

LESSON 2
1 Peter 1:3-12

Studying the Scriptures requires thinking, *but help is on the way!* Jesus said in John 16:13 “But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth ...” Tell Him in prayer that you’re counting on this promise and then dive into your study with great expectations.

Memorize 1 Peter 1:3-5. (I did it! ___) (I said it to _____.)

Read 1 Peter 1:3-12 three times carefully and prayerfully. 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___

1. Using a dictionary, let's define some terms:
 - a. mercy
 - b. inheritance
 - c. perish
 - d. salvation
 - e. faith
 - f. grace
 - g. glory
 - h. gospel
 - i. hope

2. Peter, in verses 3-12, brings out three timeframes – future, present and past (in that order). Divide the passage into these frames and tell what Peter says happens in each one. (You can do it!)
 - a. Future:

 - b. Present:

 - c. Past:

3. Why do you think it's important to understand what happens in the different time frames?

Re-read 1 Peter 1:3-5.

4. According to Peter:
 - a. Who is responsible for our new birth?
 - b. What is the result of this new birth?
5. What *is* a "living hope" and what does the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead have to do with it?

For those who like to DIG DEEPER, questions 6 and 7 are optional:

6. What would the term *inheritance* mean to one like Peter, steeped in Old Testament understanding? The following verses will help: Genesis 12:5-7, 13:14-17, 15:18; Joshua 1:6, 11-13; and 2 Chronicles 20:11.
7. Compare and contrast the Old Testament inheritance with the one spoken of here.

8. Why is an inheritance like Peter describes so suited to the recipients (and to us!)?

Scripture speaks of three aspects of our salvation – past, present and future.

- Past: I obtained *salvation* when I was given new birth (i.e. by faith I follow Jesus and draw near to God on the basis of His death for me).
- Present: The *process of salvation* is now being worked out in my life by the Holy Spirit as I draw/am drawn closer to God. The closer I come to Him, the more I understand who He is and what He's done for me. As this happens, I learn to value Him more, have more confidence in Him, and desire to see His life-patterns (attitudes and actions) become mine.
- Future: A *future salvation* awaits where I will be rescued completely from evil and its pain – in myself, in others and in my circumstances.

9. Explain verse 5, including in your explanation which aspect of salvation is meant.

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9.

10. Verse 6 begins, “in this you greatly rejoice.” To what that has gone before does “in this” refer?
11. List the things you learn about trials in verses 6-9. (The Greek word for *trials* can be translated *temptations*.)

12. What are some trials we might expect today? (Examples: disruption of my plans; being “put down” by someone; financial stress, the unstable world situation, fractured family relationships.)

13. Using your answers to questions 10, 11 and 12, complete the following sentences:

I see that _____ (specific trial)
is _____

While going through this I can rejoice in _____

14. Verse 8 says we “believe in Him.” What do you think we are to believe and what actual event (v. 3) is the foundation for such belief?

15. What in your life will give evidence (v. 8) that you *really* believe in Him? Why this?

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12.

16. What do these verses show about the Old Testament?

17. What is Peter's main point about Christ in these verses?

18. How does this "serve us"? Or put another way, what application for today can you find in the fact that Christ suffered first and received glory afterward?

19. Suffering can make us wonder if we are on the right track, or following the right One. How could Peter's reference to the prophetic message (vs. 10-12) bolster their assurance that Jesus was the One to whom they could entrust their lives?

20. Re-read 1 Peter 1:1-9 and write down words that define the new identity of these folks and of us.

N. T. Wright in his studies on 1 Peter asks, "What are some ways people try to define themselves or find their identity?" Please answer.

21. Notice that this section of Peter's letter begins with a prayer of praise. From this section (1:1-12) ponder who God is, and all He's done for *you*. Write a personal prayer of praise and love.