

THE LETTERS OF 1 & 2 PETER

Rising Above Difficulty and Deception

PART 1: READY

Peter wanted Jesus followers to be ready for Jesus's return. That meant living their lives in a way that represented Jesus, even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

WIN

To be inspired to act as imitators of Jesus in the midst of difficulty

CONNECT

Take a few minutes to discuss the following questions as a group:

1. First and Second Peter are letters written in the first century to a large number of believers that were beginning to endure persecution. Have you encountered difficulties as a direct result of claiming to be a Christian? What happened? How did you respond? If you haven't encountered resistance in your faith, why would you say that's the case?
2. How much of 1 Peter and 2 Peter have you read? Will this be your first time through these letters? How do you feel about beginning this three-week study?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, Thank you for inspiring Peter to write these words to Jesus followers who were going through difficult times. Help us discover how these words might apply to us today. Amen.

After praying, watch the video for Part 1.

APPLY

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Did the video change or inform the way you view the apostle Peter? If so, how?
2. Peter's letter is written with a sense of urgency. Would you say that you live out your faith with a sense of urgency? Why or why not?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:13–16 aloud. Peter reminds Jesus followers to set their hope on Jesus's return and live their lives in anticipation of that return. How often does Jesus's return come to your mind? How should the prospect of Jesus returning impact your daily life?



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4. Read 1 Peter 2:1–2 aloud. What key words stand out to you? When you look back at the last several years, would you say you're maturing in your faith? What are some indicators that make you say that? If you don't feel you're maturing, what would you say is the main obstacle?

PRAY

We suggest ending your group with prayer, asking God for the strength to set our hope on Jesus's return and to live out our faith with a sense of urgency.

BEFORE NEXT TIME

Read through 1 Peter before your next session. In addition, try to memorize these passages:

**Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk,
so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.**

1 Peter 2:2

**Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;
for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**

1 Peter 1:15–16

