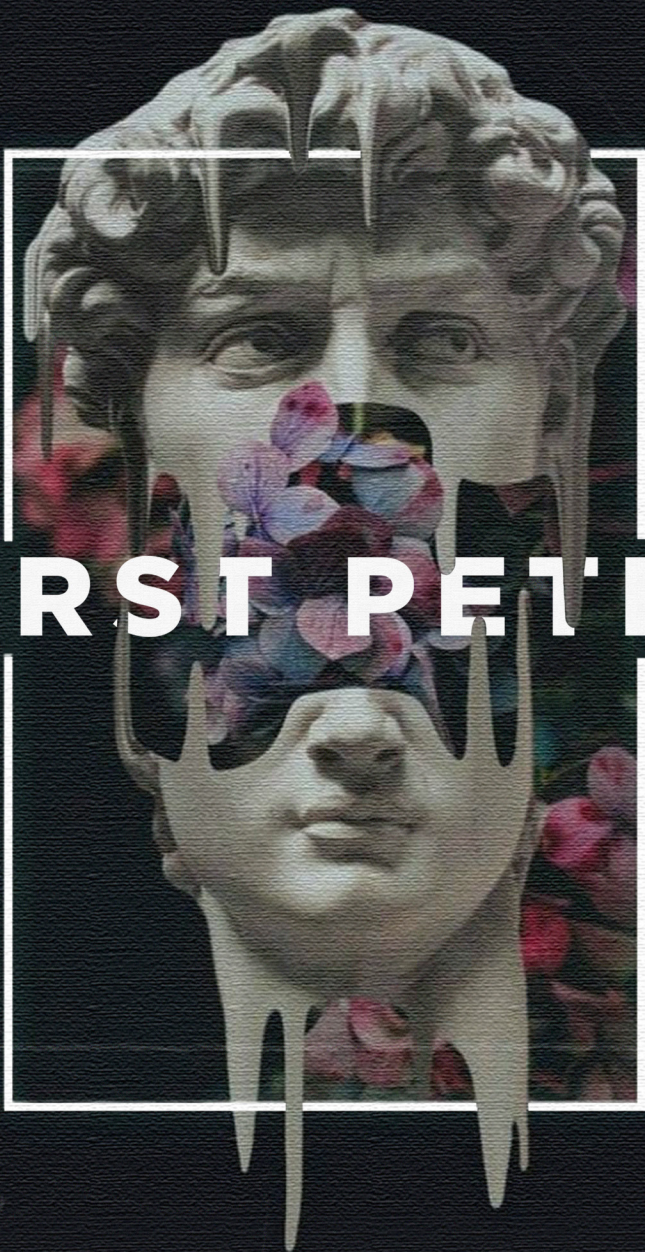




A DEVOTIONAL ON



FIRST PETER

LIFE BY GRACE

SOAP SOAP SOAP

EACH WEEK, AFTER READING A DEVOTIONAL,
YOU WILL USE THIS METHOD TO WORK THROUGH
PASSAGES OF FIRST PETER.

SCRIPTURE

From your reading, write out the verse(s) that stand out the most to you.

OBSERVATION

Ask yourself the question, "What do I see?" Write down the things that jump out to you. You're looking for context clues, repeated themes, words, or ideas that will help you as you interpret the Scriptures.

APPLICATION

The Bible was written for us and speaks truth to us. Ask yourself the question, "What is God teaching me through the passage I am reading today?" Write down the specific ways you can put this text of Scripture into practice.

PRAY

Go to your Heavenly Father and ask Him to do what only He can do. Ask Him to bring conviction over sin, give wisdom to help you understand, and that your love for Him would grow deeper and deeper. Write this prayer down so you can reflect on it later.



MONDAY

WEEK 1

**READ 1 PETER 1 AS AN OVERVIEW FOR THE WEEK.
THEN READ THE FOLLOWING DEVOTIONAL AND TAKE TIME TO
REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS.**

THE BOOK OF 1 PETER IS WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE PETER, WHICH HE HIMSELF SAYS IN VERSE 1. PETER WRITES TO ENCOURAGE HIS READERS, WHO WERE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS, TO ENDURE SUFFERING AND PERSECUTION BY GIVING THEMSELVES ENTIRELY TO GOD. THEY ARE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL IN TIMES OF STRUGGLES, KNOWING THAT GOD IS GOOD AND FAITHFUL.

“IN THIS YOU REJOICE, THOUGH NOW FOR A LITTLE WHILE, IF NECESSARY, YOU HAVE BEEN GRIEVED BY VARIOUS TRIALS, 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.” - 1 PETER 1:6-7

THOSE WHO HAVE A SAVING FAITH IN JESUS CAN REJOICE IN THEIR SUFFERINGS BECAUSE WE KNOW THOSE TRIALS ARE NOT OUTSIDE OF GOD’S CONTROL. VERSE 6 ACTUALLY SAYS THEY GROW US IN OUR FAITH BECAUSE TRIALS CAUSE US TO RELY ON THE LORD IN A WAY WE NEVER WOULD HAVE WITHOUT THEM. JOY AND GRIEF CAN BE PRESENT TOGETHER. TRIALS TEND TO SHOW US THAT. THERE CAN BE THIS FULLNESS OF JOY FOUND IN THE LORD, EVEN AMIDST SOME OF THE TOUGHEST TIMES IN OUR LIVES. BUT THESE SUFFERINGS ARE NOT PURPOSELESS. SCRIPTURE TELLS US GOD WILL USE THESE TO SHOW OUR FAITH. SUCH FAITH HAS A GREAT REWARD TOO. ETERNITY WITH JESUS AWAITS THOSE WHO PRESS ON IN THE FAITH.

VERSES 8 AND 9 FURTHER THIS IDEA OF JOY. JOY IS NOT RESERVED ONLY FOR THE FUTURE TIME WHEN WE ARE WITH HIM IN ETERNITY, BUT WE CAN HAVE JOY IN HIM NOW. WE “LOVE HIM” AND “BELIEVE IN HIM” AND “REJOICE WITH JOY THAT IS INEXPRESSIBLE”. WHAT A GIFT FROM GOD THAT WE CAN FIND A PEACE IN THE DARKEST TIMES. IT REMINDS ME OF THE LYRICS FROM A SONG WE SING CALLED: YOU KEEP HOPE ALIVE.

DAYS MAY BE DARKEST
YOUR LIGHT IS GREATER
YOU LIGHT OUR WAY
YOU LIGHT ARE WAY

WHEN EVIL IS RISING
YOU’RE RISING HIGHER
ROSE FROM THE GRAVE
ROSE UP FROM THE GRAVE

YOU KEEP HOPE ALIVE...

HE IS OUR HOPE. HE IS OUR REST. HE IS OUR ALL. LET’S REJOICE IN HIM.

REFLECTION

HOW IS IT ENCOURAGING TO HEAR THAT GOD IS ULTIMATELY IN CONTROL?

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED JOY AND GRIEF IN A SITUATION?

WRITE DOWN AREAS OF YOUR LIFE THAT YOU FEEL YOU ARE SUFFERING OR EXPERIENCING TRIALS. THEN, WRITE A PRAYER TO GOD ASKING HIM TO HELP YOU TRUST HIM AND GIVE YOU JOY IN THE MIDST OF IT.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

NOW THANK GOD FOR THE
TRUTH THAT HE HEARS OUR PRAYERS,
AS WE CRY OUT TO HIM IN THE MIDST
OF OUR STRUGGLES.



WEDNESDAY

READ 1 PETER 1:1-12 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____

FRIDAY

READ 1 PETER 1:13-25 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____



MONDAY

WEEK 2

READ 1 PETER 2 AS AN OVERVIEW FOR THE WEEK. THEN READ THE FOLLOWING DEVOTIONAL AND TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS.

IN THE BOOK OF 1 PETER, THE AUTHOR, PETER, IS WRITING TO CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE FACED PERSECUTION SOLELY BECAUSE THEY ARE CHRISTIANS. THEY WERE PUT IN JAIL, BRUTALLY KILLED, AND BEATEN FOR BEING FOLLOWERS OF GOD. WE MAY NOT EXPERIENCE THE SAME PERSECUTION TODAY BUT WE ALL STILL EXPERIENCE SUFFERING IN LIFE. SO, HOW CAN WE BE FAITHFUL TO GOD IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING? MORE SO, HOW CAN WE STAY FAITHFUL IN TIMES WHERE WE ARE SUFFERING AND WE DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY GOD IS ALLOWING US TO SUFFER.

THE WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME.

FOR ME, I THANK GOD EVERY DAY. WHY? BECAUSE HE IS GIVING ME A TEMPORARY HOME WHERE I GET TO LIVE MY LIFE AND EXPERIENCE SO MANY THINGS. THIS TEMPORARY HOME IS EARTH. BECAUSE WE LIVE IN SUCH A DIVIDED AND CHAOTIC WORLD, AT TIMES, WE FORGET THE REAL REASON WE ARE HERE. THAT REASON IS GOD. IN 1 PETER, CHAPTER 2, PETER CONVEYS TO CHRISTIANS HOW WE ARE TO LIVE IN A WAY THAT GLORIFIES HIM WHILE WE ARE HERE ON EARTH.

“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.” - 1 PETER 2:9

THIS VERSE REMINDS US THAT WE WHO ARE IN JESUS ARE GOD'S OWN PEOPLE. NO MATTER WHAT SUFFERING WE GO THROUGH, GOD DOES NOT ABANDON HIS OWN. HE IS WITH US THROUGH IT ALL.

SUFFERING

“FOR WHAT CREDIT IS IT IF, WHEN YOU SIN AND ARE BEATEN FOR IT, YOU ENDURE? BUT IF WHEN YOU DO GOOD AND SUFFER FOR IT YOU ENDURE, THIS IS A GRACIOUS THING IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.” - 1 PETER 2:20

WHY WOULD PETER SAY THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD ENDURE WHEN THEY SUFFER FROM DOING GOOD THINGS? PETER IS REMINDING CHRISTIANS TO PUSH THROUGH THE HARD STUFF, THE SUFFERING, AND NOT FALL INTO SIN. WE ARE HERE TO REFLECT THE LORD AND SEEK TO BE MORE LIKE HIM EVERY DAY. GOD CAN GROW US IN THE SUFFERING AS WE LEARN TO RELY MORE AND MORE ON HIM. JESUS SUFFERED TO THE GREATEST DEGREE AS HE TOOK THE CROSS TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SIN. HE REMAINED FAITHFUL. HE SAVED US. CHRIST ENDURED THAT WE MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIM.

PETER SHOWS US THAT EVEN WHEN WE EXPERIENCE STRUGGLES, WE CAN TRUST THAT GOD IS ULTIMATELY IN CONTROL. GOD'S PROMISE TO US IS NOT THAT WE WON'T STRUGGLE, BUT THAT HE WILL BE WITH US IN THE SUFFERING. ONE DAY, WE WHO ARE IN CHRIST WILL BE WITH HIM FOR ETERNITY, WHERE THERE IS NO PAIN OR TEARS OR HURTING. THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME. WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN WE ARE FREE FROM ANY SUFFERING, WHEN WE ARE HOME WITH HIM. GOD IS OUR HOPE, AND NO MATTER WHAT WE FACE HERE ON EARTH, WE CAN REST IN HIS EMBRACE.

REFLECTION

WHY, AS CHRISTIANS, DO WE STILL EXPERIENCE SUFFERING?

WHY WOULD PETER SAY THAT ALL CHRISTIANS SHOULD ENDURE AS THEY SUFFER?

HOW CAN GOD USE YOUR CURRENT SUFFERING TO POINT YOU TO HIM?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

THANK GOD FOR MEETING YOU IN YOUR SUFFERING. ASK HIM TO REMIND YOU OF HIS GOODNESS, AND HELP YOU LEAN ON HIM IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING AND STRUGGLES.



WEDNESDAY

READ 1 PETER 2:1-12 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____

FRIDAY

READ 1 PETER 2:13-25 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____



MONDAY

WEEK 3

READ 1 PETER 3 AS AN OVERVIEW FOR THE WEEK. THEN READ THE FOLLOWING DEVOTIONAL AND TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS.

“FOR CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED ONCE FOR SINS, THE RIGHTOUES FOR THE UNRIGHTEOUS, THAT HE MIGHT BRING US TO GOD, BEING PUT TO DEATH IN THE FLESH BUT MADE ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT” - 1 PETER 3:18

IN A WORLD FULL OF GOSSIP, DRAMA, AND REVENGE, IT IS EASY TO FIND YOURSELF PREY TO THESE TEMPTATIONS. AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, WE HAVE BEEN HURT BY OTHERS AND WANTED TO REACT FROM A PLACE OF MALICE. BUT GOD TELLS US TO REFRAIN FROM SPEAKING DECEIT AGAINST THOSE WHO HARM US (V. 10), TO TURN AWAY FROM EVIL, AND TO WALK IN HOLINESS (V. 11). IT IS EASY TO FALL INTO TEMPTATION, BUT BECAUSE OF JESUS, WE HAVE HOPE.

THIS PASSAGE TEACHES US THAT WE HAVE A PERFECT EXAMPLE IN JESUS; JESUS SUFFERED, JUST AS WE TOO EXPERIENCE SUFFERING. JESUS WAS PERFECT, YET HE WAS MISTREATED. JESUS WAS LOVE, YET HE WAS HATED. JESUS WAS PERSECUTED, BUT GOD EXALTED HIM ABOVE ALL. BECAUSE OF THIS, WE CAN HAVE HOPE. THIS GUIDES US IN A WAY THAT ALLOWS US TO IDENTIFY WITH JESUS AND WALK IN OBE-DIENCE TO HIS CALL.

IN VERSE 18, PETER ENCOURAGES READERS BY REMINDING THEM OF THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE CHRIST SUFFERED FOR SIN. IN OUR LIVES, WE ARE TO REPRESENT CHRIST’S DEATH AND RESURRECTION THROUGH BAPTISM. THIS PICTURE IS QUITE BEAUTIFUL. THROUGH BAPTISM, WE ARE BURIED UNDER THE WATER; IT IS AS IF WE HAVE BEEN BURIED INTO HIS DEATH. JUST AS JESUS DIED, SO HAVE WE! BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS, WE DON’T STAY THERE. FOR JUST AS CHRIST WAS RESUR-RECTED FROM THE DEAD, WE COME UP OUT OF THE WATER READY TO WALK AS A NEW PERSON. BAPTISM DOES NOT SAVE US, IT IS SIMPLY A PICTURE AND OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF WHAT CHRIST HAS ALREADY DONE FOR US AND IN US.

BAPTISM IS SIMPLY AN ACT OF OBEEDIENCE. IT SERVES AS A PUBLIC PROCLAMATION THAT JESUS IS OUR LORD. SO, WHETHER YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED OR NOT, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS MEANING IN OUR WALK OF FAITH.

REFLECTION

AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS, WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT YOU THAT REMINDS YOU OF HIS LOVE FOR YOU?

READ ROMANS 6:4, WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT BAPTISM? HOW DOES MATCH UP WITH 1 PETER 3:18?

HOW CAN WE BE ENCOURAGED IN CHRIST'S SUFFERING?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON
YOUR BAPTISM. THANK GOD FOR THAT
REMINDER OF THE GOSPEL TODAY.

(IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN BAPTIZED, TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON WHAT IT MEANS. TALK TO YOUR SMALL GROUP LEADER TO TALK ABOUT WHAT IT COULD LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO BE BAPTIZED)



WEDNESDAY

READ 1 PETER 3:1-7 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____

FRIDAY

READ 1 PETER 3:8-22 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____



MONDAY

WEEK 4

READ 1 PETER 4 AS AN OVERVIEW FOR THE WEEK. THEN READ THE FOLLOWING DEVOTIONAL AND TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS.

THROUGHOUT THIS CHAPTER THREE MAIN POINTS STUCK OUT TO ME. THE FIRST THING WE SEE IS GOD'S GRACE AND HOW WE SHOULD SHOW GRACE TO OTHERS.

|"ABOVE ALL, KEEP LOVING ONE ANOTHER EARNESTLY, SINCE LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS." - 1 PETER 4:8

PETER IS WRITING TO OTHER CHRISTIANS, REMINDING THEM TO LOVE THOSE WHO SIN. WE ARE ALL SINNERS. INSTEAD OF JUDGING THOSE WHO SIN, JESUS IS CALLING US TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER, PRACTICING THE VERY FORGIVENESS HE SHOWED US. THIS DOES NOT MEAN NEGLECTING TO CALL OTHERS TO REPENTANCE, BUT A LOVE THAT POINTS PEOPLE TO THE LOVE AND GRACE OF JESUS. WE CAN LOVE OTHERS IN THEIR SIN BECAUSE JESUS FIRST LOVED US IN OUR SIN.

THE SECOND THING WE SEE IS JESUS HAS CALLED US TO SERVE OTHERS.

|"AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE." - 1 PETER 4:10

GOD GIVES US THE STRENGTH TO SERVE OTHERS, AND BY DOING THAT WE SHOW GOD'S COMPASSION AND GRACE FOR OTHERS. WHEN WE SERVE WE GLORIFY GOD AND ALLOW HIM TO BE KNOWN THROUGH OUR SERVING. WE HAVE ALL BEEN GIVEN SPIRITUAL GIFTS THAT WE ARE CALLED BY GOD TO USE TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH.

THE THIRD THING WE SEE IS THAT WE SHOULD EXPECT TO EXPERIENCE SUFFERING. JESUS EXPECTED PERSECUTION IN FULFILLING HIS MISSION ON EARTH, AND WE, AS HIS PEOPLE, SHOULD EXPECT TO SUFFER AS WELL. IF WE EXPECT TO SUFFER, WE CAN REJOICE IN THE MIDST OF IT, KNOWING HIS GLORY CAN BE REVEALED AND HE CAN GROW US IN IT.

|"BUT REJOICE INSOFAR AS YOU SHARE CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS, THAT YOU MAY ALSO REJOICE AND BE GLAD WHEN HIS GLORY IS REVEALED." - 1 PETER 4:13

GOD MAY USE SUFFERING TO DRAW US CLOSER TO HIM AS WE RELY ON HIM. WE NEED TO WALK WITH GOD AS HE IS A GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD. WE SHOULD NOT RUN FROM HIM WHEN WE SIN, BUT INSTEAD RUN TO HIM, KNOWING HE IS GRACIOUS TO FORGIVE. WE CAN REJOICE AS A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST, AND SUCH JOY POINTS US TO THE JOY THAT IS TO COME AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST.

REFLECTION

HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN YOU ARE FACED WITH SUFFERING? DO YOU CLING TO GOD AND HIS WORD, OR DO YOU RUN?

WHAT IS A WAY YOU CAN SHOW LOVE TO SOMEONE EVEN WHEN THEY SIN?

HOW CAN YOU SERVE OTHERS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

THANK GOD FOR HOW HE FORGIVES US
WHEN WE SIN. ASK HIM TO HELP YOU SHOW
THAT SAME FORGIVENESS TO OTHERS.



WEDNESDAY

READ 1 PETER 4:1-11 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____

FRIDAY

READ 1 PETER 4:12-19 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____



MONDAY

WEEK 5

READ 1 PETER 5 AS AN OVERVIEW FOR THE WEEK.
THEN READ THE FOLLOWING DEVOTIONAL AND TAKE TIME TO
REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS.

RESIST [THE DEVIL], FIRM IN YOUR FAITH, KNOWING THAT THE SAME KINDS OF SUFFERING ARE BEING EXPERIENCED BY YOUR BROTHERHOOD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. AND AFTER YOU HAVE SUFFERED A LITTLE WHILE, THE GOD OF ALL GRACE, WHO HAS CALLED YOU TO HIS ETERNAL GLORY IN CHRIST, WILL HIMSELF RESTORE, CONFIRM, STRENGTHEN, AND ESTABLISH YOU. - 1 PETER 5:9-10

PETER WROTE THE LETTER OF 1 PETER TO CHRISTIANS IN ASIA MINOR DURING A TIME WHERE CHRISTIANS WERE BEING PERSECUTED THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE. HE REMINDS BELIEVERS THAT NO MATTER THE CURRENT SUFFERINGS THEY ARE ENDURING, IT WILL NOT COMPARE TO THE JOYS OF ETERNITY IN HEAVEN THAT AWAIT THOSE IN CHRIST.

PETER TEACHES, IN VERSES 6 AND 7, THAT WE NEED TO TRY NOT TO GO THROUGH OUR SUFFERINGS ALONE. WE ARE SUPPOSED TO HUMBLE OURSELVES AND REACH OUT TO GOD WITH WHATEVER WE ARE GOING THROUGH. HE IS NEAR AND WILL WALK WITH US THROUGH EVEN THE DARKEST OF TIMES IN OUR LIVES.

IN VERSES 9 AND 10, PETER EXPLAINS THAT BEING A CHRISTIAN DOES NOT MEAN HAVING A LIFE WITHOUT SUFFERING. HE SAYS THAT THERE ARE MANY OTHER BELIEVERS JUST LIKE YOU, WHO ARE GOING THROUGH THE SAME TYPE OF TRIALS. HOWEVER, GOD WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US IN OUR UPS AND OUR DOWNS. WHILE WE WILL HAVE TRIALS IN OUR LIVES, GOD WILL “RESTORE, CONFIRM, STRENGTHEN, AND ESTABLISH [US]” (V.9). OUR SUFFERINGS ARE NOT ETERNAL BUT WE WILL, IN THE END, ENJOY THE “ETERNAL GLORY IN CHRIST” (V.10). HE IS OUR HOPE.

REFLECTION

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU NEED TO HUMBLE YOURSELF?

HOW IN YOUR LIFE CAN YOU BETTER TRUST IN GOD AND NOT IN YOURSELF?

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO ALLOW OTHERS TO WALK WITH YOU IN YOUR WALK WITH JESUS?

TAKE TIME TO PRAY

THANK GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS
AND NEARNESS. ASK HIM TO HELP YOU
BE VULNERABLE WITH OTHERS AS THEY
HELP YOU IN YOUR WALK WITH JESUS.
WE CANNOT DO THIS ALONE.



WEDNESDAY

READ 1 PETER 5 AND TAKE TIME TO DO SOAP

SCRIPTURE: _____

OBSERVATIONS: _____

APPLICATION: _____

PRAYER: _____

TAKEAWAY TAKEAWAY TAKEAWAY

AFTER STUDYING THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY AND HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THAT TO IMPACT THE WAY YOU LIVE A LIFE FOR JESUS?
WRITE SOME PRACTICAL WAYS YOU CAN LET THIS STUDY IMPACT YOUR WALK WITH THE LORD.



**THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU**

TO OUR STUDENT WRITERS

***ELEANOR GOERLAND
GABE WILSON
KARA BOEMIO
ELLA NEIGHBORS***



1 P E T E R 1 : 3 - 4
1 P E T E R 1 : 3 - 4
1 P E T E R 1 : 3 - 4

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,
TO AN INHERITANCE
THAT IS IMPERISHABLE,
UNDEFILED,
AND UNFADING,
KEPT IN HEAVEN FOR YOU