

If you have limited time to prepare, this 3-step outline is a helpful tool for leading a small group discussion:

1. Read the text from Sunday's message.
2. What did you find most helpful/confusing/new/ that you did not understand from the message?
3. What were your big takeaways? How will you put these into practice in your life?

Getting Started

“Peter was aware that a persecuted Christian, when overwhelmed by oppression, often crawls into a shell. Then he may hibernate as far as full Christian living is concerned. So now the apostle’s burden in his letter was to stir up his readers mentally and spiritually by challenging them to active, consecrated Christian living. So, this passage (1:13-25) is about how Christians should live the Christian life.”
– Irving Jensen (1+2 Peter, A Self-Study Guide)

High-Level Outline of 1 Peter

1:3-12	1:13-25	2:1-10	2:11-3:12	3:13- 5:15
Their outlook on trials	How they should live	God’s chosen people	How they should live	Their outlook on trials
Suffering + Salvation	Life of Holiness	Unique Position	Life of Submission	Suffering + Glory

- What things would you have included in this section if you were writing to encourage believers to continue **living the Christian life** in the face of trials, suffering and persecution?

Discussion

- How would you summarize the main points from 1 Peter 1:13-25 and respond to Pastor John’s question from Sunday?
“How do we find eternal hope in an age of hopelessness?”

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

- What would you say are 3-4 prominent commands in this passage? Identify at least one from each paragraph.
 - 1:13-16 _____
 - 1:17-21 _____
 - 1:22-25 _____

- (1:13) Why is it so important to renew your focus daily and be sober-minded, setting your hope fully on the return of Jesus? What are some practical ways to do this each day? (Consider Colossians 3:1-4)
- What do you think of when you consider God as being holy?
- (1:14-16) As those who have been given new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, we are holy and righteous already in God's sight. Peter is focused here on our conduct and how we are working out our salvation day-by-day? Discuss what it means to "be holy in all your conduct" in our daily living for Jesus. (Consider Colossians 3:5-17, Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:1-6)
- (1:17-21) Discuss why a deeper understanding that we have a heavenly Father who will judge our works impartially and the great cost of our Savior to purchase our redemption should spur us on to live as "exiles in reverent fear of God"?
- Respond to this quote from Matthew Henry and discuss how it reinforces the main points in this week's message.

"Godliness is having a regard for God's glory and God's will in every aspect of our lives, doing everything out of reverence and love for him. Personal and relative duties must be done in obedience to His commands, with due aim at pleasing and honoring Him, from principles of holy love and fear of Him. But there is an express and direct duty also that we owe to God, namely, belief and acknowledgment of His being and perfections, paying Him internal and external worship and homage,—loving, fearing, and trusting in Him,—depending on Him, and devoting ourselves to Him,—observing all those religious duties and ordinances that He has appointed,—praying to Him, praising Him, and meditating on His Word and works."

- Share an application for this week that you will put into practice in your life

Prayer

Ask the Lord to help us to live out the commands in this passage each day: be sober-minded and focused, walk and grow in holiness, fear God, and love deeply!