

1 PETER

Following Jesus in a fragmented world

A Meeting Plan

Step 1 : Open by praying together.

Step 2: Get someone to read the passage aloud

Don't read in a rush, take your time. Pause at the full stops.

When the reading is done, sit still for a minute before the next step

Step 3 Questions and Phrases

If a word or phrase stood out to you when the passage was being read-share the word or phrase (but don't explain).

If you have a question that has come up, share that question. As people share their questions get someone to note them down, but don't answer them yet.

Step 4 : Get someone to read the passage again.

Step 5 : Discussion

Start a discussion of what you think you understand the passage to be saying and what you would love to know (the questions). Make sure everyone has a say and that you are actively listening to what other people are saying. Explore the questions and phrases, but you don't have to answer all of them.

If as a group you run out , there is a page of comments and questions for each passage on the next page.

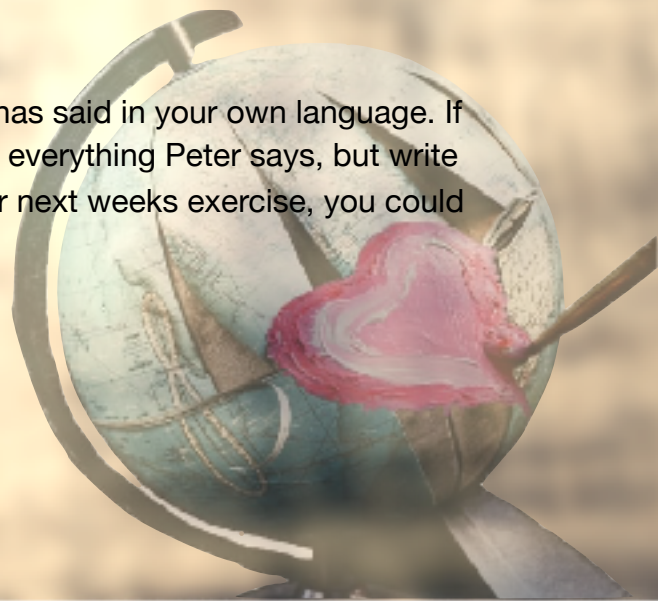
Step 5 : What connections does this make to your life ?

Now consider the week that has been, and the week that is to come. Does anything look different in the light of what you have talked about and read Can you see any connections ? Is there anything you think you might be being prompted to do ?

Step 6 : Pray for each other.

Step 7: Entirely Optional Homework

A really worthwhile exercise is to try writing what Paul has said in your own language. If you have time do this during the week. Don't try to say everything Peter says, but write what you would say in your own words. If you did it for next weeks exercise, you could share it together.



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1 Peter 1:1-12

Discussion Notes

Peter writes to a wide variety of people across a series of different places. He doesn't focus on their age, class, race or background, but on that they are both chosen and exiled (scattered). In a land that is not their own, Peter wants to encourage them of their real identity and their home in Jesus. What are the words and phrases of Identity that Peter uses.

In what parts of your life do you feel chosen ? In what parts do you feel scattered ?

Who are the people who mentor and encourage you in your faith ? Who do you look up to ?

What tensions do you feel between living in this world, and feeling called to follow Jesus ? Where do they bubble up ? How do you respond ?

Peter sees suffering as being important. He sandwiches it between praise and glory and claims that it refines our faith. It "im-proves" us. Does that relate to your own suffering ? If so how ?

Peter also points out the prophets who came before, and the angels who stand outside of time. He's reminding them, that their faith stretches further than their lives as ours does. Just as the prophets lived investing their lives for generations to come, so should we ? What might that look like ? What kind of legacy would you like to have ?

