



# Week 1 Study Sheet

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## When Faith Feels Fragile

### Consider

Have you ever visited a foreign country? Maybe you've visited somewhere in the United States that felt different than your hometown? You had new experiences, ate new food, and saw new sights. After the novelty of new wears off, when the culture just doesn't feel like home, we may start to feel like strangers. We have come to realize that we do not belong.

The Jews were exiled by the Babylonian Empire in 597 B.C. They were carried off from their home in Jerusalem, into the foreign land of Babylon. Even after they returned after 70 years, they were still occupied by the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks, and by the time of Peter's letter, the Romans. In some regards, they were exiles in their homeland because of the customs of the foreign rulers. Jesus and his disciples shared this experience. Christians in the early church, especial those who Peter is writing to, faced persecution and this sense of exile.

Jesus reminds us that this world is not our home. As followers of Jesus, we are awaiting the return of Christ, the return of Eden. Peter helps us understand that our hope is in our future inheritance with Jesus, and that how we wait matters. What does it look like to live as a stranger in this world, while actively awaiting the return of Jesus?

### Pray

Father, help me to be discontented with the world around me while hopeful for your kingdom to be fully revealed here on earth as it is in Heaven. Amen.

### Read

[1 Peter 1:3-12](#)

### Study

What key words, themes, or phrases stand out to you as you read this passage?

What does this passage reveal about God's plan for us?

What does this passage reveal about our response to God's plan?

How would you define "living hope?"

What is the necessity of trials for us?

### Read

[Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

### Study

What key themes, words, or phrases stand out to you as you read this passage?

How does Jeremiah help us have hope even if we feel like we are in exile or facing persecution?

How does Jeremiah's prophecy connect with Peter's letter?

How does this prophecy help form our identity in Jesus?



# Week 1 Study Sheet Cont.

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## When Faith Feels Fragile

- Examine** Do you have holy discontent? Does the culture of the world bother you? Look at your web search history, note the time you spend on your phone, reflect on the topics of your conversations, and consider what you read or watch each evening. Track what you consume this week and ask yourself, “do I express God’s living hope with the way I live my life?”
- Next Step** Practicing the Way is an online spiritual formation program that can help you take your next step in following Jesus. It is free and easy to navigate. One of the free resources offered through Practicing the Way is a Fasting practice. Visit [practicingtheway.org](http://practicingtheway.org), the site will guide you through spiritual practice and provide suggested activities and goals. Create an account, then navigate to “Fasting” and start experiencing the practice of Fasting throughout the year.
- Practice** Fasting is going without food for a set amount of time to awaken our body and soul to our deep hunger and need for God. As you begin, consider fasting breakfast. Instead of eating, seek God in prayer. Fasting creates hunger. Prayer satisfies it.
- This week, fast with hope, turning to God. Fasting becomes an act of repentance rooted in trust in God’s gracious and compassionate nature.
- “Return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Joel 2:12 NIV (Read Joel 2:12-17)
  - Who is God calling you to pray for?
  - Pray for clarity and compassion for that person.



# Week 2 Study Sheet

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## Wholly Different

### Consider

The oldest tree in the world can be found in the Sierra mountains of California. Known as “Methuselah,” this old pine is believed to be 4,853 years old. This tree predates the birth of Jesus. It could have seen some of the first migrants trickling into the Americas; it has survived countless snowy winters, earthquakes, and even 49ers. On the outside, its gnarled-up looks would lead one to believe it is simple petrified wood, but there is still life on the inside.<sup>1</sup>

As amazing as the age of Methuselah is, this tree has not been and will not be—forever. Peter makes a radical claim while referencing a passage in the Old Testament. Peter claims that, “the word of the Lord remains forever.” (1 Peter 1:25) We have access to the forever Word of God that radically changes our lives. It has faced persecution, fire, and disinformation. It has shaped and will continue to empower generations to come because God’s Word is forever.

As his forever Word, it forms in us a forever life. That forever life, according to Peter, is a holy life. Holy because of our faith in Jesus. Holy because of the trials we face which strengthen our faith into something that is much more precious than jewels. We are holy because God is holy and he empowers us to live lives that reflect this in an often-turbulent world. How has God’s forever Word helped you to be holy? How has it revealed God’s plan for your life and empowered you to rely more on his holiness?

### Pray

Heavenly Father, help me to be holy—as you are holy—by allowing your Word to shape my life. Amen.

### Read

[1 Peter 1:13-25](#)

### Study

What words, phrases, or themes stand out as you read this passage?

What does this passage reveal about God?

What does this passage reveal about us?

How can we not conform to the passions of our former life?

How can God’s Word help us with that?

How does the sacrifice of Jesus help us to be holy?

How can we walk in obedience?

### Read

[Romans 5:12-21](#)

### Study

What key words, phrases, and themes stand out in this passage?

How does Paul’s writing relate to Peter’s letter?

What does this passage reveal about Adam and his disobedience verse Jesus and his obedience?

How can we allow this passage to shape our walk with Jesus?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/oldest-tree-bristlecone-pine-alerce/>



# Week 2 Study Sheet Cont.

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## Wholly Different

### Examine

Holiness is always tied to obedience. Think about an area of your life in which you can practice obedience to God. Maybe it's your daily devotions, your finances, or the way to communicate with others. Whatever it may be, take time this week to ask Jesus to purify every area of your life. Use these passages to help guide you in this daily practice of surrender.

### Practice

Fasting is going without food for a set amount of time to awaken our body and soul to our deep hunger and need for God. As you begin, consider fasting breakfast. Instead of eating, seek God in prayer.

This week, fast with a hunger toward God. Fasting expresses our deep thirst and longing for God as our true satisfaction.

- “All who make promises in his name will praise him.” Psalm 63:11 ICB (Read Psalm 63)
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to start a meaningful conversation with the person he put on your heart last week.
- Pray for wisdom, courage, and the right timing.



# Week 3 Study Sheet

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## Chosen To Tell

### Consider

The Greco-Roman world was known for its beautiful mosaics. Mosaics are pictures produced by arranging together small pieces of hard material, such as stones or shards of clay. Each piece was carefully placed to make an astonishing image. You can still see this art form today in modern buildings. Walls of tile and rock can transform a room with one simple stone placed in the right spot.

This may have been in the mind of Peter as he penned the second chapter of his first letter. Referring to believers as chosen stones within the mosaic of the body of Christ. The church a beautiful mosaic, each believer a stone, all serving together to reveal the wonderful picture of Jesus to the world. Does this mean that every stone is perfect, by no means. It means that every stone, in the hands of the creator, is perfectly placed.

As a living stone, how do you feel God's hand on your life? Where has God placed you in his kingdom? What has he called you to do as a living stone here in the body of Christ?

### Pray

Jesus, thank you for choosing me and placing me into your beautiful mosaic which is the church. Amen.

### Read

[1 Peter 2:4-12](#)

### Study

What words, phrases, places, or themes stand out as you read this passage?

What is God revealing about himself, what is he revealing about us?

What do you think the term "living stone" means?

What are tangible ways to obey God's Word?

Why does Peter call the readers "chosen people?"

How can we protect ourselves from worldly desires?

### Read

[Revelation 5](#)

### Study

What words, events, places, or themes stand out as you read this passage?

What is God revealing about himself, what is he revealing about us?

How does this cosmic vision connect with Peter's letter?

How does this passage correlate to us being living stones? What is our part?

If God has made us to be a kingdom of priests, how then should we live?



# Week 3 Study Sheet Cont.

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## Chosen To Tell

### Examine

If you are God's workmanship, what do you look like in his eyes? Get creative this week and make a story board, a word diagram, or create a picture of how you think God sees you. Share this with your group or another person.

### Practice

Fasting is going without food for a set amount of time to awaken our body and soul to our deep hunger and need for God. As you begin, consider fasting breakfast. Instead of eating, seek God in prayer.

This week, fast with dependence on God. Fasting begins by admitting our need and choosing trust in God's protection and provision over our own strength.

- "So we fasted and earnestly prayed that our God would take care of us, and he heard our prayer."  
Ezra 8:23 NLT (Read Ezra 8:21-23)
- Reflect on a passage of hope that points to Jesus and plan to share it with the person you have been praying for.
- Pray for boldness and clarity in your words.



# Week 4 Study Sheet

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## Following Jesus When It Cost You

### Introduction

Suffering is not a concept that anyone wants to make into a lifestyle. We spend most of our lives trying to avoid pain and suffering. You get a headache; you take some medicine. Your body aches; you find a heating pad. You are hungry, you grab something to eat. All of these are examples of moderate discomfort. Think about someone you know who suffers lifelong physical pain, a person who lost a loved one, or someone in a broken relationship. Imagine the suffering they are currently enduring.

The truth is—we will all face suffering. Peter was writing to an audience facing suffering through the lenses of persecution, famine, and Roman occupation. The followers of Jesus were being tried on every side and Peter encouraged them with the example of Jesus.

Jesus became flesh, lived under the curse of the fall, never sinned, and yet was beaten and crucified as a criminal. He faced ridicule and abandonment. Jesus truly suffered. Even at his worst moment of suffering, he offered compassion to the criminal on the cross. How can Jesus' example inspire us and help us when we suffer?

**Pray** Father, you see me when I am awake and when I sleep, you know my joy and my pain, will you comfort me when I am in need and empower me live as Jesus. Amen.

**Read** [1 Peter 4:13-22](#)

**Study** What phrases, words, concepts, or patterns stand out as you read this passage?  
What does this passage reveal about God? How do you connect with it?  
What are examples of obedience from the life of Jesus?  
How has Jesus' suffering benefited us?  
How can we be Christ like in our own moments of suffering?

**Read** [Genesis 22](#)

**Study** Who is this passage about, and what is happening in this passage?  
How does this passage teach us to encounter tough assignments in life?  
How was Abraham obedient?  
How did he allow God to help him in his suffering?  
How can this story help us to trust God in tough situations?



# Week 4 Study Sheet Cont.

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## Following Jesus When It Cost You

### Examine

Peter states, “Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18 NLT) Take time this week to memorize this passage. As you memorize, pray with this passage on your mind.

### Practice

Fasting is going without food for a set amount of time to awaken our body and soul to our deep hunger and need for God. As you begin, consider fasting breakfast. Instead of eating, seek God in prayer.

This week, fast with compassion and conviction reflecting God. Fasting aligns our lives with God’s heart, moving us toward mercy, obedience, and restoration.

- “Loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke to set the oppressed free and break every yoke.” Isaiah 58:6 NIV (Read Isaiah 58:6-12)
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement for the person you have been praying for and invite them to church.
- Pray for a heart and actions that reflect Christ’s compassion and truth.



# Week 5 Study Sheet

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## Standing Firm When Life Shakes

### Introduction

One of the most dominate teams of all time is the national New Zealand rugby team. The “All Blacks” or “Ferns” have won 80% of their national matches since 1905. A dominant team to say the least. When a new team member is nominated, the first thing they receive is a black leather journal. The first few pages of the journal detail generations of jerseys and stories of the players who came before. As the stories conclude, a new story begins with a commissioning to the new teammate to “continue the story.”

Peter has the same thought in mind as he ends his letter—to encourage his immediate audience (and us) to continue the story of Jesus with our lives. As the living stones, with our allegiance in Jesus, we continue the story of Jesus. We hand down his teachings in the Gospel, the lessons learned by generations of disciples before us with the way we live our everyday life. Since we have such a legacy, we also have a responsibility to continue the tradition.

We are members of the body of Christ. Our jersey is worn only through the blood of Jesus. Our mission does not win on the pitch, rather we point to the win of the resurrection. As we prepare ourselves this week to remember the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, we do so with the knowledge that Jesus is undefeated and we are on his team.

### Pray

Jesus, remind me daily of my allegiance to your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

### Read

[1 Peter 5:1-11](#)

### Study

What words, phrases, concepts, people, or themes stand out as you read this passage?

What does this passage reveal about God? What does it reveal about us?

What are some key qualities that help us to live in harmony with each other?

How can we stay alert?

How can we apply Peter’s teaching to elders and young men to our daily lives?

### Read

[Hebrews 12:1-13](#)

### Study

What words, phrases, concepts, people, or themes stand out as you read this passage?

What does this passage reveal about God? What does it reveal about us?

Who has been a great witness of faith in your life and why?

Why is discipline good for us?

How does discipline help us with our allegiance to Jesus and empower us to persevere through trials?



# Week 5 Study Sheet Cont.

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## Standing Firm When Life Shakes

### Examine

Reflect on ways you can allow God's Word to help you endure every situation you face. Reflect and create a list of important words and phrases from 1 Peter that can empower you to live life on mission with the hope of Jesus where you live, work, learn, and play.

### Practice

Fasting is going without food for a set amount of time to awaken our body and soul to our deep hunger and need for God. As you begin, consider fasting breakfast. Instead of eating, seek God in prayer.

This week, fast with humility before God. Fasting is practiced for God's eyes alone, not for recognition or approval from others.

- "Your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" Matthew 6:18 NIV (Read Matthew 6:16-18)
- Pray for a heart of gratitude and continued faithfulness in following God.
- Celebrate and thank God for what he has done through this week of fasting.