

Life Group Daily Bible Readings and Reflections

- **Format Overview**

This format is designed for Life Groups who want to spend time in the word each day not only reading the word but reflecting on the word. The use of the Journal Page makes that even more effective.

In this format, each Life Group member is to read the week's chapter each day and then reflect on the verses from that chapter that are assigned to that particular day. They are to use the Reflections questions from their Reading Guide and also respond to the journal each day for further insight into the text and their own lives. The reading is set up on a five day schedule so that anyone who misses a day can easily catch up. By the end of the week, the chapter should have been read 5 times and processed through the reflection questions and journal. This will work best for groups that meet weekly but will also work for other meeting schedules. Simply assign the readings and reflections to be completed by the next time you meet.

When the Life Group meets, they are to bring their journals and the discussion will be based on questions on which the Life Group leader has determined to focus (those asked from the Reflections questions for each day or those generated by the group leader), what the Lord has revealed to each member during the week of their study, and any other questions generated by the study that a group member wants to discuss..

This format allows the group to be in the word together, meditate upon the word together, and processing what the Spirit has shown them from their study. You may want to try this to see how effective it is with you group and then continue with this format or choose another from our WEB site.

Life Group Journal for Daily Bible Readings & Reflection

Read the chapter in which today's verses are found and then reflect on the verses designated from that chapter by responding to the questions on your reading guide and your journal questions for today.

1. Reflect on the questions that have been provided. Jot down your responses to those questions?
2. What other significant thoughts came to your mind as you read the text?
3. What questions does this text raise for you?
4. Does this text convict you of any sin in your life or areas of weakness that you need to give special attention to?
5. Do you see any promises of God for your life in this text?
6. Does this text speak to anything going on in your life right now? What is it saying to you?

Spend some time in prayer now as you are directed by the Holy Spirit. Jot down a few things that you feel led to pray for this morning that are not on your regular prayer list. Note any ways in which you see God answering prayers that you have already been offering up to Him.

Life Group Daily Bible Readings and Reflections

Based on five days a week.

1 Peter – Weeks 1 & 2

Week One

Day One 1:1-2

- How does Peter identify himself? What does Peter's identity tell us about God's ability to use imperfect people? How has God used you through your imperfections?
- What does it mean that you have been "chosen?"
- In this text, what is the two-part sanctifying work of the Spirit in you? How have you experienced that?

Day Two 1:3-5

- Since coming to know Jesus, how have you experienced new birth and a living hope?
- How is your new birth and hope related to the resurrection of Christ?
- How do you understand your inheritance...kept in heaven for you?
- What do you imagine heaven being like and what do you imagine yourself doing there?
- What makes God's protective power available to us? What is the connection between God's shielding & faith?

Day Three 1:6-7

- What does this section say about the ideal that if we are faithful, God protects us from all troubles?
- How do struggles, failures, and hurts affect faith? What is the difference between those whose faith is destroyed by trouble and those whose faith is strengthened and purified by trouble?
- How has the trouble in your life impacted your faith?

Day Four 1: 8-9

- How is it possible to love Jesus though you have never seen him? What part of Jesus do you love the most? When have you experienced the greatest joy in Christ?
- What does Peter mean when he says we "are receiving" the salvation of our souls? Why does he use that verb tense?

Day Five 1:10-12

- According to this text, what seems to have been God's obsessive goal since the beginning of time?
- Whose Spirit was in the prophets? How does it make you feel to know that Christ himself was pointing the prophets to the time of his own suffering?
- What value does this section give to the ongoing proclamation of the message of Christ? Does God plan to reveal even more to his angels through the church?

Week Two

Day One 1:13

- What does Peter mean when he says to "prepare your minds for action?" What are the implications of that statement?
- How are you at being self-controlled? How do you mature in that quality if you need to?
- Peter seems to be saying that we should place all of our hope on grace? How are you doing in that area? What other things do you find yourself hoping or trusting in?
- What grace is to be given us when Jesus is revealed?

Day Two 1:14-16

- How is your life now to be different from your life before you knew Christ?
- From this text, is it possible for ordinary Christians to live a holy life? In what sense? What parts of your life are not yet fully dedicated and surrendered to God? How can you grow in those areas?

Day Three 1:17-21

- What do you think Peter means by a life of "reverent fear"? Are we to be afraid of the Father who judges each man's work impartially or does Peter mean something else?
- What is revealed in this context about the heart of God and his desire to redeem his children?
- What motivations are here for living a life fully surrendered to Jesus? What parts of your life are not yet fully surrendered?

Day Four 1: 22

- How does obeying the truth purify us?
- What "truth" is Peter speaking of?
- According to this verse, what is the evidence of our obedience to the truth? Why would relationships be used as evidence of whether or not we have been born again?

Day Five 1:23-25

- How is the word of God like seed in your heart?
- Why does Peter remind us of the frailty of men in this verse?
- What does this text suggest about the priority we should give to storing up God's word in our hearts?
- In what ways can we store up that word? Which way is most effective for you? Are you giving time in the word the priority it needs?

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I Peter – Weeks 3 & 4

Week Three

Day One 2:1-3

- According to Peter, what should our response be to the knowledge that we have been born again and redeemed by the blood of Christ?
- From this text, how does Peter encourage us to view ourselves and, in view of that, what should we constantly desire?
- Since pure milk is for health and nourishment, what things can we do to nurture ourselves spiritually? Which of those things are you doing consistently? Which one blesses you the most?

Day Two 2:4-5

- Peter speaks of Jesus as being rejected by men but chosen of God. How do you see that truth still occurring today?
- What does the verb “being built” suggest about our maturing? How are you experiencing that now?
- Do you see yourself as a priest of God? What do you think the functions of a priest are? Which of those “priestly duties” are you being faithful in?

Day Three 2:6

- In your thinking, what is the purpose of the cornerstone? How does Jesus function as the cornerstone for us?
- Peter says that if we trust in Jesus we will never be put to shame? Many of us still wonder if we will have to face our sins at judgement and be humiliated before entering heaven. How does this verse speak to that fear?

Day Four 2:7-8

- Peter compares Jesus to a precious stone. Jesus spoke of the pearl of great price for which a man would sell all that he had to own it.
- What have you given up to possess Jesus? Are there any other things you need to give up?

Day Five 2:9-10

- Peter lists many things that we are “in” Christ currently. What are those things? List each one and think about the privileges and responsibility of each of those “identifiers”.
- According to Peter, what should our response to the mercy and blessings of God be? When is the last time you spoke to anyone about God’s goodness?

Week Four

Day One 2:11-12

- As a result of knowing who we are in Christ, how does Peter urge us to live?
- How have you seen sinful desires war against your soul and the relationship you have with Christ?
- Peter calls on us to live such good lives that unbelievers eventually will acknowledge our good. When will that happen? What might we often expect, in this life, even when we do good?

Day Two 2:13-17

- What does this section have to say about authority and our response to those in authority? Why do we submit? Are there exceptions to this submission?
- How are you at submitting to those in authority? In which relationships do you most often struggle with submitting to authority?

Day Three 2:18-20

- Peter talks about the master/slave relationship in these verses. What principles from this section would you transfer to the employer / employee relationship?
- Do you think you have ever received wrong at the workplace because of your faith? How did you deal with that situation?

Day Four 2:21-23

- Peter delivers the news here that sometimes we are called to suffer for Christ. Do you think Peter is thinking about a time when he was unwilling to suffer with Christ?
- When we are attacked for doing good, what response does Peter suggest here? Have you ever had to do that? Did God bless you as a result of trusting in Him?

Day Five 2:24-25

- Just reflect on these truths. Write out the thoughts or the thanksgivings that come to your mind as you reflect on them.
- How have the wounds of Christ brought healing to your life?
- How have you experienced Jesus as a shepherd and an overseer....one who watches out for you?

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Based on five days a week.

I Peter – Weeks 5 & 6

Week Five

Day One 3:1-2

- What instruction does Peter have for women whose husbands are not believers? Are women who are married to unbelievers required to be submissive in everything? Are there any exceptions?
- What does this text suggest about our witness to unbelievers? Is quoting scripture always the best approach? Do you need to take a different tact with anyone to whom you are trying to witness?

Day Two 3:3-4

- What does this text say to women about the priorities they should set in their lives regarding physical beauty and the beauty of character?
- Is Peter saying that women should have no regard for their appearance? What is his point?
- From this text, what qualities does God find attractive in his women? How are you at being gentle and quiet in your spirit? If you struggle with that, what might be the source of that struggle and how might you grow in those qualities?

Day Three 3:5-6

- What quality does Peter focus on in this text that belonged to great women of the bible? How does that kind of “wifely” attitude fit in our culture?
- What does Peter mean when he connects the struggle to be submissive as God’s woman with fear?
- Do you struggle with those fears?

Day Four 3:7

- Paraphrase what Paul says to the husbands in this text.
- What does Peter mean when he tells us to “respect the weaker partner?”
- In what way are wives the “weaker partner” and how do you respect that?
- From this text, what kinds of things hinder the prayers of husbands and wives and **why** do those things hinder our prayers?

Day Five 3:8-9

- List the kind of relationship qualities we are to have in our lives? Are there any you need to pray about?
- Why should we repay evil with blessing? Doesn’t that just encourage evil and set us up for more hurt? Reflect on God’s part in this and why he wants us to respond to hurt with blessing.
- Does this mean we are not to resist evil or evildoers?

Week Six

Day One 3:10-12

- According to this text, who will receive the blessings of God even in this life?
- What specific things does he call us to do? Are there any areas of growth for you here?

Day Two 3:13-15a

- Peter tells us here to do good even in the face of opposition or persecution. He tells us not to be afraid and then to set Christ apart in our hearts as Lord. What is the connection between holding up Jesus as Lord and being unafraid?
- Are you ever afraid to do what is right? Are you ever afraid to go against the flow of your friends, family, or co-workers? What promises has Jesus made to help you deal with that natural fear?

Day Three 3:15b-17

- What elements of the Christian life and witness does Peter speak of here? How does each one contribute to bringing others to Christ?
- If someone were to ask you to give the reason for the hope that you have, how would you answer? Write out a simple response.

Day Four 3:18-22

- This is one of those challenging sections of scripture about which there are many opinions. I encourage you to do some research on this section as a group and report what you discovered.
- Apart from Jesus preaching to the Spirits in prison, what speaks to you from this text? Why is that truth important to you?

Day Five 3:22

- Just reflect on this truth. Why is it important that we know that Jesus rules over all angels, authorities and powers?
- Does it ever feel as if Jesus doesn’t rule?
- Why is it important to continue to assert by faith that he does rule?

Life Group Daily Bible Readings and Reflections

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I Peter – Weeks 7 & 8

Week Seven

Day One 4:1-2

- What do you think Peter means when he calls on us to have the same attitude as Christ (who was willing to suffer in his body) so that we might be done with sin?
- We know that it is the Spirit of God who changes our hearts and attitudes. But according to this text, what is our part in that process?
- How are you engaged in that process now?

Day Two 4:3-6

- What, in your own words, does Peter say in vs. 3-4 about how unbelievers view your values and your lifestyle?
- Have you ever had that experience?
- In this context, **who** will have to give account to the judge of all men?
- What in the world does Peter mean by his last statement (vs.6)? Talk about it in your CareGroup.

Day Three 4:7-11

- What was Peter's view of Christ coming for his church?
- Do you live with that same view? How should that view motivate us in our Christian walk?
- What characteristics of the Christian life does Peter list here? What are your strengths and weaknesses in these qualities?
- What gift have you received (spiritual gift) and how are you using it?

Day Four 4:12-16

- Peter asked the Christians not be surprised that they were undergoing a painful trial. Why should that not surprise them or us?
- In what ways do Christians participate in the sufferings of Christ even now?
- What reason can you find to rejoice in that suffering?

Day Five 4:17-19

- Summarize what you think Peter is saying in this section of scripture?
- What motivation for keeping Jesus as your priority can you find in these verses?
- Do you find these verses encouraging or discouraging? Why?

Week Eight

Day One 5:1-2

- In this section, Peter speaks to elders. How does he characterize the work and motivations of elders here?
- In what ways are leaders to be like shepherds?
- What do you think it means for an elder to oversee or watch over the flock?
- How do you see your responsibilities toward the shepherds in your life?
- Apart from Christ, who do you consider your primary shepherd?

Day Two 5:3-4

- Peter continues to discuss elders, shepherds, or overseers in these verses. How might an elder "lord it over" the flock?
- From this text what qualities would you need to see in a shepherd to know that he would lead by example and not by command?
- What motivation does Peter give for anyone to desire to be a shepherd?

Day Three 5:5

- What does Peter have to say to the younger men of the church?
- Why do you think Peter feels he needs to say those things to younger men?
- In your experience, how does the church treat older men versus younger men?
- Have you ever had an experience that relates to this principle?

Day Four 5:6-7

- When have you needed to humble yourself before God but resisted doing so? How did that work out?
- How do we humble ourselves before God? What does that look like?
- Does casting our anxiety on God have any relation to humbling ourselves?
- Do you truly believe that God cares for you? When do you tend to doubt that? How might you grow in your trust for Him?

Day Five 5:8-14

- According to this text, what or who is the source of much of our suffering? How does this track with Ephesians 6:12?
- In what ways can we resist Satan? What happens when we do? See James 4:7
- What is the promise of God that we need to remember during times of suffering?
- When have you suffered and experienced God's restoration in your life?