? Why is it important to not be a part of the world system (operation)?
6. Describe being sober-,minded as a believer?
7. Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. What does it mean to be holy? How do we apply this to our daily lives?



*Prepare your minds*

## Discussion Questions

8. Read 1 Peter 1:17-18. What is the most important reason we should be holy before God? Discuss the blood of Jesus and what it does for us.
9. Read 1 Peter 1:22 and Ephesians 5:26. Describe how the Word of God works in our lives. Discuss examples from your life about the power of the Word of God.
10. Discuss the mind transformation process. Create a plan of action for obeying God's Word for transformation.



*Prepare your minds*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





# LEADERS

August 21

TESTED

LOVE

ONE

ANOTHER

1 Peter 1:22-2:3



# Love One Another

1 Peter 1: 22-2:3

22 Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, 23 since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; 24 for

“All flesh is like grass  
and all its glory like the flower of grass.  
The grass withers,  
and the flower falls,  
25 but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

2:1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

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# Love One Another

Here is the logical progression of the first half of 1 Peter. Peter starts by reminding the church that God LOVES them (1 Peter 1:1-12). You have been rejected by the world, but CHOSEN by God. Next, Peter goes on to challenge the church to be HOLY in an unholy world (1 Peter 1:13-21). In other words, Peter calls the church to respond to God's love by LOVING God through holy living. Thirdly, Peter progresses in this theme of love by challenging the church to LOVE one another (1 Peter 1:22-2:3).

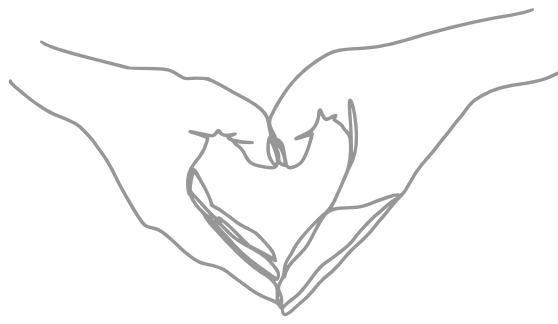
In times of suffering you may be tempted to turn on one another, but the opposite is needed...Christ-like love for the body of Christ. From there Peter will discuss how the church can LOVE the world. He will address our evangelistic witness as a Kingdom and Priest (1 Peter 2:4-12). Then he will move on to specific examples of how we can love the world. How to love an unjust government (1 Peter 2:13-17). How to love a cruel boss/master (1 Peter 2:18-25). And how to love members of your own household (1 Peter 3:1-7).

This Sunday we will look at the command, "love one another." Only when we properly understand God's love can we return that love properly to God. Only when we learn to love God can we begin to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. And make no mistake; this is a mark of the Christian. Jesus Himself said, "They will know you are my disciples by your LOVE."

Over the past several years we have "been grieved by various trials." These trials can stagnate our love for the body. It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit through the Holy Scriptures will flow fresh waters into our soul igniting in us a passion and power to love. And may that love be seen by the world and bring glory to God.

In Him,  
Pastor TJ

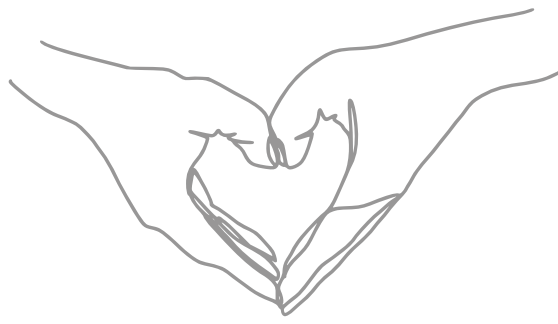




*Love one another earnestly*

## Discussion Questions

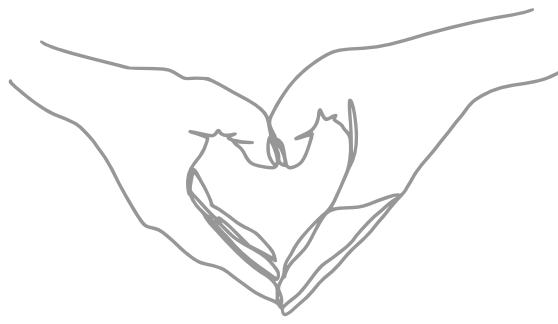
1. Share with the group any special holidays or celebration of love that your country has and discuss the role love plays in the Christian faith?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:22. What does it mean to have your soul purified and in what way(s) does the Word (truth) purify our soul?
3. How is God's commitment to purifying our souls a motivator for loving one another? Are there examples/parables from Scripture that teach this idea?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:23 and Ezekiel 36:25-27. What does it mean to be born again? What other texts speak of this same truth?
5. How does God's commitment to make you a new creation empower you to love one another?
6. Read 1 Peter 1:22-23. List out the indicative and imperative and discuss why the indicative comes before the imperative. (The New Testament uses indicative statements when discussing what God has done, is doing or will do. Imperative statements are used when saying what we should do.)



*Love one another earnestly*

## Discussion Questions

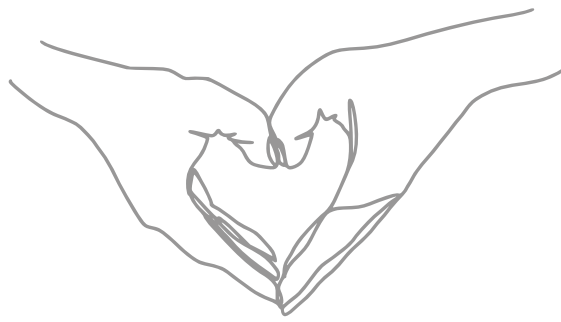
7. What were the things that might have kept the Christians in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia from fully loving one another?
8. What are the things that might keep us from fully loving one another today?
9. Read 1 Peter 1:22, 2:1. Give examples of sincere love and hypocritical love and discuss how we can “put on” sincere love and “take off” hypocritical love.
10. Read 1 Peter 1:22, 2:1. Give examples of earnest love and discuss how we can “put on” earnestness love.
11. In what ways can slander be present in the church today and how can we as a church “take off” slander?
12. Read 1 Peter 1:22, 2:1. Give examples of love that is pure and love that is evil and discuss how we can “put on” pure love and “take off” evil love (malice).
13. Read 1 Peter 2:1. Give examples of deceit among Christians today.
14. How does Peter contrast deceit and the Word of God in 1 Peter 2:2 and how is that meant to influence how we love?



*Love one another earnestly*

## Discussion Questions

15. Read 1 Peter 2:1. Give examples of envy in the church today and discuss how to “take off” envy.
16. As you think through the list of “put on” and “take off”, which do you think is the biggest struggle or the most dangerous for the church today and why?
17. Read 1 Peter 2:2. What is the comparison between infants and Christians and what does that look like practically?
18. What are one or two things you can do this week to love your community of faith deeper?



*Love one another earnestly*

## Prayer & Praise

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### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports





# LEADERS

August 28

TESTED

EVANGELISTIC



WITNESS

1 Peter 2:4-12



# Evangelistic Witness

1 Peter 2: 4-12

4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,  
“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and  
“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

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# Evangelistic Witness

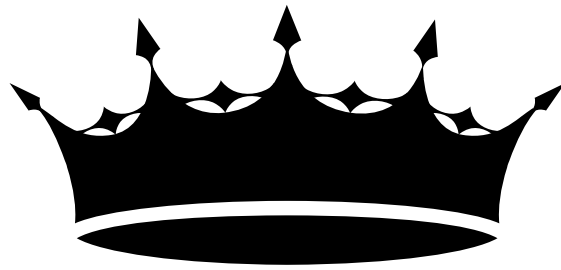
What does it really mean to be an Evangelistic Witness?

It's certainly more than just verbally sharing your faith. This week we continue in our series, looking at Peter's letter of encouragement to the dispersed believers throughout Asia Minor. We can see how Peter encourages them to make every part of their lives a witness of God.

As we go through this passage, we can be encouraged too, and see how we can use our whole lives to be an Evangelistic Witness for Him.

In Him,

Brett Warren



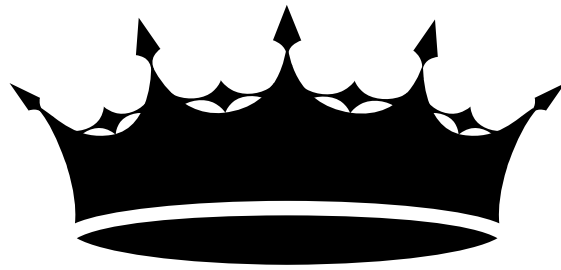
*Proclaim the excellencies*

## Discussion Questions

1. Read 1 Peter 2:4-5. In what ways was Jesus rejected by the world and how was He able to deal with rejection?

- John 1 begins with the fact that Jesus came to His own (Israel) and they received Him not. As you read the Gospels it is clear that Jesus didn't meet the expectations of most. His rejection included: His hometown (can anything good come from Nazareth), His teaching (Sabbath laws, dietary laws, divorce laws, sin of the heart and not just action...looking at a woman lustfully, suffering, etc.), His company (many criticized Him because he spent time with tax collectors, prostitutes, had female disciples, etc.).
- It is clear that many followed Jesus for a meal or a miracle, but when He refused to give them what they wanted they (John 6) no longer followed Him. At which time Jesus turned to His disciples and asked, will you too leave?
- Certainly the greatest rejection is the cross. They chose Barabbas over Jesus. They shouted crucify him. They hurled insults at Him from the cross. Etc. Jesus was able to deal with their rejection because He focused on His Father's approval. He wasn't there to please the world but God! At the beginning and end of Jesus' ministry The Father said of/to Jesus, This is my BELOVED Son in whom I am well PLEASED.
- If we, like Jesus, keep our focus on God's consideration of us rather than the world's we too will be able to live with hope in the midst of rejection. We are chosen (2:9) and beloved (2:11).





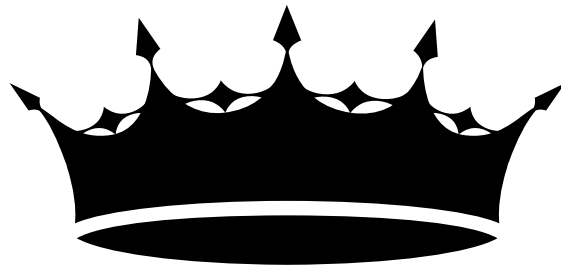
*Proclaim the excellencies*

## Discussion Questions

2. Give examples of how you (or Christians in general) have been rejected by the world and how you (or they) have responded to that rejection.

- Maybe your colleagues treat you different, and reject you because they know you are a Christian.
- Some of us experience family rejection, where family members don't agree with our choice to serve God and have rejected us in some way.
- Rejection from friends - sometimes friends reject us in some way because of our faith.
- And of course sometimes people refuse to be our friend entirely because we are Christian.
- For those of us that work in ministry, this rejection happens every time someone asks you what you do for a living.
- As soon as you say "I work for a church" there is usually a long awkward silence and you feel that rejection.
- Maybe you feel rejection when you tell a colleague you went to church on the weekend, or to a small group.

If we respond in anger or vengeance then we lose our opportunity for evangelistic witness. We look exactly like the world. But if we respond, like Jesus, with kindness and mercy (Father forgive them), then our unusual behavior will be noticed and some will be attracted to this unique behavior.



*Proclaim the excellencies*

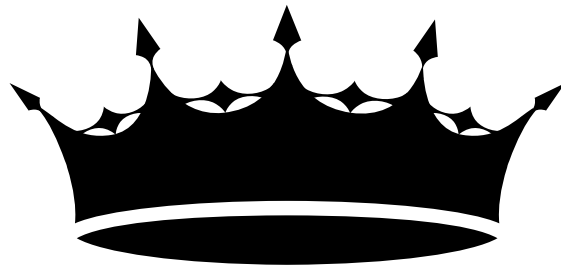
## Discussion Questions

3. What does it mean for us to be a Holy Priesthood and what spiritual sacrifices are we to offer to God?

- A priest hears from the people and presents their needs (particularly for sin) to God. The Levites (priesthood) ministered to all of Israel as God's representatives. In the same way, we are God's people who are to minister to the world as God's representatives. We pray for the world. We call people to repent. We point people to the way to a right relationship with God.
- The spiritual sacrifices that we offer to God are our very lives (Romans 12). By living holy lives before a watching world we daily show the world a different way to live, one that pleases God.

4. Read 1 Peter 6-8. Give examples of some of the "cornerstones" (foundations) that the world tries to build their life upon and discuss the fleeting/deceptive nature of those things.

- Various: money, identity, possessions, positions, family, friends, etc.
- Jesus teaches in Matthew 7 of a wise and foolish man. The foolish man builds his life on the sand...things that fade and give way to the pressures of life. In the same way, all the things the world builds upon is temporary or in some way unstable.
- But as Peter reminds us in 1:25, God and His Word remain FOREVER.



*Proclaim the excellencies*

## Discussion Questions

5. What does it mean that Jesus is our cornerstone and how can this be an evangelistic witness to the world?

- The cornerstone was the most important stone for construction. It was the stone that every other stone was ordered around. If the cornerstone was defective then the building would not be stable.
- In the same way, Jesus is the one we build our life upon. Our thoughts, actions, and speech are all built around the life of Jesus. How we respond to difficulties is based on who Jesus is. How we treat our spouses and children. How we spend our money. What forms of entertainment we engage in. How we choose our jobs, our apartments. How we treat our neighbors. All of this is in direct connection to who Jesus is.
- So, when we spend our money differently or treat that Didi driver differently, or choose not to lie or cheat in order to get that bonus, the world notices and we now have an opportunity to share with them WHY we do what we do.

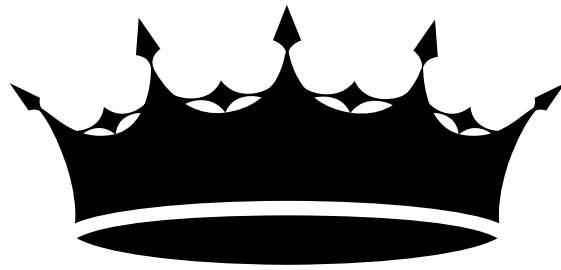
6. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10. What are some of the excellencies of God that you have come to most admire and why?

Various.

7. What are some things that keep Christians from proclaiming God's excellencies to the world?

Various: including fear, time, lack of importance, lack of training, etc.





*Proclaim the excellencies*

## Discussion Questions

8. Read 1 Peter 2:10. Discuss humanity's felt need of belonging/identity and how Christianity meets that need at the deepest level (not a people, God's people).

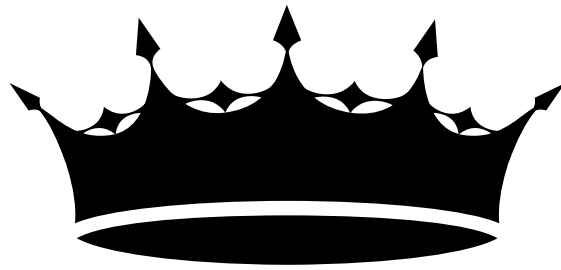
- Go to a high school and you will soon notice that people group according to commonalities (sports, math, tech, fashion, etc.). Being a part of a "tribe/clan" is something we all have a longing for. We want to be liked. We want to feel a sense of belonging to something larger than us.
- Christianity is the most unique clan of all in that our commonality isn't our age or interests, our ethnicity or abilities, but instead it is Jesus' death on our behalf. We are a part of an eternal family that will never reject us. We are full-fledged members of God's Kingdom not because of who we are but because of God's grace and mercy toward us.

9. Read 1 Peter 2:11, 1:1, 17. Why does Peter return to the theme of exile and what relevance does that have for us today?

- Peter is reminding us that we are to live IN the world but not be OF the world. Your home is heavenly. Your King, the rules of the King, the final hope are vastly different from the values and expectation that surround you. Don't give in. Don't go back to your former ways. Don't compromise.
- Perhaps have the group discuss the very real temptations they feel in the workplace or in their family.

10. Read 1 Peter 1:14; 2:11; 4:2, 3 noting the word "passion/lust/desire". Make a list of the worldly passions that tempt humanity.

Various.



*Proclaim the excellencies*

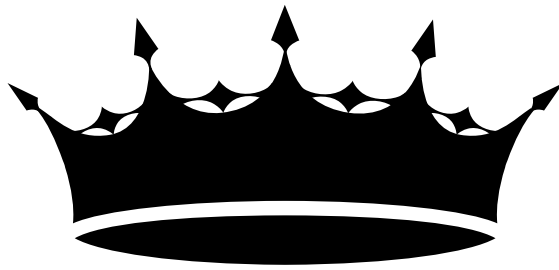
## Discussion Questions

11. How does our refusal of these passions give witness to the world?

One of the ways that we as Christians stand out is by how differently we look from the world. This different lifestyle gives opportunity for some meaningful conversations. Why don't you sleep around? Why don't you take that bribe? Why don't you drink to the point of being drunk?

12. Read 1 Peter 1:12. What is the day of visitation and how is that a motivator for evangelism?

- The Day (ἡμέρα), particularly in the Old Testament (The Day of the Lord) is a reference to the day of judgment, when God would come back and judge the world. New Testament writers draw from Old Testament scriptures to often refer to "The Day" as the last day of this present age, the day Christ will return from heaven, raise the dead, hold the final judgment, and perfect His kingdom.
- For more information on The Day, see:  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/day-of-the-lord/>
- The second word that Peter uses is "visitation" (ἐπισκοπή). It can either refer to an office (Bishop) or (which Peter seems to be using here) the act by which God looks into and searches out the ways, deeds, character of men, in order to adjudge them their lot accordingly, whether joyous or sad. This is how Jesus uses the word in Luke 19:44.
- If we truly believe that a day of judgment is coming then it would certainly be a motivator for us to share the good news. Your sins have separated you from God and God MUST and WILL judge sin...BUT...there is hope, let me tell you about that hope before it is too late.



*Proclaim the excellencies*

## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports