

**OneBook.**

DAILY - WEEKLY

# The Letter of 1 Peter

Ruth Anne Reese



AN EIGHT-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

**OneBook.**

---

DAILY - WEEKLY

# **The Letter of 1 Peter**

**Ruth Anne Reese**

Copyright 2019 by Ruth Anne Reese

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission, except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™ All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org).

Scripture quotations marked ESV are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NRSV are taken from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Printed in the United States of America

*Cover design by Strange Last Name  
Page design and layout by PerfecType, Nashville, Tennessee*

**Reese Ruth Anne.**

The Letter of 1 Peter / Ruth Anne Reese. – Franklin, Tennessee : Seedbed Publishing, ©2019.

pages ; cm. + 1 videodisc – (OneBook. Daily-weekly)

ISBN 9781628246179 (paperback)

ISBN 9781628246216 (DVD)

ISBN 9781628246186 (Mobi)

ISBN 9781628246193 (ePub)

ISBN 9781628246209 (uPDF)

1. Bible. Peter, 1st -- Textbooks. 2. Bible. Peter, 1st -- Study and teaching. 3. Bible. Peter, 1st -- Commentaries. I. Title. II. Series.

BS2795.55.R43 2019

227/.920071

2019935192



SEEDBED PUBLISHING  
Franklin, Tennessee  
[seedbed.com](http://seedbed.com)

# CONTENTS

Welcome to OneBook Daily-Weekly vii

## Week One

<b>God's New Family and the Gift of Salvation</b>	<b>1</b>
Day One: God Chooses Resident Aliens	1
Day Two: Welcome to the Family	3
Day Three: God, the Source of Joy in the Midst of Trials	4
Day Four: Loving Jesus, Receiving Salvation	6
Day Five: The Great Gift of Salvation	7
Week One: Gathering Discussion Outline	10

## Week Two

<b>We Are Called to Be Holy as God Is Holy</b>	<b>12</b>
Day One: Set Your Hope	12
Day Two: Be Holy	14
Day Three: Conduct Yourselves with Awe	15
Day Four: Your Faith and Hope Are in God	17
Day Five: Love One Another Earnestly	18
Week Two: Gathering Discussion Outline	20

## Week Three

<b>Long to Be Made into God's Dwelling Place</b>	<b>22</b>
Day One: Crave	22
Day Two: The Church Is God's Temple	24
Day Three: Jesus Is the Cornerstone	25
Day Four: Chosen with a Purpose	27

## Contents

Day Five: Recipients of Mercy	29
Week Three: Gathering Discussion Outline	31

### Week Four

<b>Life in Society as God's Household: Part I</b>	<b>33</b>
Day One: Household Instructions	33
Day Two: Honor Everyone	35
Day Three: Unjust Suffering	36
Day Four: Jesus Is Our Example	38
Day Five: Jesus Restores	40
Week Four: Gathering Discussion Outline	42

### Week Five

<b>Life in Society as God's Household: Part II</b>	<b>44</b>
Day One: Preaching without Words	44
Day Two: Inner Beauty	46
Day Three: Coheirs of Grace	47
Day Four: Love One Another, Again	49
Day Five: Pursuing the Good Life	51
Week Five: Gathering Discussion Outline	53

### Week Six

<b>Christians Follow the Suffering and Sovereign Lord</b>	<b>55</b>
Day One: Suffering for Righteousness	55
Day Two: Honor Christ as Holy	57
Day Three: Christ Suffered to Bring Us to God	58
Day Four: Jesus Reigns	60
Day Five: Think like Jesus	62
Week Six: Discussion Outline	64

## Contents

### Week Seven

<b>In the Midst of Suffering, Continue in Love and Joy</b>	<b>66</b>
Day One: God's Horizon	66
Day Two: Love One Another, Again	68
Day Three: God Supplies, We Serve	69
Day Four: Sharing Christ's Sufferings	71
Day Five: Entrust Yourself to God	73
Week Seven: Discussion Outline	75

### Week Eight

<b>Final Thoughts on the Life of the Church</b>	<b>77</b>
Day One: Shepherding God's Flock	77
Day Two: Wear Humility	79
Day Three: He Cares for You	80
Day Four: Resist the Adversary	82
Day Five: Closing Remarks	84
Week Eight: Gathering Discussion Outline	86
Suggested Resources for Further Reading	88

# WELCOME TO ONEBOOK DAILY-WEEKLY

John Wesley, in a letter to one of his leaders, penned the following:

O begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercises. You may acquire the taste which you have not: what is tedious at first, will afterwards be pleasant. Whether you like it or not, read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way; else you will be a trifler all your days. . . . Do justice to your own soul; give it time and means to grow. Do not starve yourself any longer. Take up your cross and be a Christian altogether.

Rarely are our lives most shaped by our biggest ambitions and highest aspirations. Rather, our lives are most shaped, for better or for worse, by those small things we do every single day.

At Seedbed, our biggest ambition and highest aspiration is to resource the followers of Jesus to become lovers and doers of the Word of God every single day, to become people of One Book.

To that end, we have created the OneBook Daily-Weekly. First, it's important to understand what this is not: warm, fuzzy, sentimental devotions. If you engage the Daily-Weekly for any length of time, you will learn the Word of God. You will grow profoundly in your love for God, and you will become a passionate lover of people.

## **How Does the Daily-Weekly Work?**

*Daily.* As the name implies, every day invites a short but substantive engagement with the Bible. Five days a week you will read a passage of Scripture followed by a short segment of teaching and closing with questions for reflection and self-examination. On the sixth day, you will review and reflect on the previous five days.

*Weekly.* Each week, on the seventh day, find a way to gather with at least one other person doing the study. Pursue the weekly guidance for gathering.

Share learning, insight, encouragement, and most important, how the Holy Spirit is working in your lives.

That's it. Depending on the length of the study, when the eight or twelve weeks are done, we will be ready with the next study. On an ongoing basis, we will release new editions of the Daily-Weekly. Over time, those who pursue this course of learning will develop a rich library of Bible learning resources for the long haul.

OneBook Daily-Weekly will develop eight- and twelve-week studies that cover the entire Old and New Testaments. Seedbed will publish new studies regularly so that an ongoing supply of group lessons will be available. All titles will remain accessible, which means they can be used in any order that fits your needs or the needs of your group.

If you are looking for a substantive study to learn Scripture through a steadfast method, look no further.

# WEEK ONE

1 Peter 1:1–12

## God's New Family and the Gift of Salvation

ONE

### God Chooses Resident Aliens

**1 Peter 1:1–2 NASB** *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen <sup>2</sup>according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.*

**Key Observation.** The Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ work together to choose, sanctify, and cleanse scattered resident aliens.

**Understanding the Word.** This week we will look at 1 Peter's opening greeting (1:1–2) and the blessing that follows (1:3–12). Peter introduces himself as an apostle, a person sent by Jesus to carry the good news to new groups of people, and he names the recipients of his letter as "aliens." By choosing to follow Jesus, the people Peter addressed became "resident aliens" in their own cultural setting. They no longer fit easily within their cultural setting, and they were scattered across a vast region (an area about the size of Texas) in Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). Despite their status as resident aliens, they are also identified as chosen by God the Father. Across the vast region of Asia Minor there were tiny pinpricks of light where groups of believers gathered together to celebrate the work of Jesus in their lives. But these little pinpricks of

light faced opposition from those around them. In these circumstances, Peter reminds them that they are chosen. They are chosen by God the Father. In the first century, fathers were powerful people who ruled over their families. Ideally, they sought the best for their family and encouraged cooperation for the good of the family unit. God the Father is both loving and powerful, and he knew beforehand that he would choose these resident aliens. God's foreknowledge of the resident aliens and their situation is a word of comfort that reminds them that God has not forgotten them. Long ago God chose Israel to be his people and to carry out his mission in the world (Exod. 19:6). Now, God is choosing this group of scattered aliens to be his people in the Word and to live in a manner worthy of their identity as his children.

Each member of the Trinity is involved in the process of choosing. The Father uses foreknowledge to choose. Then, by means of the Spirit, followers of Jesus are set apart from those around them. Being chosen by God and sanctified (set apart, made holy) by the Spirit results in being made ready and willing to obey Jesus, the One who sacrificed his own blood to cleanse those who trust him. The blood of Jesus is sprinkled on his people to cleanse them just as Moses sprinkled blood on God's people to cleanse them when they entered into covenant relationship with God (Exod. 24:8).

Peter has identified himself. Then he encourages his audience with a reminder that although they are scattered resident aliens, God has chosen them. Finally, he prompts them to remember that as people cleansed by Jesus' blood, they have been set apart for obedience to Jesus. He finishes the opening of the letter by wishing that his audience will experience a multiplication of grace and peace in their lives. Have you received the cleansing work of Jesus and the sanctifying work of the Spirit? If so, then may the gifts of grace and peace multiply in your life.

1. Are you eager to obey Jesus? What does obeying Jesus look like in your own life?
2. In what way(s) have you become a resident alien in your culture because you are chosen by God?

## TWO

# Welcome to the Family

**1 Peter 1:3–5** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

**Key Observation.** God has given us new life as his children, members of his household, the church.

**Understanding the Word.** First Peter 1:3–12 is the next major section of the letter and focuses on the identity of God's people. It begins by praising God for who he is. God is the Father of Jesus, and Jesus is "our Lord," one with authority over believers. God acts out of his mercy, the quality of love that extends forgiveness to those who do not deserve it. Out of his *great* mercy, God gives new birth to believers. This takes place through the power of Jesus' resurrection. We are invited to share in a family relationship with God. This family is characterized by living hope. Jesus' resurrection is the basis for the true and certain hope that we will experience God's full salvation. Our new birth and the hope we experience because of it is not a delusion or a fairy tale but is based in Jesus' triumph over the power of death.

As members of God's family, we receive an inheritance. Unlike an earthly inheritance, this inheritance will not fade away, rot, or be destroyed. The inheritance is kept in heaven. In other words, it is in the very presence of God, and that means that the inheritance can be counted on. It is kept in heaven *for you*. As you read 1 Peter, the word "you" will occur more than fifty times. In English we use the word "you" to refer both to groups and to individuals. In Greek, there are singular and plural forms of "you." Each time the Greek word for "you" is used in 1 Peter, it is plural and refers to a group rather than an individual. In the South, the English idiom "y'all" captures the inclusive, group nature of the word "you" in 1 Peter. The inheritance is not for us as individuals but for the whole of God's family, the church.

God gives birth to his people, promises them an inheritance, and then protects his people until the time when they experience God's full salvation. God deploys his power to shield his people so they can attain salvation. God's protection does not mean that the Christian will not suffer. In fact, 1 Peter will have much to say about suffering on account of one's faith! God shields, but the one who has been given new birth must also trust God. The result will be salvation. In 1 Peter, salvation is something that is experienced now as new birth *and* something that is fully received when Jesus reigns in victory at the end-time. Right now, we only have the reign of Jesus as it was inaugurated on the cross when Jesus triumphed over death and sin. His resurrection proclaims his triumph and is the source of our hope. But in time the veil that is over our eyes will be lifted, and we will experience the fullness of salvation in the very presence of God. Have you experienced the new birth (initial salvation)? Are you longing to see God's salvation fully revealed (final salvation) so that the whole world will be transformed by the loving sacrifice of Jesus? This is the invitation of this passage.

1. What qualities and gifts of God do you observe in these verses? Take time to praise and thank God for these things.
2. What does it mean to you to experience new birth and be part of God's family, the church?

## THREE

### God, the Source of Joy in the Midst of Trials

**1 Peter 1:6–7** *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

**Key Observation.** Even though we may suffer for our faith, we can rejoice in our identity as part of the family of God.

**Understanding the Word.** “In all of this” points us back to yesterday’s reading. All that God is and all that God gave us through his great mercy is a source of joy for us. This includes our new birth and its results—living hope, an inheritance, God’s protective care for his children, and the anticipation of full salvation in the last time. Our new identity as God’s children and as members of God’s family is focused on God himself and on what God has done for us.

However, those who are members of God’s family may experience suffering *on account of* their faith in Jesus. Peter speaks of “all kind of trials.” He is referring to a variety of types of suffering that can happen when people are true to their faith in the midst of a culture that is hostile to Christianity. In the first century this probably included verbal attacks, loss of jobs and resources, accusations and trials because of one’s allegiance to Jesus, imprisonment, and on rarer occasions, martyrdom. The church around the world continues to experience suffering because of faithful living in response to Jesus. And as in the first century, this suffering can include the same spectrum of trials that were behind the letter Peter wrote to God’s children.

The result of trials that are faithfully endured by Christians is a proven faith. The image that Peter uses is that of a refining fire that is used to purify metals such as gold. When the gold is refined and all the impurities are burned up, what is left behind is proven to be genuine gold. Similarly, those who have been through trials *on account of* their faith and have faithfully endured have genuine faith that has been proven. Such trials cause grief, but they are temporary. What lasts forever is faith and its results.

Yesterday, we saw how salvation begins with new birth; then the life that is received comes to its fullness at the revelation of Jesus in the last time. Today, we see that those who live life faithfully in the midst of suffering on account of their faith receive praise, honor, and glory when Jesus is fully revealed. We rightly regard praise, honor, and glory as things directed to God, but the amazing news is that those who live faithfully when confronted with trials get to share in God’s glory. In Western culture, we may not think that we face persecution because of our faith, but the challenge is to live faithfully in whatever circumstances we face.

1. Read back through 1 Peter 1:3–5. What kinds of challenges might you face that would tempt you to turn away from being faithful to God?

2. Can you think of ways that you might be tempted to compromise your faith in Jesus to keep a job, look better in someone else's eyes, not make a scene, or for some other reason?

## FOUR

### Loving Jesus, Receiving Salvation

**1 Peter 1:8–9** *Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

**Key Observation.** Even though we have not seen Jesus, we grow to love and trust him.

**Understanding the Word.** Have you ever been so happy you couldn't speak? That is the kind of joy that fills those who come to deeply love Jesus. The people to whom Peter wrote lived in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). They had not walked with Jesus in Galilee or seen him crucified outside of Jerusalem or eaten with Jesus after the resurrection. But though they had not seen Jesus in his physical body, they loved Jesus deeply.

First Peter 1:1–7 shows us that Jesus sacrificed himself so his people could be clean and enter into relationship with God (v. 2). Jesus, as God's Son, had an intimate relationship with God the Father (v. 3). Similarly, Christians are children of God who experience new life as a gift from God. Jesus was raised from death in the resurrection. Jesus' triumph over death was the source of their living hope. Jesus was alive and present with God the Father. Christians anticipate that the life they began as God's children continues into eternity. They, like Jesus, are children of God and will continue to experience life in the presence of God even after they taste death. Salvation begins with new birth and extends to that time when Jesus will be fully revealed and will make everything new and set everything right. This was the Jesus that the audience of 1 Peter had not seen but had come to love.

The Christians whom Peter addressed had not seen Jesus when he was on earth, and they did not see him now in a physical form. But they believed in

him. In the Bible, “belief” does not mean intellectual assent. It does not mean that they agreed to a certain set of propositions about who Jesus was. Rather, “belief” refers to trust. These Christians loved Jesus and understood that he was trustworthy and reliable. When we know that someone is completely worthy of our trust and will never let us down, it makes us deeply happy and full of joy.

The result of these early believers’ trust was that they were obtaining salvation. Peter saw salvation as a process. It was not a one-time commitment to God or Jesus that happened in the past. Instead, salvation was an ongoing outcome of their continued lives of faithfulness. In Greek, the word “soul” can refer to one’s life, so the salvation they were experiencing was something that was taking place in their lives *now*. They would not have to wait until they died to receive salvation; rather, salvation was animating their lives right now, and it would continue to do so as they walked in faithful, day-to-day relationship with their Father, who had chosen them and given them new birth.

Like these Christians, we have not seen Jesus either, but I hope you have come to love and trust him. I hope you have experienced the joy that comes from knowing Jesus. You can always ask to love and trust Jesus more fully and seek to experience the joy that comes from knowing him.

1. If salvation is a process, how are you experiencing salvation right now?
2. What does it mean to have your life animated by salvation?
3. How does Peter’s understanding of salvation compare and contrast with what you have understood about salvation?

## FIVE

### The Great Gift of Salvation

**1 Peter 1:10–12** *Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup>trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup>It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but*

*you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.*

**Key Observation.** Salvation is a gift of God's grace that the prophets searched for and that angels want to look into.

**Understanding the Word.** Prophets are called by God to speak on his behalf. Prophets were part of Israel from its very earliest days. Moses was a prophet (Deut. 18:18) who spoke to Israel and communicated to them the message of God's deliverance and covenant. Subsequent prophets, such as Samuel, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and many others, also spoke God's message to his people. But Peter tells us that what the prophets were really searching for was the salvation that Christians experience when they enter into the new life that God made possible through Jesus. This salvation is identified as "the grace that was to come to you." Grace is a gift. It is not something earned or deserved but rather freely given. The prophets searched diligently to find out when that gift would arrive and what circumstances would bring it about. In fact, Peter says that it was the Spirit of Christ that was nudging them toward the predictions of what would unfold at this time of salvation.

The prophets predicted that the Messiah would suffer and that glorious things would follow that suffering. One example of this is from Isaiah 53, a passage that Peter will quote in chapter 2. There the Lord's servant is depicted as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (v. 3 NASB). Later in the passage he is pierced, crushed, oppressed, and afflicted. But the result of all of this suffering is that "he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (v. 12). Sin is a weight that is now carried by Jesus so that we don't have to carry it. And the glories (plural) that follow are all the people who experience the weight of sin lifted from their lives and who find new lives filled with rejoicing. When the prophets wrote of such things—both suffering and glories—they were not doing this for themselves. It was for all those who would have the chance to hear the good news of Jesus' death on their behalf and would come to share in both the suffering and the glory of Jesus.

The people to whom Peter was writing had heard the good news about Jesus through messengers who explained what God had done for them through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This message was enabled

by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in those who proclaimed the good news. The message they received was the same message that the prophets had proclaimed before Jesus was ever born: that God's gift would be to send a Messiah, a servant-king, who would remove the burden of sin and bring new life to his people and his kingdom. Even the angels wanted to see the transformation of lives through God's gift to the world—Jesus.

1. In many ways, 1 Peter 1:3–12 is all about salvation. Take a moment to reflect on your own experience of salvation. How did you come to experience new birth?
2. Are you ready to share the message of God's gift of salvation with others? How might you grow in this area?

## WEEK ONE

# GATHERING DISCUSSION OUTLINE

- A. **Open session in prayer.** Ask that God would astonish us anew with fresh insight from God's Word and transform us into the disciples that Jesus desires us to become.
- B. **Read 1 Peter 1:1–12 out loud.** You might consider having each member of the group read a verse or asking several people to each read three or four verses.
- C. **View video for this week's readings.**
- D. What were key insights or takeaways that you gained from your reading during the week and from watching the video commentary? In particular, how did these help you to grow in your faith and understanding of Scripture this week? What parts of the Bible lesson or study raised questions for you?
- E. **One main point from this week is:** *God's plan has always been for us to find security in him and in his people by inviting us into a new set of family relationships.*
- F. **Discuss questions selected from the daily readings.**
  - 1. **KEY OBSERVATION:** The Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ work together to choose, sanctify, and cleanse scattered resident aliens.  
**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** In what way(s) have you become a resident alien in your culture because you are chosen by God?

2. **KEY OBSERVATION:** God has given us new life as his children, members of his household, the church.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** What does it mean to you to experience new birth and be part of God's family, the church?

3. **KEY OBSERVATION:** Even though we may suffer for our faith, we can rejoice in our identity as part of the family of God.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Read back through 1 Peter 1:3–5. What kinds of challenges might you face that would tempt you to turn away from being faithful to God?

4. **KEY OBSERVATION:** Even though we have not seen Jesus, we grow to love and trust him.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** If salvation is a process, how are you experiencing salvation right now?

5. **KEY OBSERVATION:** Salvation is a gift of God's grace that the prophets searched for and that angels want to look into.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Are you ready to share the message of God's gift of salvation with others? How might you grow in this area?

- G. **As the study concludes, consider specific ways that this week's Bible lesson invites you to grow and calls you to change.** How do this week's scriptures call us to think differently? How do they challenge us to change in order to align ourselves with God's work in the world? What specific actions can we take to apply the insights of the lesson to our daily lives? What kind of person does our Bible lesson call each of us to become?
- H. **Close session with prayer.** Emphasize God's ongoing work of transformation in our lives in preparation for loving mission and service in the world. Pray for missing class members as well as for people whom we need to invite to join our study.