

Week 1

Getting started: Autumn is coming. (No, really it is!) What is something you are looking forward to about this Autumn? Are you doing anything to get ready for your Autumn plans?

This week ... We begin a journey through the letters written by Peter. Peter walked with Jesus as a disciple; he was one of the three disciples closest to Jesus. Peter was changed by Jesus' life; he was transformed by Jesus' resurrection. Peter writes his letters near the end of his life after living a life committed to the radical changes that the good news of Jesus as Lord and Redeemer brought. He is most likely in prison waiting execution as he writes to his fellow Christ-followers encouraging them to remember who God is, what He has done, and who they are. Peter encourages them (and us) to live differently daily because of these realities. No matter what the circumstances being faced, we are encourage to living as if the truth of Christ was more real than the situations being experienced.

Main Idea: Jesus is alive! His resurrection gives us a salvation that changes everything. Remembering what we have been given, what our future is, and who we are now gives us perspective and hope for the circumstances we are in and the commitment to live differently.

Passage: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Read the passage a couple of times. You might even retell the passage together as a group. Be listening for what this passage says about what we have been given because Jesus is alive.

Peter begins his letter by reminding us what God has given us—a salvation that even the angels are in awe of.

Start thinking at a Head level. These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

1. What do you see that God has given you through Jesus?

2. What does this passage tell us about what's coming and the impact now?

Peter says that our salvation fills us with joy, and our hope and faith in Jesus' promises give us endurance. *Start sharing at a Heart level. These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.*

1. What is a trial that you have experienced or are experiencing? How is it challenging or growing you? (How does what Peter writes affect you?)

2. When you set goals and priorities, how does thinking about what Jesus has given you, and that He will return, impact your decisions?

3. What in this passage challenges you about how you believe life works?

In 1 Peter 1:13-2:3, Peter continues on by challenging us to live differently because we are new; we are given a living hope; we have a promised inheritance; ours is a faith and hope greater than the circumstances we are in.

Start doing at a Hands level. These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. Peter gives several directives about how to live differently. Which one stands out to you? Why?

2. In what way does it challenge you to adjust how you think and live? Think of practical steps to take this week.

**Start practicing. Things to try out this week:
Choose one suggested practice to try this week, or develop your own.**

1. Take 5 minutes to be still and meditate on Jesus' death, resurrection, and promised return. Think about what salvation He has given you. Thank Him for what He has done and given you. Try this 2 or more times this week. Notice what comes to mind. Think on it throughout your day. Notice how this impacts your actions, responses, and relationships.
2. "Live holy lives" means to live set apart—differently—by focusing on who God is and what He is like. What attribute of God is most meaningful to you at this point in time? Write it down on a card or sticky note. Put it on your mirror or in your pocket every day this week. This week, intentionally, reflect that characteristic in how you live. Let it impact your choices, your decisions, your reactions, how you are in your relationships. Notice what happens this week.
3. God's word helps us grow just as babies need milk or they fail to thrive. Actively take in God's word this week. Be diligent in setting aside time to be in the Word. Every time you eat food, ask yourself, "Am I as hungry for God's word?" Ask God to help you crave His word to speak into your life. Take this challenge this week: every day that you eat food for your body, find a way to "eat" from God's word for your heart and soul. (Ideas: You can listen to the Bible on tape, CD, or .mp3; take a few minutes before bed to read a few verses; have a devotional
4. time; read it with your family, memorize a verse and review it daily.)

Reading: This week covered 1 Peter 1:3-2:3. Next week will look at 1 Peter 2:4-25. Try reading the chapter two or three times during week. You might try reading or listening to 1 Peter all the way through—maybe even in one sitting.

Week 2

Getting started: Who was your first employer? What were they like—what do you remember about them?

This week ... Peter writes his letter from Rome to fellow Christ-followers scattered throughout what is now modern-day Turkey. He is imprisoned by the Emperor Nero. In the very near future, the persecution of Christians will increase when Nero blames Christians for a massive fire that destroys much of Rome. “Slaves” are common in the Roman Empire, but that group included laborers, workers, household helpers—even wives, unmarried daughters, and underage sons.

Main Idea: Jesus gave us a new life, a new identity, and an example of how to live it out. Living as if we are a chosen people and foreigners impacts how we respond to authority and to suffering, even when it is unjust and harsh.

Read the passages a couple of times. Be listening for what this passage says about who you are and how to live in this world. You could even retell the passage together as a group.

Passage: 1 Peter 2:4-10

Peter continues to remind those reading his book who Jesus is and what Jesus did. He continues to say that what you do or don't do with Jesus makes a decisive difference.

Start thinking at a Head level. These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

1. What does Peter say about who Jesus is in this passage?

2. List the different names given to those who follow Jesus in this passage. Which one do you identify with? How does that new identity impact your relationship with God, yourself, and others?

Take a look at 1 Peter 2:11-21. He tells us we are both chosen people who belong to God, and at the same time, we are foreigners who live differently to declare God's goodness.

Start sharing at a Heart level. These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. When you hear the words: “accuse,” “submit,” “ignorant talk,” “harsh,” and “unjust,” how do you respond? (Note: these words are used in NIV translation.)

2. How “alien and foreign” do Peter’s instruction seem to you? What about them feels alien?

3. How did you react the last time you were treated unjustly or asked to submit to an authority?

4. How does considering Jesus’ example help you? (Or not help?)

Peter challenges us to live as aliens and foreigners by following Jesus’ example. He says that our motive is to be for God’s glory and our reverence of Him.

Start doing at a Hands level. These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. Describe what living a good life looks like in practical terms. (You might use verses 16 & 17 to help) What area do you want to grow in? How will you?

2. How is submitting to human authorities lived out in your daily life? What is challenging? What helps you?

3. How can you help each other “bear up” when things seem unfair or unjust?

Start practicing: things to try out this week.

Choose one suggested practice to try this week, or develop your own.

1. List the human authorities that God has placed in your life. Remember to think about governmental levels, work, play, church, neighborhood, etc. Take some time to pray for them. Ask God to give you His heart towards authority to grow your ability to honor, respect, and submit to them for His Glory. Ask God to show you any areas that you might need to repent and ways to grow. Each day, or 2-3 times this week, *intentionally* honor a specific authority. Just a reminder: Thursday, May 4, is National Day of Prayer!
2. When you follow Jesus as Lord, you become His people who have received mercy. Living good lives amongst our coworkers, family, and neighbors helps them see God and moves them to glorify God. Who needs to receive good from you this week? Practically and specifically, do good towards someone who does not follow Jesus. Share about it with your group (not to brag, but to encourage). Consider: What change might God be asking you to make to increase your lifestyle of living a good life towards those who do not follow Jesus, for the glory of God?
3. Do you know someone suffering unjustly for doing the right thing? This week, pray daily for them. Send them a note of encouragement. Find out what practical needs they have and meet them.

Reading: This week covered 1 Peter 2:4-25. Next week looks at 1 Peter 3:1-7. A companion passage is Ephesians 5-6:4. Read or listen to them a couple of times throughout this week. Try reading 1 Peter in one sitting.

Week 3

Getting started: What's been a good team or partnership that you have been part of? What made it a good experience for you?

NOTE: This might be a good passage to discuss in breakout groups.

This week ... In the previous passages, Peter has discussed what it looks like to live as “a people who belong to God and are aliens in this world” —in the world, with the government, and in your workplace. Now, he is discussing what it looks like to live as if you were “a people who belong to God and are aliens and strangers in this world” —at home in a marriage. Peter starts off both of his statements to wives and husbands with the word “likewise” or “in the same way.” He is referring to Jesus and the example that He gave.

Let's give a couple of words some definitions and backgrounds. *Submission* is referring to the voluntary attitude of placing oneself under, of cooperating with, yielding to, to be subject to. *Considerate* or *understanding* means to know, to perceive, to be a student of, an observer of, to gain understanding through experience.

At this time in the Roman Empire, it was not a common practice for wives to have a different religion than their husbands. Peter is instructing the women who follow Jesus to live in a winsome way, even with spouses who don't follow Jesus. Voluntarily submitting to your own husband is a way to demonstrate your reverence for Jesus. In many realms, men were allowed to view their wives as property; here, Peter is challenging Jesus-following men to view and understand their wives as co-heirs and partners.

By the way, if you are single, it is good to know what God-honoring relationships look like so you can encourage and support your married friends. And if you desire to be married someday, it is good for you to learn and grow in these heart attitudes and practices.

Main Idea: Following Jesus, we are people who belong to Him, and we become aliens and strangers to the world; we then learn to *live as if* our family relationships reflect God's way, not the world's way. Our marriages and families reflect Jesus as we grow the heart attitudes and actions of love, consideration, and respect.

Read the passage a couple of times. You might even retell the passage together as a group. Be listening for what this passage shows you about how Jesus-following husbands and wives work to relate to one another.

Passage: 1 Peter 3:1-7 (notice that a companion passage is Ephesians 5:21-33)

Peter starts off both of his statements to wives and husbands with the word “likewise” or “in the same way.” He is referring to Jesus and the example that He gave.

Start thinking at a Head level. These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.

1. Talk about the definitions of submission and consideration. In what ways do you recognize Christ modeling both?

2. What do you learn about wives from this passage?

3. What do you learn about husbands from this passage?

4. How is this different from the dominant culture around us?

God's way of living is different than the world's way. Peter keeps telling who we are so that out of our relationship with God we can choose to live differently.

Start sharing at a Heart level. These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. Who has been an example to you of husbands and wives relating to each other in God-honoring ways?

2. How does the Bible's teaching on submission and consideration differ from your understanding or experience? How are they alike?

3. What is God showing you about you and your role in your marriage?

Peter says we are God’s people, and aliens, and strangers, so we live differently showing what God is like to the world around us. This means being different in our homes, too.

Start doing at a Hands level. These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

Ladies:

1. What does voluntarily submitting look like for you this week? Talk with other gals in your group about practical steps to take. Encourage one another.

2. Look at the character qualities and attitudes Peter encourages women to grow in as they follow Jesus (see 3:2, 4, 6). Which of these do you want to grow in practicing?

Gentlemen:

1. What are practical ways to understand and value your wife for who God has made her to be?

2. How can you treat your wife with respect as you lead your family this week? Talk with other guys in your group to help each other take practical action.

3. In what way are you challenged to adjust how you think and live?

Start practicing. Things to try out this week—choose one suggested practice to try this week, or develop your own.

1. Make a plan from your answers above. Ask for prayer and accountability. Then do it, and share what it was like. Intentionally pray over your spouse this week. (You might even pray with your spouse!)
2. As a couple, go on a date with the intention to discuss this question, “What is it like being married to me?” This means you are both willing and want to! Don’t surprise or blindside. Or you could ask your spouse if they would be willing answer to that question about you (not expecting that they want you to answer about them). Only ask if you want to know and are willing to graciously receive whatever their answer is. Respond with a thank you not—an explanation or defense. Suggestion: As you prepare to share and listen with your spouse, ask God to show you at least two positive, encouraging things to share; one way to gently challenge them; and whatever you might need to seek forgiveness for. Be honest and kind.
3. If this topic began to reveal areas in which you want/need to grow, consider going through the study Love and Respect. It is a book, and it is also available on RightNow Media. Take the initiative to go through it for yourself. You could even invite your spouse to join you. And you could invite your life group or a group of friends to join you and make a plan to go through it this summer.

Read: Next week looks at 1 Peter 3:8-4:6, 12-19. Read it a few times. Have you read all of 1 Peter once yet?

Week 4

Getting started: Think about the ‘projects’ you have around the house. Those home improvement type things... Do you wait until an event is coming up – like selling the house to tackle them? Or do you chip away at them now?

This week ...

Peter has been challenging his readers (and us) to remember that because of Jesus Christ and what He did we are both chosen people, royal priests, holy nation, people that belong to God AND aliens, strangers, foreigners. We work toward living differently, in every area of our lives - like kingdom of God people – in the midst a fallen and broken world. This will bring both joy and tension. We will experience both peace and suffering. Peter says to recognize the tension and do it anyway. In this section he continues this challenge by challenging us to adopt new attitudes and new practical ways of relating to people.

Main Idea: We live differently now, today, in practical ways, because Jesus gave us life and a model, because we declare God’s praise and glory through how we live, because we belong to God and the ‘end is near’ for this earthly world. This living differently can cause tension internally and misunderstanding with those who don’t follow Jesus.

Read the passage a couple of times. You might even retell the passage together as a group.

Be listening for what this passage shows you about living differently in practical ways.

Passage: 1 Peter 4:1-4 & 7-11

(Note: Verse 6 is a fascinating verse and could supply lots of discussion, however, it is not a focal point for this discussion. If you want to explore it more look at study bible or a commentary, talk with a pastor or a mature Christian friend.)

Peter gets very direct and practical about embracing the tension of following Jesus while we live on earth.

Start thinking at a Head level. These questions help us to examine what the word shows.

1. In this passage what stands out to you in what Peter says to those who follow Jesus?

2. What has changed in your life since because you follow Jesus? What tensions have you experienced – either internally or with others’ expectations?

3. Peter continues to point to Jesus’ return or the end is near. Talk about why you think he keeps bringing it up.

Peter gives us motives for living differently, take a look at verses 1,7,11.

Start sharing at a Heart level. These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. What motivates you to pursue living differently? What can distract you?

2. How does loving others deeply impact how you view life or how do you want it to? (Try not to give the easy answer but take a moment to answer from your heart)

3. What in this passage challenges you - what you think and the way you live daily?

Peter is practical in how he challenges those who follow Jesus to live differently.

1 Peter 4:7-11 reflects his direct practicality. *Start doing at a Hands level. These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.*

1. Peter says: be alert and pray; love deeply - with grace and forgiveness; practice hospitality; and use your gifts to serve others. Which one of those do you sense God challenging you to take the next step in?

2. How have you discovered the gifts God has given you? How are you using them to serve - for His glory and others good?
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Start practicing. Try out something this week. Choose one or two of the suggested practices to try this week. Or develop you own practice.

1. As you looked at this passage, God may have brought something to mind that needs to change because you follow Jesus. You may have been hesitant because it will impact your relationships – Share with someone, ask for prayer, make a plan to either stop something old or start something new. Take the first steps this week and be consistent.
2. Love is deep, covers a multitude of sins and offers hospitality. Take time to think about how you can practice one of those aspects of love this week. Such as:
A)Identify someone need to be more honest with and sacrificial with. You recognize your love is surface love. B)You need to extend forgiveness to someone or have a hard conversation to resolve conflict. Begin those steps. Or C) Invite someone out to dinner, over for dinner, take dinner to someone. It could be another family or your spouse.☺
3. Think about how God made you and gifted you. Notice in your life what is something that comes easily to you, you just seem to do it naturally-instinctively. (for example: solving problems, fixing mechanical things, caring for others in need or pain, listening well, sharing what you have, etc.) Intentionally, in practical ways, use what you are good at to serve someone else. Share with your friends/family/or group what you discovered.

Every one has been given gifts from God to bring Him glory and others good. If you are not sure how that looks in your life – pay attention to your life. Pray. Look for what are you doing when others are helped by you and you sense God’s presence. Ask others what they see in your life. Take the steps to serve people for God’s sake – these are good ways to begin to discover what God gave you. You will discover them best by serving others.

Read: This week we switched things up a bit and covered 1 Peter 4:1-11. For next week the plan is to look at 1 Peter 3:8-22 & 1 Peter 4:12-19.

Week 5

Getting started: Describe a time when you thought about revenge, or acted on it.

This week... Remember Peter is writing to Christ-followers who are scattered in the Roman Empire. They are a minority in a world with beliefs and values so very different from their own. Peter continues to encourage them to stand strong, to live differently, to be bold about loving well, to be humble and compassionate, and to do good even when they would be slandered or accused. He keeps reminding people it is better to live God's way.

Main Idea: Jesus modeled how to live in the midst of suffering, even when doing what is right and good costs. As you follow Jesus, live faithfully, diligently, loving others, so you can give a reason for the hope you have even when there is suffering. Suffering has a purpose in our lives.

Read the passage a couple of times. You might even retell the passage together as a group.

Be listening for what this passage shows you about daily living God's way.

Passage: 1 Peter 3:8-18 (Note: 1 Peter 4:12-19 is a companion passage.)

Again, Peter points us toward how to live as a people who belong to God in the midst of real relationships in an earth-bound world. *Start thinking at a Head level. These questions help us to examine what the Word shows.*

1. Peter keeps encouraging us to live as aliens and strangers in this world. What themes do you see him continuing to say? What stands out to you, personally?

2. From this passage, what gives a Christ-follower confidence or courage even in the midst of suffering?

3. In this passage, what gives you an opportunity to share who Jesus is? (Note: there may be several things you see.)

In view of who Jesus is, what He has done, who we are in Him, Peter challenges us to adopt heart attitudes that impact our relationships. *Start sharing at a Heart level. These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.*

1. When someone is hurtful or insulting to you, how do you react? (Be real, honest, and transparent! 😊)

2. Peter says it is a blessing to suffer for doing right, and he encourages us to not fear. How does that fit with what you believe and how you live? In what ways does fear motivate or affect you? How is following Jesus impacting those fears?

3. When was the last time you had an opportunity to talk about your hope and faith with a nonbeliever? How did you feel about it?

Peter continues to tell us to actively practice our different way of living in the midst of real-life situations. *Start doing at a Hands level. These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.*

1. How is studying Peter's letter starting to impact you and your relationships?

2. What are ways you can bless others when you feel you have received evil or insults? Help each other think through practical, tangible ways. Challenge each other to practice blessing others this week.

3. What does making Christ as Lord in your heart look like for you on a daily basis? Share practical actions and experiences.

Start practicing: Take action this week.

Choose one of the suggested practices to try this week, or develop you own.

1. Think of someone who you feel challenged to love, like, value, or appreciate. How can you do good toward them? What would be a blessing to them? Commit to act on what God shows you. Do this with respect and with no expectations about their response. Also, this week, spend time praying specifically for this person.
2. Families: Challenge your family members to actively practice the attitudes in vs 8 & 9—harmony, sympathy, love, compassion, humility, blessing. Discuss as a family what those look like, feel like, and how to practice them. Create a “Caught Ya” jar. Every time anyone catches someone demonstrating one of those attitudes, write it down on a piece of paper, and put it in the jar. At the end of the week, celebrate together.
3. This week: Take 5 minutes every morning to focus on Christ dying for you. Thank Him for loving you, for paying for your sins, for giving you His righteousness, and for restoring your relationship with God. Consciously tell Him He is Lord of your life. Thank Him for the hope He has given you. Ask Him to help you bless others throughout the day. Then, pay attention to what happens during the day. Work to do this for the whole week! Share with your family/friends/group what you experienced.

Read: For next week read over 1 Peter 5:1-12. You might read or listen to the book of 1 Peter this week.

Week 6

Living as if... being humble and self-controlled actually protects us. It puts us under God's hand and helps us stand firm against our enemy, the devil, and in the midst of suffering.

Getting started: When you feel stressed, do you have any quirky or telltale habits?

This week... Peter is writing near the end of his life, as he is in prison. He has spent the last thirty-some years following Jesus as his Chief Shepherd. After Jesus rose from the dead, He asked Peter to care for His lambs and sheep. Peter has lived that out, being humbled, being submitted, and serving and loving others in the midst of the family of believers, even to the point of suffering for it. Peter lived out what he is asking his listeners—us—to do.

Main Idea: God's mighty hand brings us protection in the midst of life and suffering. Our part is to walk humbly, self-controlled, and submitted to God, to each other, and to the authorities placed in our lives. Every day we get to live as both people who belong to God and as aliens and strangers, making daily choices to reflect who God is and who we are.

Read the passage a couple of times. You might even retell the passage together as a group.

Passage: 1 Peter 5:5-11

Peter's first letter consoles and challenges Jesus-followers to stand firm as they live as if they are both chosen by God and aliens in this world. He has said consistently that loving deeply, submitting to authority, and suffering are all real parts of our experience in following Jesus.

Start thinking at a Head level. These questions help us to examine what the word shows.

1. What has Peter shown you about who God is and who you are?

2. What have you discovered from Peter about humility, submission, or suffering?

Peter concludes his letter by exhorting us to guard our relationships with each other and with God. He again reminds us to live alert and aware.

Start sharing at a Heart level. These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. How have you experienced pride impacting relationships? What's been your experience with developing humility?

2. How can anxiety (cares/concerns) draw you to God or distance you from God? (Let's be real—both happen! Share from your heart, not theoretically.)

3. Is there an area you feel anxious or concerned about? Would you be willing to share?

4. Where are you needing to resist the devil, your enemy? Is there an area you are regularly tempted or attacked in? As you think about your life, what do you notice?

Peter is practical in how he challenges us to live—in community with each other, in the world, and in the tension of suffering.

Start doing at a Hands level. These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. What are practical ways you are learning to practice humility and submission? Share what's working... and what's maybe not working.

2. What are you doing differently when you feel or experience suffering?

3. In what way has Peter challenged you to adjust how you think and live?

Start practicing: Take action this week.

Choose one of the suggested practices to try this week, or develop your own.

1. This week—two or three times during the week—intentionally pray for the elders of RLM. Pray for their wisdom, for their families, for their strength to follow Jesus and sacrificially serve the flock He has entrusted to them to shepherd and lead. You might write an encouraging note to them. Our elders are: John Givens, Randy McEnespy, Jerry Lyons, Dan Cullum, David Hillman, David Palmer, Howard Lunderstadt, Jim Grubb, Glen Lanker, and Jim Putman.
2. Practice humility this week. Here are some ideas:
 - At home: give up “doing it your way” or your “favorite” something to someone else. Do it their way, or enjoy what they like.
 - At church: serve, give generously, or serve someone in your life group.
 - At work: find ways to encourage and honor others. Tell them how you appreciate them or what a good job they do. Do the job no one wants to do.
 - In your neighborhood or the places you play: serve someone unexpectedly, pick up trash in the park, or mow someone’s yard.

These are just a few ideas. Be creative and practical. Ask God to grow you in being humble and acting on it in relationships.

3. Deal with an area of anxiety or temptation/attack. God said He cares for you. There is no shame in having to resist the devil. We are told he is real and there, yet we walk with One who has overcome Him. Ask God to show you where you are anxious or need to be alert. Take steps to address whatever God shows you. Use prayer, use scripture, get help in relationships, and have intentional actions.

Read: Next week we move into 2 Peter. Read through 2 Peter 1.

Week 7

Getting started: Share a “close call” where you escaped the corruption both in the world and in your life.

This week ...

Peter is writing from prison in Rome and is about to be put to death because he won't renounce his belief and faith in his Lord and Savior the resurrected Jesus Christ. He states that he and the other Apostles were not believing in made up stories about Jesus, but that they had been eyewitness to His life and resurrection as well as ear-witnesses to the declarations that God the Father made regarding the Son.

Main Idea:

Living as if... when we chose Jesus as Lord and Savior, we actually receive great and precious promises. We grow spiritually by actively participating in the new nature we have been given. Knowing and following God's word is critical to our spiritual walk and growth.

Read the passages a couple of times. You might even retell the passages together as a group.

Be listening for what these passages show you about living differently to grow and mature spiritually.

Passage: 2 Peter 1:12-18

Peter is very direct about why he lives a changed life.

Start thinking at a Head level. These questions help us to examine what the word shows.

Take 5 minutes as a group and brainstorm together what Peter witnessed about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

1. What difference did it make in Peter's life when he recognized that Jesus really is Lord?

2. What has convinced you that Jesus is who He says He is?

Passage: 2 Peter 1:3-11

The promises God has given us should cause us to grow in godly qualities.

Start sharing at a Heart level. These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. Which “great and precious promise” that God has made stands out to you at this time in your life? Can you explain why it's important to you?

2. Faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love—this is quite a list of Peter has given us. Which of these characteristics comes easily to you? Which of the most challenging? Who has modeled some of these characteristics for you?

3. Why is it worth it for you to pursue developing these characteristics? What is it like when you don't?

Through God’s qualities and promises, we can escape the corruption of sinful desires.

Start doing at a Hands level. These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. How do you use God's promises when you are battling your sinful desires? Share some practical steps and tips that have been helpful to you.

2. When you are developing a new character quality that you want, how do you go about doing it?

Start practicing. Things to try out this week:

Choose one or two of the suggested practices to try this week, or develop your own.

1. Take a close look at each of the qualities listed this week. Which ones are you exhibiting well? Which ones do you lack? Focus on one of the qualities you lack or are weak in by studying, praying, and living out that quality throughout this week.
2. Search the Word for God's promises to us. Pick two or three to focus on this week by meditating and praying on how they relate to you personally.

Read: 2 Peter 2 & 3

Week 8

Getting started: What are you looking forward to this summer?

This week ...

We are not called to live idle lives. We are called to be involved, to make every effort to know Jesus personally, and to make Him known to others. We do this actively by making the most of what He has given us in His call, in His Word, and in the opportunities He puts in front of us.

Main Idea:

Living as if... we are aware that the world as we know it ends, and that in His timing, God will bring a new heaven and new earth. This should affect how we live today! We are encouraged to be aware and intentional.

Read the passage a couple of times. You might even retell the passage together as a group. Be listening for what this passage shows you about how you should be living.

Passage: 2 Peter 3:8-18

Peter is closing out his letter with encouragement to live at peace in Christ.

Start thinking at a Head level. These questions help us to examine what the word shows.

1. What did you discover about the end of time?

2. What does Peter call us to?

Since we know what is coming, Peter is encouraging us to Abide in Christ in a way that reflects this.

Start sharing at a Heart level. These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

1. How do you feel about looking forward to the day that Peter says God has promised us?

2. How does recognizing what is coming impact your day now?

3. Describe how you have experienced God's patience?

4. Where do you need to be more aware of God's timing or patience?

Lastly, Peter instructs his readers to be on guard and to not be swayed by false teachers. He tells us to grow in our relationship and knowledge of Jesus.

Start doing at a Hands level. These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

1. What do you intentionally do to pursue living holy and godly?

2. Peter says make every effort to be in relationship with Jesus, What will that look like for you this summer? (And for your family?)

3. Who helps you be on guard while following Jesus? How can you help each other?

Start practicing. Things to try out this week:
Choose one or two of the suggested practices to try this week, or develop your own.

1. Over this next week, reflect over your time through 1 and 2 Peter, and write down 3 areas you have grown in your knowledge of Christ.
2. Memorize one verse or a group of verses from 1 or 2 Peter over the summer with another person.