

**Study 1: Overview**

**Study 2: God's Elect 1 Peter 1:1-12**

**Study 3: Chosen by God 1 Peter 1:13-2:10**

**Study 4: Submit Yourselves 1 Peter 2:11-3:7**

**Study 5: Live for the Will of God 1 Peter 3:8-4:6**

**Study 6: Bear the Name of Christ 1 Peter 4:7-19**

**Study 7: Stand Firm 1 Peter 5:1-14**

## **Study 1: Overview**

The book of 1Peter is a letter written by \_\_\_\_\_, to  
\_\_\_\_\_. (1 Peter1:1)

In your group, read the whole book of 1 Peter. As you read note down:

- ❖ Any themes you notice (words or phrases that are repeated often)
- ❖ Any reasons given for writing
- ❖ Any verses you don't understand
- ❖ Any verses that stand out to you
- ❖ Any questions you want answered

Discuss the following questions:

1. What reasons did you find for why Peter wrote the letter?
2. What themes did you notice? Any words or phrases that are repeated often?
3. From this first reading of 1 Peter, is there anything God is challenging you about or encouraging you with?

**During the week...**

Read 1 Peter 1:1-12. Consider all the things Peter says about our salvation: past, present and future.

## **Study 2: God's Elect**

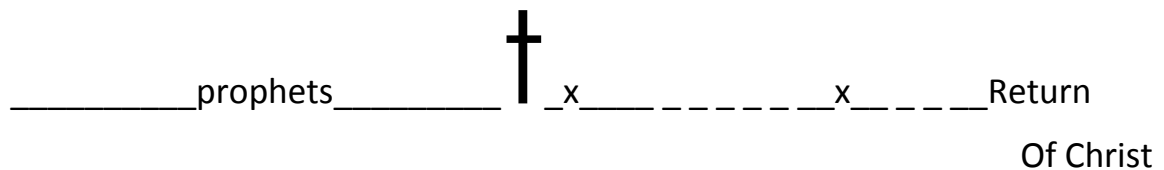
### **Read 1 Peter 1:1-12**

1. How does Peter describe the Christians he's writing to in relation to the world?
2. How does he describe them in relation to God?
3. What role does each member of the Trinity play in their salvation (v2)?
4. List all the things Peter praises God for in verses 3-4.
5. The recipients of this letter were suffering. What perspective does Peter want them to have (v5-7)? How would this be an encouragement to them? Compare this with your usual response to suffering.

6. What is their experience of Jesus? Could this be said of you?

7. What does Peter say about our salvation in v10-12?

8. Use the timeline below to illustrate what Peter is saying about the prophets and the gospel.



9. What role has the Holy Spirit played?

Spend some time praising the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for all he has done for us!

**During the week...**

Read Isaiah 40:1-11. What is the word of God to Isaiah's listeners? How does this point forward to the Gospel?

### Study 3: Chosen by God

#### **Read 1 Peter 1:13-2:10**

1. Today's section starts with a "therefore". Briefly recap what Peter has reminded his readers of so far in this letter.
2. On the basis, then, of verses 1-12, what are they to do?
3. Verses 14-16 present a contrast. What are we to not do & to do?
4. Verses 18-21 talk about being redeemed or ransomed.  
What were we redeemed **from**?

What were we redeemed **by or with**?

What were we redeemed **for**?

How does this tie back to the instruction in verse 17?

5. Along the way Peter has said some amazing things about Jesus. What are they?
  
6. In verse 22, what is the instruction? How does 2:1 expand on this? How well do we love one another as a community according to this measure?
  
7. What is the motivation given in 1:22-2:3 for loving in this way?
  
8. Read again 1 Peter 2:4-10. What does it teach about Jesus?
  
9. What does it teach about those who reject Jesus?
  
10. What does it say about those who believe?

To what extent is your identity shaped by passages like this one? What difference would it make to our community life if we really saw ourselves this way?

**During the week...**

Read Isaiah 53. Consider how Isaiah's words were fulfilled at the cross of Jesus.

## **Study 4: Submit yourselves**

### **Read 1 Peter 2:11-12**

1. What status does Peter remind his readers they have?
2. What are they to abstain from? Why?
3. What are they to do? Why?

Peter now considers three contexts in which good living involves submission.

### **Read 1 Peter 2:13-17**

4. What reason is given for submission?
5. What is the role of authorities?
6. What is God's will with regard to authorities?
7. What does it mean to be free but a servant of God?
8. How does verse 17 work out in KL today?

### **Read 1 Peter 2:18-25.**

9. What reason is given for submission?
10. What manner is expected from Christian slaves?
11. How does the example of Jesus help?



12. How does Peter's reference to the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53) add weight to his argument?

13. What comfort and assurance is there for slaves to know that God is their shepherd and the overseer of their souls?

14. How do these principles apply in our work situations where we have rights and employment options?

**Read 1 Peter 3:1-7**

15. What reason is given for submission?

16. What manner is expected from Christian wives?

17. What does this passage tell us about true beauty? (See also Prov 31:30). Why is this so hard to believe?

18. Who or what might wives be in fear of? What is the alternative to giving way to fear?

19. What safeguards are there in verse 7? What status is given to wives?

Why do we struggle with the whole notion of submission? If we really believed that respectful submission brought glory to God would we still find it so hard to do?

**During the week...**

Read Psalm 34. Consider how this psalm might be an encouragement to those suffering unjustly.

## **Study 5: Live for the Will of God**

### **Read 1 Peter 3:8-4:6**

1. Today's passage begins by detailing how we are to live together. Have you seen Christians living this way? What does it look like to repay evil with blessing?
2. What is the blessing we inherit? (See also Matt 5:38-48)
3. How does setting Christ as Lord in your heart help you not to fear?
4. How well prepared are you to give a reason for the hope you have?
5. How do we find the balance between being gentle and respectful and yet firm in our convictions?
6. In verse 17, what is better than what? How does God's will fit with suffering?

7. Verses 18-22 are tricky! What do they tell us about Jesus? What encouragement do we have from this?
  
8. What does this section say about baptism – what it is and what it isn't?
  
9. What is Peter using Noah to illustrate?
  
10. In 1 Peter 4:1-2, what is the attitude we are to imitate?
  
11. Verses 3-6 challenge our behavior again! How true are verses 3 & 4 in your experience?
  
12. Verse 5 is the key – God is ready to judge the living and the dead.  
What will the verdict be for those who oppose the godly?  
What will the verdict be for the godly who have died?

**During the week...**

Find information on a community of Christians who are suffering for their faith.

## **Study 6: Bear the Name of Christ**

### **Read 1 Peter 4:7-11**

1. What motivations does Peter give for his instructions?
2. List the aspects of community life Peter highlights. Work through the list considering how we are doing as God's people here at St Mary's.

### **Read 1 Peter 4:12-19**

3. What should be the Christian's attitude to suffering for Christ's sake?  
(See also Matt 5:10-11)
4. How is this different from the non-believing world?
5. How can we be cultivating the right attitude?

6. Verse 12 says “do not be surprised”. Why is it that so often we are surprised by suffering?
  
7. What is the outcome of God’s judgement on God’s household?(compare 1:7, 2:4-6)
  
8. What is the outcome of God’s judgement on those who do not obey the gospel?

In what way is 4:19 a summary of Peter’s whole letter?

**During the week...**

Look back over the letter of 1 Peter. In what areas have you been encouraged, individually and as a member of God’s community? In what areas have you been challenged, individually and as a member of Gods community?

## **Study 7: Stand Firm**

### **Read 1 Peter 5:1-14**

1. On what basis does Peter appeal to the elders? Why do you think he doesn't assert his apostolic authority?
2. His instructions to the elders are framed as 3 contrasts. What are they?  
  
Not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Not \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the reward they are to look for?
4. How could these verses shape our prayers for our elders?
5. Why do you think the young men need a specific instruction (v5)?

6. What does it look like in practice to be humble toward one another?

7. What does it look like in practice to be humble before God (v6-7)?

8. In verses 8 & 9, who is revealed to be our real enemy? How are we to resist him?

9. What is the promise of verse 10? When is it hard to believe this promise?

Share with your group the ways you have been encouraged and exhorted by this letter. Pray for each other to stand fast in the true grace of God.