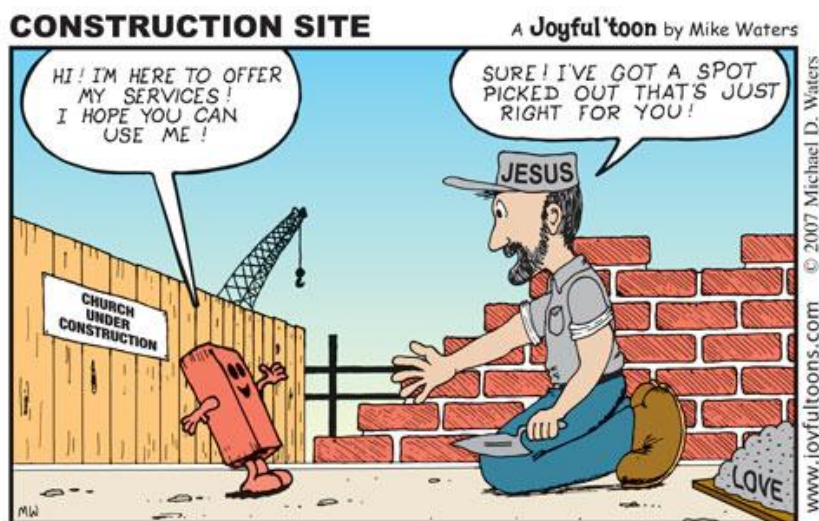


Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

## Course Text: First Peter

The book of First Peter is about maintaining holiness in the face of sufferings whether from persecution, neglectful authority, or satanic trickery. It talks about the completeness of Christ's redeeming work on our behalf and the glory that will be ours in the end.

This little book was written by Simon Peter the apostle of Jesus Christ. This is the one who walked on the water to Jesus and denied Jesus Christ three times and wept. This is the one who was miraculously freed from prison by an angel and who performed many miracles in the name of Jesus Christ. We will look a little more closely at this remarkable man when we study 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter in the next lesson.



you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 PETER 2:5 NIV

## Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 7. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the First Peter.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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## Acts 2 & First Peter Chapters 1 to 2

The first question on page 7 asks you to compare this entire book written by Peter with Peter's sermon in Acts 2. Read Acts chapter 2 and answer the following questions:

[A] Which Old Testament prophet did Peter quote first? \_\_\_\_\_

[B] According to this prophet, who will be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

[C] What two things did God make Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

[D] How many souls were added at the end of Peter's sermon? \_\_\_\_\_

As you read First Peter you may want to note similarities and differences with the sermon in Acts 2, so that you can better answer the first quiz question.

**1 Peter Chapter 1:** God is glorified for our generous salvation. Trouble in this life is acknowledged and explained. Jesus Christ is lifted up as our abiding hope. We are exhorted to put our sins in the past. We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. The certainty of God's promises and the eternity of God's word is extolled. Read First Peter Chapter 1 and answer these questions:

Read First Peter Chapter 1 and answer these questions:

[1A] Who has caused us to be born again? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] What do we receive as an outcome of our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] How much of our behavior is supposed to be Holy? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] By what were we redeemed or purchased? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] Who are we supposed to love? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] How long does the word of the Lord last? \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter Chapter 2:** We are to seek to be holy and to grow in Christian maturity. Starting with Jesus, God is creating a new kind of thing, a church. We are the building blocks He is using. We are exhorted to maintain holiness. We are to submit to the rightful authority of others over us. We are to love others. Again he mentions that we are to expect suffering in this life. His suffering unjustly is part of Jesus' example for us.

Read First Peter Chapter 2 and answer these questions:

[2A] What kind of building material are we we? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] Match these terms for descriptions of who Christians are:

A People for God's Own Possession

Chosen Nation

Holy of God

Royal Priesthood

The People Race

[2C] What makes war against our souls? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] When we are good who should get the glory for it? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] What finds favor with God? \_\_\_\_\_

[2F] Where did Christ bear our sins? \_\_\_\_\_

----- ANSWERS -----

- [A] Which Old Testament prophet did Peter quote first? Joel Ac 2:16
- [B] According to this prophet, who will be saved? Those who call on the name of the Lord. Ac 2:21
- [C] What two things did God make Jesus? Lord and Christ Ac 2:36
- [D] How many souls were added at the end of Peter's sermon. About 3,000 Ac 2:41

- [1A] Who has caused us to be born again? God the Father or Our Lord Jesus Christ depending on how you read it. 1Pt 1:3 Either way, we did not do it for ourselves.
- [1B] What do we receive as an outcome of our faith? Salvation of our souls 1Pt 1:9
- [1C] How much of our behavior is supposed to be Holy? All of it 1Pt 1:15
- [1D] By what were we redeemed or purchased? The blood of Jesus Christ 1Pt 1:18-19
- [1E] Who are we supposed to love? Each other 1Pt 1:22
- [1F] How long does the word of the Lord last? Forever 1Pt 1:25

[2A] What kind of building material are we? Living stones 1Pt 2:4-5

[2B] Match these terms for descriptions of who Christians are:

- A People for God's Own Possession (1Pt 2:9)
- Chosen Race (1Pt 2:9)
- Holy Nation (1Pt 2:9)
- Royal Priesthood (1Pt 2:9)
- The People of God (1Pt 2:10)

[2C] What makes war against our souls? Fleshly lusts 1Pt 2:11

[2D] When we are good who should get the glory for it? God 1Pt 2:12

[2E] What finds favor with God? Patience when suffering unjustly 1Pt 2:19-20

[2F] Where did Christ bear our sins? in His body, on the cross 1Pt 2:24



## First Peter Chapters 3 to 5

**1 Peter Chapter 3:** The theme of submitting to rightful authority is continued. Mutual respect, love and good behavior is encouraged. The sufficiency of the completed work of Jesus Christ is described. Read First Peter Chapter 3 and answer these questions:

[3A] What is precious in the sight of God? \_\_\_\_\_

[3B] What can hinder (block) our prayers? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] When are we supposed to be ready to defend our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] How many sins did Jesus die for? \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] What has been put under Jesus' authority? \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Peter Chapter 4:** Our past sins are enough sins. We should not sin anymore. Judgment is coming for all. The end is near. Good behavior, doing what is right, is again commended. We should do all things as if we are doing them for God. The theme of suffering as Christ suffered is continued. God can be trusted to deliver justice in the end.

Read First Peter Chapter 4 and answer these questions:

[4A] Where does our self-worship, sensuality, lust, drunkenness, and partying belong? \_\_\_\_\_

[4B] What does love hide? \_\_\_\_\_

[4C] What is not supposed to surprise us? \_\_\_\_\_

[4D] What is not supposed to give us shame? \_\_\_\_\_

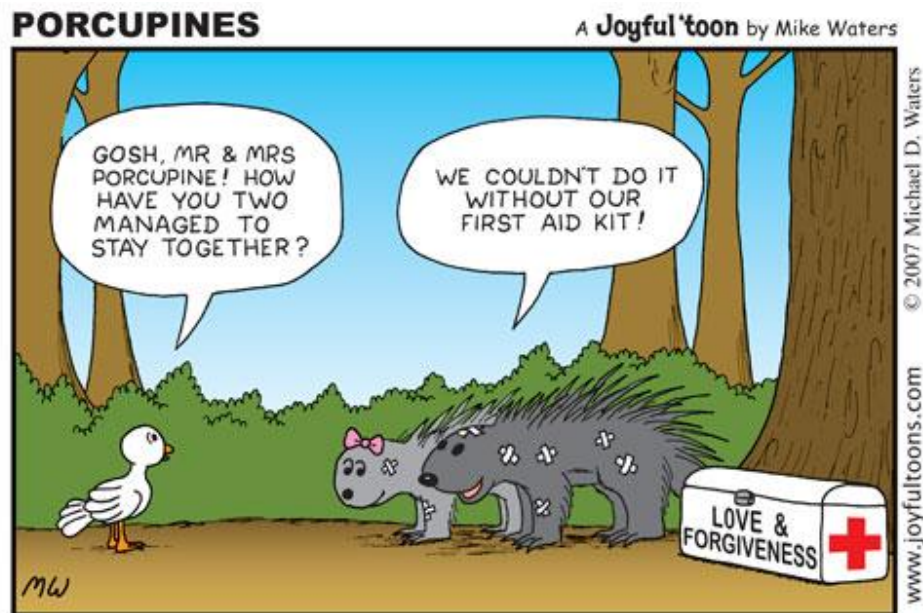
**1 Peter Chapter 5:** Christian leaders are exhorted to be humble. None of us should worry but we are to be on guard against Satanic tricks and lies. Our hope is to be steadfast in Christ.

Read First Peter Chapter 5 and answer these questions:

[5A] Are the leaders of the church supposed to lead by force or example? \_\_\_\_\_

[5B] When can we expect to be exalted (lifted up for praise) by God? \_\_\_\_\_

[5C] How long is He to have dominion? \_\_\_\_\_

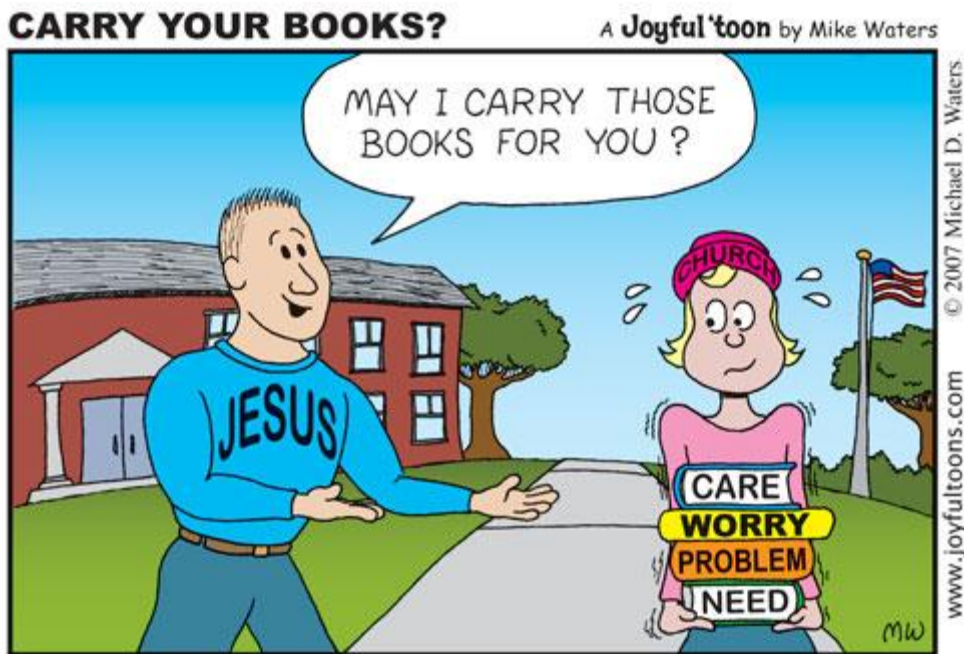


Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

- 1 PETER 4:8 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

- [3A] What is precious in the sight of God? A gentle and quiet spirit 1Pt 3:4
- [3B] What can hinder (block) our prayers? Being disrespectful to our spouse 1Pt 3:7
- [3C] When are we supposed to be ready to defend our faith? Always 1Pt 3:15
- [3D] How many sins did Jesus die for? All of them 1Pt 3:18
- [3E] What has been put under Jesus' authority? Angels, authorities and powers 1Pt 3:22
  
- [4A] Where does our self-worship, sensuality, lust, drunkenness, and partying belong? In the past 1Pt 4:3
- [4B] What does love hide? A multitude of sins 1Pt 4:8
- [4C] What is not supposed to surprise us? The fiery ordeal among us 1Pt 4:12
- [4D] What is not supposed to give us shame? Suffering for our Christianity 1Pt 4:16
  
- [5A] Are the leaders of the church supposed to lead by force or example? Example 1Pt 5:3
- [5B] When can we expect to be exalted (lifted up for praise) by God? at the proper time 1Pt 5:6  
OR when the Chief Shepherd appears 1Pt 5:4
- [5C] How long is He to have dominion? Forever and ever 1Pt 5:11



Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.  
- 1 PETER 5:7 NIV

(1) Compare Acts 2 with 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. What is the same? What is different? Why?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) Read 1 Peter 3:1-2. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." Please explain what you think Francis might have meant and why you agree or disagree.

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) Read 1 Peter 5:1-4 Describe what it would look like for a pastor or preacher to act that way in the modern Christian church?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(4) If someone asked you what First Peter was about what would you say?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(5) How can the lessons of First Peter be applied to our own life?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(6) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from First Peter? Why?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions about First Peter, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

**(1) 1st PETER and ACTS 2** The sermon in Acts is about what Jesus Christ has accomplished for us. This letter has that same theme, but spends a lot of time talking about the practical consequences in our lives as a result of becoming believers in Christ. You could say that Acts 2 is evangelical and 1<sup>st</sup> Peter is about discipleship.

**(2) 1st PETER 3:1-2** For me a key phrase is the first few words of verse 1, "In the same way,..." (or in KJV "likewise") Clearly the reader is expected to look at the context of what went right before this verse. I think the context meant by Peter starts with 1 Peter 2:21, "For you have been called for this purpose..." We are all supposed to follow Christ's example, not just wives. We are supposed to be noticeably different in the way we act, so that people will be attracted, not to us, but to Jesus Christ.

**(3) 1st PETER 5:1-4**

This is how I see it:

- "Shepherd the flock of God among you," – The pastor tends to the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- "exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily," – He does not give orders and commands, but takes the time to convince others to do what is best.
- "according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain," – He bases his decisions on what is best for God's kingdom, not what is best for himself, or even his church. His vision is always on the work of God in the whole world, not just his little corner of it.
- "but with eagerness;" – He shows a positive attitude at all times.
- "nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge," – He never thinks of himself as better than those who he leads or helps.
- "but proving to be examples to the flock." – He practices what he preaches.

**(4) First Peter Summary** The book of First Peter is about maintaining holiness in the face of sufferings whether from persecution, neglectful authority, or satanic trickery. It talks about the completeness of Christ's redeeming work on our behalf and the glory that will be ours in the end.

**(5) First Peter Life Application** I think the biggest lesson for me from this book is the idea that our circumstances never excuse our behavior. We are to always act like Christians, no matter what. I know that for me this is impossible, so I just hope and pray God will give me the grace to at least act like a Christian when it is most important that I do so.

**(6) Something to Remember** I like the passage 1 Peter 3:8-10 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT." The capital letters in the New American Standard version show that Peter is quoting the Old Testament. Here he is quoting Psalm 34:12-13.