

1 Peter Bible Study
Weekly Lesson Plans by [Gustavo Karakey](#)

Steps to Prepare for Your Study

The following steps will be helpful in getting the most from your [1 Peter Bible Study](#). I would encourage you to take the time to complete them as they will greatly enhance your understanding of this epistle:

1. If you are leading this study on 1 Peter, I would encourage you to complete our [Guide for Bible Study Leaders](#). It provides a helpful orientation to our lesson plans. In addition, it provides some important guidelines for maximizing the impact of your Bible study.
2. Read an introduction to 1 Peter in a study Bible, Bible dictionary or one-volume commentary (you can check out my [Must Have Tools for Bible Study](#) page for some of my recommendations on these valuable resources.)
3. Study the [1 Peter Outline](#). Notice where the natural divisions occur. You can also view an online version here: [1 Peter Outline \(Online\)](#).
4. Read 1 Peter through in one sitting. This is an invaluable exercise that provides you with a general overview of the letter as a whole. Besides, the letters of the New Testament were written to be read in one sitting (even the long ones).
5. Keep a notebook handy with a pencil to jot down questions, ideas and applications as you study 1 Peter.
6. Read the important [cultural background material](#) for 1 Peter included with our lesson plans.
7. Optional: To really jump ahead in your [1 Peter Bible Study](#), complete our [How to Study a Whole Book of the Bible](#) lesson using 1 Peter as your subject.

Lesson Plans for your [1 Peter Bible Study](#) (Online)

- [Pre-Lesson - Important Cultural Background Lesson for the study of 1 Peter](#)
- [Week 1 – A Heavenly Inheritance \(1:3-12\)](#)
- [Week 2 – Christian Identity in a Hostile Society \(Part 1\) \(1:13-25\)](#)
- [Week 3 – Christian Identity in a Hostile Society \(Part 2\) \(2:1-10\)](#)
- [Week 4 - Wives and Slaves - The Household Codes \(Part 1\) \(2:11-25\)](#)
- [Week 5 - Wives and Slaves - The Household Codes \(Part 2\) \(3:1-3:12\)](#)
- [Week 6 – Suffering for Doing Good \(Part 1\) – \(3:13- 22\)](#)
- [Week 7 - Suffering for Doing Good \(Part 2\) – \(4:1-19\)](#)

- Week 8 – Shepherding the Flock (5:1-14)

Cultural Background for 1 Peter Bible Study

Welcome to the Orientation and Cultural Background page for your 1 Peter Bible Study.

You should have already read an introduction to 1 Peter in a good bible study resource as we suggested in our "Steps to Preparing for Your Study" earlier. This will provide you with a very helpful overview of the book in addition to introducing you to some basic elements connected to 1 Peter.

This section seeks to move beyond that by providing you with important cultural information to help you better understand the content of the letter.

1 Peter's Audience

1 Peter is addressed to Christians living in various cities of Asia Minor. The cities mentioned all form part of modern-day Turkey.

Peter provides three titles for his readers:

- 1) elect, which indicates that they are God's special and chosen people.
- 2) resident aliens, which denotes a particular social status (see further explanations later).
- 3) of the "diaspora", which is a Jewish category describing Jews who were living in various cities of the Roman Empire who had been dispersed away from their homeland (ancient Palestine).

Here, Peter applies this very Jewish term to describe the real social and religious displacement of Christians in the Roman Empire.

The Context of Suffering

The suffering in 1 Peter has often been described as state-wide or empire sanctioned persecution. While it is certainly true that Nero killed Christians in Rome with vicious cruelty, it is simply not the case that this extended into anything like an empire-wide or state-sanctioned witch hunt.

Many scholars (including conservative scholars) now agree that the suffering described in 1 Peter represents social oppression, marginalization and abuse brought about by the peculiarity of the Christian religion in the midst of a sensual, wicked, pluralistic, hostile and spiritually decadent Roman society (in other words, a situation much like we live in today).

This is important to keep in mind not the least because it makes the issues that 1 Peter's audience face highly relevant to our modern context. It would be hard to connect with readers of the first century

whose primary concern was being thrown to the lions. This is not the case with readers who suffered mockery and verbal abuse for wearing the Christian name.

The Pilgrim Language

At the outset we should also mention that 1 Peter's use of the term "pilgrim" or "sojourner" in many Bible translations is often used to describe Christians as those who are just passing through this earth. In other words, the earth is not our home, which gives Christians a ready made excuse to disengage from this world.

This is not at all the advice that 1 Peter intends to give. The term "pilgrim" is better translated as "resident alien" which more truly describes the displacement, disorientation, and marginalization that 1 Peter's audience is experiencing. In other words, Christians that were living in the Roman Empire were experiencing the same things that any foreigner would feel in a place that was not their native land. However, far from "just passing through", 1 Peter calls for an intense engagement with society so that through our behavior, Gentiles may "glorify God in the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:12)

Occasion for The Letter & Main Themes

The occasion for the letter appears to be to provide encouragement, advice and most importantly a divine perspective for the societal persecution and the suffering that the readers are experiencing.

In summary, Peter makes a number of bold claims: 1) Christians are God's holy and chosen people with all of the privileges associated with those terms in the Old Testament; 2) God's holy people are to behave in a certain way in a hostile society both as a witness to the gospel and as a criticism of society's norms; 3) Suffering has divine attributes putting those who suffer in union with Christ himself and the sufferings he experienced.

Each of these themes is highly relevant to Christians living in a post-modern culture today and will be explored in greater detail in this study.

Week 1- A Heavenly Inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-12)

Introduction

Welcome to Week 1 of your 1 Peter Bible study. In this lesson, we want to look more closely at 1 Peter 1:3-12 and the heavenly inheritance that God has prepared for his people.

As Christians, we often forget (or maybe take for granted) exactly what Jesus accomplished on our behalf through his death and resurrection. These initial verses serve as glorious reminders of just how precious that salvation was (and continues to be).

As you read, try to keep the state of 1 Peter's audience in mind. It is likely that their initial burst of joy at conversion has now given way to shock, frustration, confusion and even a lack of faith, given that things are probably worse for them since coming to Christ.

Thus, Peter's first task is to remind his readers about their special status in God, a status which not even the prophets of old understood but which is now applied to all believers.

Read 1 Peter 1:3-12.

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. Verse 1:3 starts out by saying that Christians have been born again. How does that occur according to this verse and what does it mean to be "born again?"
2. Verses 3 and 4 suggest we have been born into a "living hope" and "an inheritance." What is the meaning of these elements? What words are used to describe the inheritance?
3. Verse 5-6 speak of trials. What is the purpose of trials in these verses?
4. Verses 10-12 speak of the prophets inquiring and diligently seeking to know something. What did they inquire about? What did God reveal to them in their searchings (v. 12)?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. Do you see your salvation in terms of being "born again?" What does that phrase imply in terms of how we are to interact with the world?
2. Why do you suppose Peter describes our inheritance as "incorruptible", "undefiled", "reserved in heaven?" What do those words communicate to you about your salvation and how should that impact your faith and trust in God?
3. Do you perceive your sufferings as "trials through fire"? Why or why not? Are you undergoing difficulties at the moment? Explain. How can Peter's advice to his readers help you in your difficult circumstances?
4. What do you make of the prophets of the Old Testament inquiring about the mysterious salvation that you now possess? How should the fact that you have much more knowledge than the prophets regarding Christ and his mission change your approach to faith and living in that faith?

Week 2 – Christian Identity in a Hostile Society (Part 1) – 1 Peter 1:13-25

Introduction

Welcome to Week 2 of your 1 Peter Bible study. In this lesson, we want to look more closely at 1 Peter 1:13-25, which begins to lay out some important characteristics of our Christian identity.

When we talk about an identity we are talking who we are as individuals and as a church. Often, this identity is tied to our career (I'm a doctor, lawyer, housewife, mechanic, student, etc.). It can also be tied to our denomination. I'm a Baptist or a Pentecostal, for example. Our identity may be tied to a political party, a role we play in the family or the church, and the list goes on.

However, a Christian identity is how God sees us and represents truly who we are, who we should be and how we should behave. When we let that identity sink in and through us, it should transform our way of thinking, speaking and acting. In short, we begin to live as God intended us to live.

Let's study this passage to hear what God has to say about our Christian identity!

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. In verses 13-16 there are no less than 5 commands, which Peter gives to his readers. Can you list the five commands and give a brief description of each?
2. Verse 14 speaks about the readers' "former lusts" which they practice in ignorance to God. What exactly would these former lusts include? For a hint see 1 Peter 4:3-4 as well as Col 3:5-9. What do these "former lusts" say about the type of life that Peter's audience previously lead?
3. Verses 15-16 command Peter's readers to "be holy". What reasons does Peter give for this command?
4. Read Leviticus 11:45. When was the original command to be holy given, to whom was it given and why? Why are these answers important given that Peter is now speaking to Christians and not Israel of the Old Testament?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. Of the five commands that appear in verses 13-16, which of these do you need to most put in practice: "Prepare" your minds; "keep sober"; "fix your hope" on God's grace; "do not be conformed to your former lusts"; "be holy"? Explain.
2. Did you become a Christian later in life such that you once lived in your "former lusts" in ignorance? Explain.
3. Do you see yourself as the spiritual heirs of God's people in the Old Testament? Why or why not? What does it mean to be holy in your current context? Can you give specific examples?

Read 1 Peter 1:17-25

Questions to reflect on the passage

- According to vv. 18-19, with what and from what were you redeemed? What does it mean to be "redeemed"?
- In verse 22, Peter commands his readers to behave a certain way toward one another. What does he request and why?

Questions to reflect on your life

- How should knowing that you were "redeemed" by the precious blood of Christ and born again of "imperishable seed" impact how you live? Explain.
- Why is it so hard to "fervently love" other believers from the heart as Peter asks in this section? What impedes you from this type of radical love? Who most needs this type of love from you today?

Week 3 – Christian Identity in a Hostile Society (Part 2) – 1 Peter 2:1-10

Introduction

Welcome to Week 3 of your 1 Peter Bible Study. [Last week](#), we looked at the closing verses of Chapter 1, where the apostle Peter began to lay out some important characteristics of our Christian identity. This week, we want to continue building on this theme by taking a closer look at 1 Peter 2:1-10.

In this section, the apostle Peter continues exhorting his audience to conduct themselves in a certain way. Towards the end, however, he provides the divine basis for this conduct: we are God's chosen, holy and royal nation. We are also a kingdom of priests.

These are lofty titles which represent the core of our Christian identity. In addition, they represent the ground for a totally transformed life and lifestyle.

Let's dive in to see what this week's lesson has to say to us.

You Are a Holy Nation

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. Read the list of “vices” in 2:1. How would you define each one? What are some patterns or “types” of vices within the list?
2. Why would Peter describe God’s word as “pure milk?” How is this “milk” connected to verse 2:1?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. Read the list of “vices” in 2:1. Have you been the recipient of any of these from others? Describe.
2. Which one of these vices (if any) represents your biggest challenge at the moment? What are you doing to overcome this weakness in your life?

Read 1 Peter 2:4-10

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. In verses 2:4-5, how does Peter use the metaphor of a stone to describe his audience?
2. In verses 2:6-8, how does Peter use the metaphor of a stone to describe Jesus?
3. In verses 2:9-10, Peter lists a host of descriptions for the church. What is the biblical background for these descriptions? (See Exodus 19:5-6)
4. Why did God call out his people according to verse 2:9?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. In verse 2:5, Peter uses the metaphor of a spiritual house (temple) and a holy priesthood to describe the church. What do these descriptions say about you as a Christian and about the church as a whole? How do they motivate you in your walk with the Lord?
2. In verses 2:6-8, Peter describes Jesus either as a precious cornerstone of a spiritual house or as a stumbling block? Describe the type of person that would experience Jesus in these varied ways?
3. In verses 2:9-10, Peter uses terms for the ancient people of God (Israel) to describe Christians: Why would he do that? How do these corporate descriptions fit with how you view the church and your involvement in it? Which corporate description must the church appropriate more of these days?

Week 4 – Wives and Slaves – Household Codes (Part 1) – 1 Peter 2:11-25

Introduction

Welcome to Week 4 of your 1 Peter Bible Study.

This week and the following we'll be taking a look at the "household codes" in 1 Peter. Household codes are behavioral instructions given to various members of a typical ancient household. This can include advice to wives and husbands, slaves and masters and parents and children.

When studying the household codes in the New Testament it is important to keep two factors in mind:

1. The importance of cultural context
2. The missional / apologetic purpose for the regulations.

The Importance of Cultural Context

In the first place, the Greco-Roman world of Peter's time was a male dominated society. Male governance and rule over women and family were the accepted cultural norms. Women were generally relegated to home life and were instructed to practice chastity, silence and full submission to their husbands.

Likewise, slavery was a part and parcel of the Mediterranean world. Given these pervasive cultural patterns, it is not surprising to see New Testament writers such as Peter (as well as Paul) admonishing Christian women and slaves to conform their behavior to honor these cultural codes.

Missional / Apologetic Purpose

Secondly, in many cases, the New Testament writers appealed to the church's mission of reaching non-Christians as the motivating factor for continuing to uphold these social patterns (See 1 Pet 2:12; 14-15; 3:1; 1 Tim 6:1). In other words, the New Testament writers did not want to upset certain social norms lest they impeded the spread of the gospel (whether we agree with this stance or not).

In summary then: The New Testament writers 1) upheld conventional social patterns in their admonitions and 2) in some cases upheld those patterns for the sake of being a witness to the Christian faith.

Applying the Household Codes to our Modern Context

These cultural insights should be the starting point for any modern application of these verses in 1 Peter. Women in modern democratic societies are leaders of companies, universities, political bodies and even entire nations. They are fully functioning and equal members of society (though discrimination and various inequalities still exist).

To insist that these culturally specific commands have universal and virtually identical applications as they did in 1st century Palestine is to violate the rules of proper interpretation. We no longer live in a patriarchal society (though once again, many patriarchal attitudes still remain in place).

Furthermore, to apply these household codes consistent with the Mediterranean world in the 1st century is to actually betray the spirit in which some of these commands were given. Our Christian witness is NOT enhanced, but rather imperiled when we insist that women must be subjugated to their husbands IN THE SAME WAY as they were in Peter's day.

Finally, in terms of slavery, it is not appropriate to apply Paul's admonitions to a modern employee-employer relationship. Employees are not slaves and the slave-master relationship is an improper description of a salaried employee and his contractual obligations toward a modern corporation or entity.

We can speak of respect and fairness in a modern work context, but submission of an employee to a boss would make the Scriptures say something they never intended to say to our modern context. With these caveats in mind, let us proceed to this section of our 1 Peter Bible Study (2:11-25)

Read 1 Peter 2:11-17

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. Why does Peter urge Christians to “keep their behavior excellent”?
2. What is one function / role of government according to Peter.
3. Why does Peter state that Christians should submit to human government institutions (2:15)?

Questions to reflect on your life

The identifying terms in verse 2:11 are often translated as “pilgrims” and “strangers on earth” thereby spiritualizing our life here on earth as as some type of transitory, just passing through, heaven is my home kind of existence.

1. How would your perspective / actions change if we used the terms “exiles” and “resident aliens” to describe ourselves and where we live? (Note: These are more accurate translations.)
2. When is it appropriate and not appropriate for Christians to submit to government institutions today? Can you give specific examples?

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25

Note: The biblical writers did not come out against slavery since they were products of their first century culture. They did however plant the seeds of equality and dignity of every person in Christ. The letter to Philemon is the most complete statement of this whereby the master Philemon is instructed to receive the slave Onesimus as a brother and not a slave.

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. How does Jesus become the example for slaves and unjust suffering in this text?
2. What was Jesus' response to unjust sufferings? What forms did that take (2:21-25)?
3. The text that Peter quotes is from Isaiah 53:6-9, the famous passage on the suffering servant. Read the Isaiah passage in context and find all of the common elements between that passage and 1 Peter 2:19-25.

4. According to this passage, what specifically are the results of Jesus dying on the cross?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. How does Jesus' suffering help you in dealing with some type of unjust suffering or persecution in your life?
2. Why does Peter use Jesus as an example here (see 1 Peter 4:1 and 13 for comparison)?
3. Can you think of other behaviors that the New Testament writers exhort us to emulate in Jesus?

Week 5 – Wives and Slaves – Household Codes (Part 2) – 1 Peter 3:1-12

Introduction

Welcome to Week 5 of your 1 Peter Bible Study.

This is the second part of our study on the “household codes” in 1 Peter. As mentioned in Part 1, household codes are behavioral exhortations given to different members of a typical ancient household. Last week we looked at 1 Peter’s instructions to all citizens and to ancient slaves.

This week, we’ll look at exhortations to wives and husbands and to every member of the church. It is important in studying the household codes that we pay attention to the cultural context in which they were given. This is something that we touched on in [last week’s study](#) and you should feel free to review that material as a background to the content of this week’s 1 Peter Bible study.

Behavioral advice to wives

Read 1 Peter 3:1-6

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. In 3:1-2, why does Peter suggest wives be submissive to their husbands? What other behaviors does he call for in order to achieve this ultimate aim?
2. In 3:1-4, what additional qualities does he request of women? Why would he make the kind of contrast (external vs. internal) he does in these verses?
3. What is Peter’s advice to husbands toward their wives? What is meant by the term “weaker”?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. How can a wife win over an unbelieving husband in today’s day and age?
2. Are all of Peter’s requests for women of the first century still valid today? Explain. If yes, does that mean she should call her husband “lord” as Sarah did and as Peter instructs wives to do.
3. If you believe there is a more nuanced way to read these verses than a strict command-by-command application, what exactly do you think Peter would say to today’s wives? Would calling for a gentle and quiet spirit vs. external adornment still be good advice for wives today? Explain.
4. Why does Peter require husbands to behave in certain ways toward their wives?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-9

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. In 3:8, what does Peter exhort everyone in the church (“all of you”) to be? (He lists five things)
2. In 3:9, what noble behaviors does Peter require of everyone?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. Of the five attitudes or behaviors in 3:8, which one is the most difficult for you? Which one do you need the most help with? Explain.
2. Of the five attitudes or behaviors in 3:8, which one is most needed in your church today?
3. What do you think of Peter's exhortation to give a blessing instead of returning evil or insult to people? Is that something that is difficult / easy for you to do? Explain.
4. How do you know when you should bear up under insult and evil as this passage suggests and when you should defend yourself?

Week 6 – Suffering for Doing Good (Part 1) – 1 Peter 3:13-17

Introduction

Welcome to Week 6 of your 1 Peter Bible Study.

This is the first of two parts on suffering in 1 Peter. In some sense, all of Peter's epistle is meant to encourage God's people in the midst of the trials they are experiencing. However, starting with 1 Peter 3:13, the topic becomes particularly acute.

As we mentioned in our [introduction to our Bible Study on 1 Peter](#), much of the "suffering" spoken of in the letter has to do with Christians living as outsiders in a mainstream secular society. In other words, the way they live today.

Thus, instead of speaking about persecution by the state (being thrown to the lions), the kind of suffering mentioned in 1 Peter has to do more with social marginalization, mockery, slander, and a pressure to conform to the Gentile standards of the day. This is important to keep in mind so that we do not look at the "suffering" portrayed in 1 Peter as that which comes about through illness, loss of life, physical abuse, etc.

Read 1 Peter 3:13-17

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. In 3:14, what does it mean to "suffer for the sake of righteousness"? Compare to 3:17. What is the reward for doing that?
2. Why would Peter warn against being intimidated or being troubled in 3:14?
3. What does it mean to "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts"?
4. About what should you be ready to defend yourself? Why does Peter request that your defense be done in a certain way?
5. What does it mean to "keep a good conscience" and why is that important?
6. What is God's involvement in suffering according to 3:17?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. Do you consider yourself "blessed" when you suffer for doing good?
2. How do you respond to the fact that suffering is sometimes part of God's will? (see 3:17.)
3. What would you say to someone who asked you to give an account of the hope that is within you?
4. Have you ever been slandered or have you ever been reviled for the way you behave? Explain. What was your response?.
5. Are you intimidated or afraid of people because of your Christian faith? Explain.
6. Are you afraid to share or speak out on certain issues because of what others might think? Explain.

Week 7 – Suffering for Doing Good (Part 2) – 1 Peter 4:1-19

Introduction

Welcome to Week 7 of your 1 Peter Bible Study.

This week we are continuing to look at the way Peter responds to the social persecution that his audience is experiencing. It is important to reiterate (as we stated in our Orientation lesson) that the persecution that Peter describes in his letter is not state-wide or empire sanctioned persecution (i.e. Christians being thrown to the lions).

Though this did occur in some specific cases, what we see in 1 Peter tends more toward social oppression, marginalization and verbal abuse (and sometimes legal action) from a hostile population toward a peculiar Christian religion.

If 1 Peter only speaks of martyrs, then we are fairly separated from that context (unless one lives in the Middle East or China.) But if 1 Peter is concerned with overcoming the insults and intimidations that sometimes come with being a Christian then the letter speaks to our social situation today. It provides a ready answer to the question: How can we live out our Christian life faithfully within a largely secular (and sometimes even hostile) society.

Read 1 Peter 4:1-5

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. In 4:1, Peter talks about Christ's passion and death ("Christ has suffered in the flesh"). What are his instruction to his audience members and how does that help them given this fact?
2. What does Peter consider to be "the lusts of men"? Provide a definition of each element in 4:3.
3. In 4:4, what is the reaction of the Gentile population toward Christians who want to do "God's will"?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. How does Christ's sacrifice help you cease from sin?
2. Are there behaviors in 4:3 that used to characterize your life before coming to Christ? Explain. What would an abominable idolatry be today?
3. How does one keep their moral integrity in a world awash with sensuality, moral excesses, and the social pressures to join in the "world's party".

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. What is Peter's advice to his audience in 4:12? Does it surprise you?
2. What is the purpose of this "fiery ordeal"?
3. What is Peter's advice to those who are persecuted in 4:13.

4. In 4:14 and 16 Peter suggests that people will “revile” you for the name of Christ and that you will suffer for being a Christian. What affirmation and what encouragement does he give based on these facts? Does this surprise you?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. How do you react when social persecution comes your way? Are you surprised that this would happen to you? Do you consider it a “testing”?
2. How do Christ’s sufferings help you when you are experiencing social persecution for your faith?
3. Have you been the victim of mockery, marginalization, discrimination or mistreatment simply because of your Christian faith? Explain.
4. Do you feel as if God’s spirit rests on you during these times? Do you glorify God?

Week 8 – Leaders as Shepherds (1 Peter 5:1-4)

Introduction

Welcome to Week 8 of your 1 Peter Bible Study.

This week we'll take a look at Peter's admonitions to "elders", who were considered the leaders / pastors in the New Testament church. The thrust of Peter's exhortations are derived from the shepherd image.

The shepherd image

As you know, the shepherd image has a long history within the Bible. Indeed, much of the Exodus story is told with elements of that image: God leading his people through the wilderness, feeding, caring and protecting them. In biblical history, this image passes from God to his leaders as Moses, David and the elders here in the NT are referred to as shepherds.

Of course, the ultimate shepherd is Jesus. The gospel of John elaborates this theme by calling him the good shepherd. After Jesus' resurrection, he passes the mantle of shepherding to his followers when he tells Peter, "feed my sheep" in John 21. Here in 1 Peter, it is now the apostle passing on the mantle of shepherd to those who would lead God's flock (1 Peter 5:2).

We should first point out that one does not have to be a pastor or church leader to apply these verses. Anyone who was any kind of oversight or responsibility for other people (small group, bible study, discipleship, committee) would greatly benefit from Peter's advice to elders in this section.

Read 1 Peter 5:1-4

Questions to reflect on the passage

1. Why does Peter call himself a "co-elder" and a "partaker" of the glory to be revealed?
2. What could Peter be referring to when he states that he was a "witness to the sufferings of Christ"? (See 1:10-11 and 4:1 for additional insight.)
3. Why would Peter use the image of the shepherd to talk about Christian leadership for the church? (See Psalm 23 and Ezek 34:1-8.)
4. Peter lists three sets of instructions for leaders, one positive and one negative. List each positive and negative trait. Why would Peter highlight these characteristics for leaders?
5. What is the reward awaiting those who fulfill their shepherd responsibilities?
6. Why does Peter call Jesus the chief-shepherd and how should that influence the way elders lead?

Questions to reflect on your life

1. Can you think of examples (personal or otherwise) where you have encountered leaders who portray the negative elements Peter highlights? Elaborate.
2. What traits of a shepherd do you need to develop in order to be a better leader?
3. In what particular ways can you be an “example” to those people who look up to you or over whom you have influence?
4. Are there particular traits mentioned by Peter that you need to develop or eliminate? Explain.

Two Special Requests...

We've come to the end of our 1 Peter Bible Study. I hope you have been greatly blessed by a closer study of this immensely popular and amazing book.

In closing, let me remind you that we have many additional Bible study resources on our website (see footer and index). As you know, most of that material is provided free of charge in order that it might reach the widest possible audience.

However, if you have found this material useful and of benefit to you I'm going to ask you for two small favors that will require little effort on your part:

1. Would you consider promoting our site through your social media networks, website or blog. You can link to our website or simply hop onto any of our pages and use the Facebook or Twitter share buttons to post our pages to your networks.
2. If you are thinking about purchasing bible study resources, books, commentaries and the like, please consider using our affiliate search boxes on our [website](#) or the following [Amazon.com](#) or [Christian Book Distributors \(CBD\)](#) links as your entry into those sites ([CBD's bestsellers](#) and [CBD's great deals](#).)

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We are committed to your spiritual growth and are here to help in any way that we can.

All of God's blessings to you,

Gustavo

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



GUSTAVO KARAKEY was born in Durango, Mexico and grew up in Southern California. In 1992, at the age of 27, he came to faith in Christ and shortly thereafter moved to Boston to marry his future wife. They now have three children.

Gustavo has been a member of Park Street Church in Boston for 18 years. From 2004–2008 he served as a Park Street Church missionary to Paraguay teaching Bible and theology at the Methodist Bible Institute outside of Asunción. He was also privileged to pastor a small rural church (La Iglesia Metodista de Matachi) for two years.

Gustavo and his family now live in beautiful Medellín, Colombia. Gustavo is a professor of New Testament at the [Biblical Seminary of Colombia](#). Gustavo's passion is to help develop pastors and leaders for the church in Colombia and Latin America as well as to prepare missionaries from Colombia for the unfinished task of global missions.

Gustavo has an MDIV and ThM in New Testament from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Massachusetts. He is currently working on his doctorate in New Testament through the London School of Theology. His thesis is the Use of the Pastoral Image in Luke and 1 Peter.

Other resources available on our website: www.free-bible-study-lessons.net

Articles on important topics

[What is God's Will For My Life?](#)

In this short series, we tackle many of the errors that surround the typical hide-and-seek approach to discovering God's will for our lives. You'll learn just how little the Bible supports this approach. You'll also develop a healthier model for making small or large decisions with confidence.

[How to Have Healthy Relationships](#)

In this series, we take a look at Matthew 18 Community and the topic of healthy relationships. In this thought-provoking study you'll learn about the critical importance of humility and forgiveness in a relationship. You'll also learn a healthy approach to conflict resolution which you can use to diffuse any tense interpersonal situation.

[The Bible and Money](#)

Short series of articles on how to be a good steward of your money.

New Testament Bible Studies:

[Ephesians Bible Study](#)

[1 Thessalonians Bible Study](#)

[Acts Bible Study](#)

[1 Peter Bible Study](#)

On-Line Training:

[How to Understand the Bible](#)

This short six-step course provides an overview of the main themes, events and figures of the Bible.

- Step #1 - Recognize that the Bible tells one continuous and unified story.
- Step #2 – Teaches you the Bible story in 13 chapters.
- Step #3 – Teaches you the main theme or message of the Scriptures in one easy to remember sentence.
- Step #4 - Places all 66 books of the Bible within 8 main literary categories.
- Step #5 – Connects the 8 literary categories (Step #4) to the story of the Bible in 13 Chapters (Step #2)
- Step #6 - Procedure to memorize the name and order of all of the books of the Bible.

NOTE: This course is also available as a Kindle book: [The Bible in 13 Chapters](#)

[Christian Leadership Training and Academy](#)

In our Christian Leadership Academy we tackle the fundamentals of being a leader. This includes:

- The MODEL of a leader, which are servant and shepherd and which should undergird our motivations and values as leaders
- The MOTIVES of a leader, which covers the leader's relationship with God, character and overcoming the greatest temptations that a leader faces
- The MANNER of a leader, which incorporates a leader's approach to people, his interpersonal relationships and principles for managing conflict.

[How to Interpret the Bible](#)

This online course teaches you six (6) Bible Study tools that will deepen your understanding of any Bible passage. You will learn:

1. Why your biases get in the way of accurately reading the Bible.
2. How to study a whole book of the Bible and why that is important.
3. How the context of a passage (what surrounds it) is important to its understanding.
4. How to do a simple word study using an Online Bible Concordance.
5. How to use a Bible dictionary to study the Bible's customs and culture.
6. How to compare one part of the Bible to another for a better understanding of both parts.