

1 PETER



PERSEVERANCE

through

SUFFERING

1 Peter / Bible Study Term 4 2017

ST LUKE'S
2020
VISION

Imagine a church:

Where delight in God
overflows into all of life

Where enduring truth
inspires courageous witness
and a heart for the nations

Where the lost surrender
to the mercy of Christ

Where a hunger to
know, love & serve Christ
renews every season

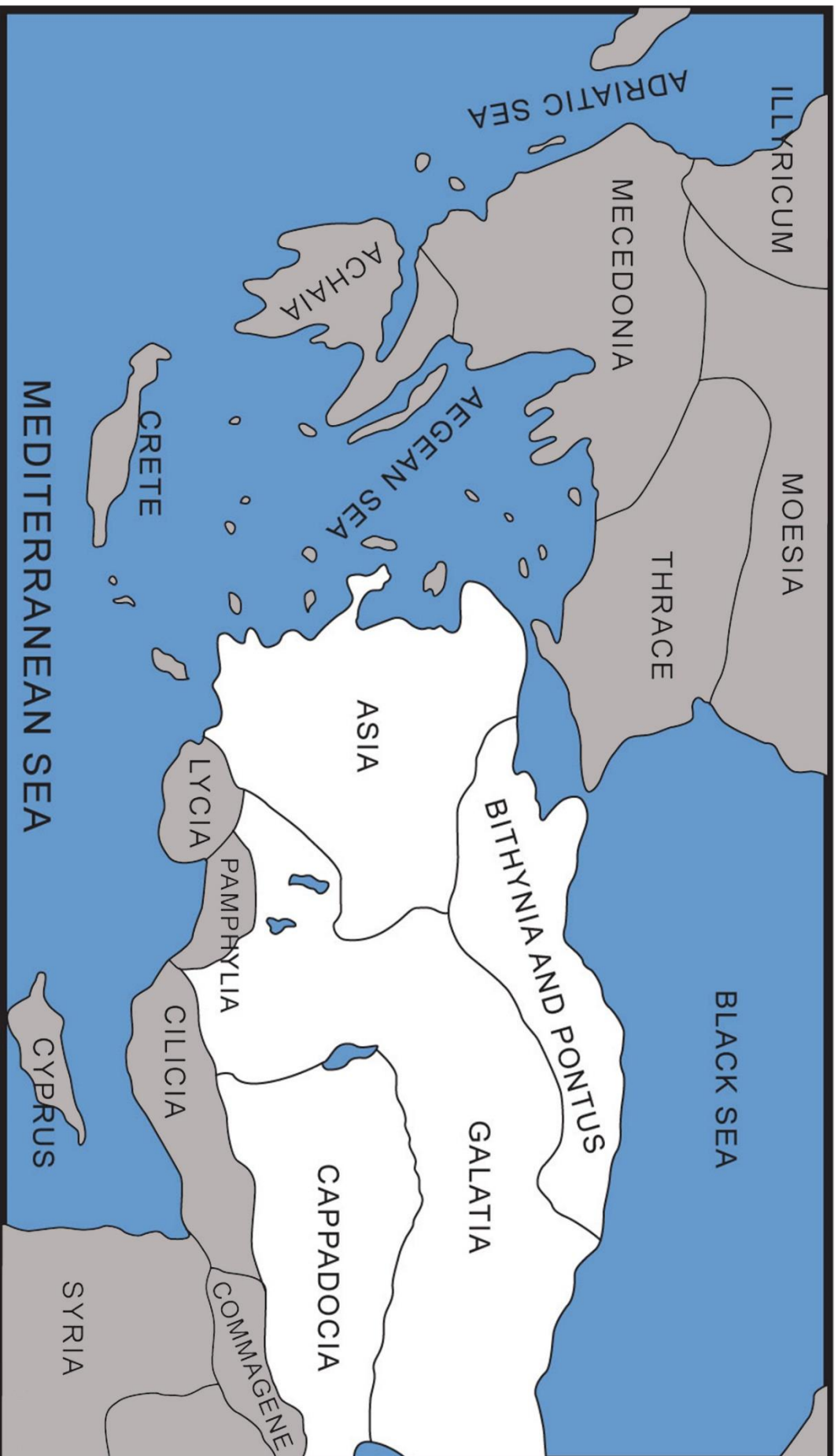
Where the broken find
a family and the outsider
is embraced

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM - TERM 4 2017

Week Commencing		Reading Plan	Page Number
16 th October	1. Birth into a living hope. The Perishable and the Imperishable	1 Peter 1:1-2:3	p.4
23 rd October	2. Faith in the Cornerstone	1 Peter 2:4-12	p.9
30 th October	3. Godly Submission	1 Peter 2:13-3:7	p.13
6 th November	4. Living and Preaching the Gospel	1 Peter 3:8-22	p.18
13 th November	All - in Seminar on Evangelism Details TBC		
20 th November	5. Giving Everything to God	1 Peter 4:1-11	p.22
27 th November	6. Suffering for our Faith	1 Peter 4:12-19	p.27
4 th December	7. Godly Leadership	1 Peter 5	p.31
11 th December	Bible Study Party Week!		

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 St Luke's Anglican Church, Miranda

Map of Asia Minor



INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER

Last term we looked at a sweeping historical narrative that weaved throughout great swathes of King David's life. Over 24 chapters we saw children born, soldiers die, fortunes rise and fall, all right before our very eyes!

As we begin 1 Peter, we must prepare for a very different biblical experience. To begin, 1 Peter is roughly one fifth of the size of 2 Samuel. Moreover, it contains no great narrative arc, no historical tidbits, or big dialogues between people. Where 2 Samuel lays out the lives of its major characters, encouraging readers to draw lessons from their example, 1 Peter is much more instructional; Peter states from the very beginning who he is writing to and his instructions are written, not inferred.

With all of this said, while it's not an historical narrative itself, the placement of 1 Peter within a broader historical narrative is important to understanding the letter clearly. Why is Peter writing to Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia? What kind of trials do we imagine they might be facing? When we come to difficult passages like Chapter 3, can their context clarify things for us at all? Hopefully this introduction will provide a clear context to interpreting the book of 1 Peter.

Authorship

1:1 states clearly that the letter was written by the apostle Peter. In the last two centuries, Peter's authorship has been challenged on two fronts. First, it has been argued that the Greek that appears in this letter is too formal for a former fisherman. This objection is easily dealt with, as Peter himself states in 5:12 that Silas assisted him in the writing of this letter. While the content is Peter's, the flavour of the letter may reflect Silas' more nuanced use of the language.

The second objection to Peter's authorship has grown out of the assumption that the theme of 'patience in suffering' requires this letter to be a response to Christian persecution under Roman Emperor Domitian (AD 81-96). Were this true, this would date the letter too late to be the work of Peter. This objection will be countered in the following "When/Why was it written" section.

When/Why was it written?

As mentioned above, some have argued in recent centuries for a dating in the 80s-90s AD, which would mean that this letter wasn't in fact written by Peter. It is far more likely that this letter was written in the early to mid-50s AD. This is because of the following reasons:

1. We know that Emperor Claudius (reigned AD 41-54) expelled Christians from Rome on several occasions.
2. Emperor Claudius is the only Emperor to build colonies in each of the regions mentioned at the beginning of 1 Peter.
3. The building/repopulating of new Roman cities (for trade or strategic reasons) was often used as an opportunity to remove 'undesirable' citizens from Rome itself.

This would provide a clear and definite reasoning to why Peter's readers are scattered, as well as why they might feel they are undergoing trials.

Peter is writing (presumably while he is incarcerated in Rome himself?) to encourage fellow Christians to persevere, even though life will be difficult for them. Having been exiled to Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, they know what it is to feel like foreigners and aliens. Peter draws on this political/social experience to make a profound theological statement about their true identity, not as exiled citizens of Rome, but as citizens of Heaven!

Peter's words were vital to these early Christians, because soon after Emperor Claudius was replaced by Nero in 54AD, and Christians would begin to experience what real persecution was.

How to read the book?

Be prepared to do a fair bit of flicking back to the Old Testament. Some have argued that there is so much Old Testament quoted in this book that its intended audience must be Jewish in origin (even claiming that they are "strangers and aliens" because of the dispersion after the fall of Jerusalem, but you can hardly be considered a 'stranger' over 500 years after the fact!). More likely, Peter wants to ground the experience of his contemporaries with that of God's people throughout history. Enjoy the opportunity to see how God has consistently spoken to His people through His word, Old Testament and New!

Study 1 – Birth into a Living Hope

The Perishable and the Imperishable

1 Peter 1:1-2:3

Talk

Can you think of an occasion when you've felt like a total stranger/foreigner?

Read 1 Peter 1

What are your initial thoughts on this passage?

(As you think through this, it might help to apply the "Swedish Method". As you read, you can apply three different tags to passages. When you find something that is a key idea in the passage, you can give it a "tick". If you come across something that is confusing to you, you can give it a "question mark". If you find something that has struck you as new/exciting, you can give it a "light globe").

Investigate 1 Peter 1:1-2

1) What are the two competing images that we see in verses 1 and 2 regarding the subjects of this letter?

2) Depending on your translation, Peter refers to his readers as foreigners/strangers/exiles – what Biblical images does a phrase like this automatically evoke? (See Daniel 1:1-4, Hebrews 11:13)

- 3) It is most likely that in using this language, Peter is writing to connect with Old Testament images, but also about their current socio-political reality. (We believe that Emperor Claudius exiled Christians from Rome at this time. Having built Roman cities in each of these regions, it's highly likely that the recipients had been sent out as colonisers). What value is there for Peter in calling them "strangers"?

FUN FACT: v2 is a classic example of how the Trinity, while never explicitly mentioned in the Bible, is regularly presented as an accepted understanding of God.

- 4) What is the significance of being "sprinkled with Jesus' blood" (v2)?
(See Exodus 24:3-8)

Investigate 1 Peter 1:3-9

- 5) In verses 3-9, Peter writes of the (idealised?) lives that his readers are already living. In doing so, what does he want them to focus on?
(See v9 in particular)

- 6) Peter refers to a "New Birth" in v3-4 (John 3:1-16). What are the benefits of this New Birth?

7) Does verse 9 imply that it's their faithful living that's saving them?

Investigate 1 Peter 1:10-2:3

8) What is the significance of verses 10-12 in regard to our understanding of *all* of God's word being important?

9) The "therefore" at the beginning of v13 signifies that Peter is applying the truths from the first half of the chapter. What instructions does he give to his readers in v13-16, which he then summarizes in v16?

Amidst these calls to action, how does Peter ensure that this isn't read as a 'salvation by works' passage?

10) What do you think it means to "live your lives in reverent fear"?

11) How do verses 18-21 aid in building a sense of perspective for our lives?

12) What do you think is the connection between loving each other deeply from the heart, and being of 'imperishable seed'? (v22-23)

13) In 1 Corinthians 3:1, or Hebrews 5:12, craving milk is used as an expression for Christian immaturity. What do you think Peter is implying when he tells his reader to "crave pure spiritual milk" in 2:1-3?

Apply

1) How might remembering the times of trial that we've experienced help sharpen our faith?

2) We may be tempted to think that life and faith would have been easier for people who were living 'amongst the action' in Biblical times. How are verses 10-12 a reminder that we live in a wonderful time in history?

Pray

Weekly Prayer Points:

Staff

Pray for Stephen and Susie, Ben, and Tim Gibson. Pray for Stephen as he heads up our Maturity profile for St Luke's, and mentors and leads staff.

Missionaries

Pray for Geoff and Liz, Johanna, Will, Tom and Zoe Robson and their work with TSCF (Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship) in Canterbury University, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Pray for Rob and Jo, Lili, and Jemma Copland and their work with AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) in Wollongong University's ECU (Evangelical Christian Union), Sydney.

Pray for David, Kathryn and Reuben Luis and their work with AFES in University of Technology Sydney's Christian group CREDO.

Community

Pray for our Church Wardens: Colin Adams, David Bull, and Jack Normand. Pray for our Parish Councillors: Greg Chambers, Laurie Davidson, Amanda Garlato, Joel Garlato, Angela Gowan, Nathan Pollock, Simon Veltmeyer (also our treasurer) and Brendan Carpenter. Pray for our Parish Nominators: Michael Easton, David Francis, Amanda Garlato, Louise Parkes, and Lloyd Zietsch. Pray for our Synod Reps: Michael Easton and Amanda Garlato.

Local Mission

Pray for the everyday outreach that the church has through ministries such as Baptisms, Weddings and funerals. For those who are involved and for those who attend who don't yet know Jesus as Lord. Pray that the staff would be winsome in their presentation of the gospel, that they would be thoughtful in their interactions with people and that they would be eager to make the most of every opportunity to speak of Christ the King.

Study 2 – Faith in the Cornerstone

1 Peter 2:4-12

Talk

Have you ever mistaken somebody or something as being far less important than they were?

Read 1 Peter 2:4-12

What are your initial thoughts on this passage?

(As you think through this, it might help to apply the “Swedish Method”. As you read, you can apply three different tags to passages. When you find something that is a key idea in the passage, you can give it a “tick”. If you come across something that is confusing to you, you can give it a “question mark”. If you find something that has struck you as new/exciting, you can give it a “light globe”).

Investigate

- 1) In verses 1-3 of 1 Peter 2, we’re encouraged to be like new born babies. Come v4 we see a sharp turn to being called “living stones”. What points do you think these two very different metaphors are trying to achieve?**

- 2) What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of a metaphor like this in our 21st century context (with a well-established church and buildings)?**

- 3) What do you think the “Spiritual sacrifices” in v5 refer to? (See also Romans 12:1-3)**

- 4) Over verses 6-8, Peter paints a picture of Jesus as the great cornerstone, referencing Psalm 118:22-23, Isaiah 8:14-15; 28:16. What is the clear image the Peter is seeking to portray through these passages?
- 5) What do you think it means to say that Jesus is a “stone that causes man to stumble and a rock that makes them fall”?
- 6) Read verse 9. What does it mean for Peter to call his readers a “royal priesthood”? (See also Exodus 19:5-6)

Does this passage imply that we ought not have paid clergy if we’re all “priests”?

- 7) Peter 2:10 is one of the verses that indicate that Peter’s audience weren’t all Jewish in origin. He notes that it is only now, through the work of Christ, that they have become “the people of God”. What does it mean for them (and us) for Peter to be applying all of these Old Testament images to his readers? (See Genesis 12:1-3)

- 8) If we're to follow verse 11 and live as "aliens and strangers", does that mean the answer is to remove ourselves from our culture? If not, how ought life to look for us as "aliens and strangers"?

Apply

- 1) Do you think your non-Christian friends would say that you live your life in a way that is "alien" to them? How ought the Christian's life be different to that of others in the day-to-day?
- 2) How might you live your life as more of a "Spiritual sacrifice" in some day-to-day ways?
- 3) What might some of the practicalities of be of living a life where Jesus is both your cornerstone and your capstone?
- 4) How does living good lives "amongst the pagans" change the way people view Christians? Can you think of some examples of how you could reflect Christ more effectively in your life and how that might affect others?

Down the Rabbit Hole

“Peter” is actually a nickname that Jesus gave to Simon. It translates as “Rock”. For centuries the Catholic Church has claimed that Peter’s “rock” designation makes him the Pope, the head of the Church on earth. What does it say that Peter writes in this section that all Christians are “living stones”, yet never once lays claim to himself being the vital stone in the building?

Pray

Weekly Prayer Points:

Staff

Pray for Jennie and Don Everist. Pray for Jennie as Focus Pastor of the 8am congregation and as Pastoral Care Minister for St Luke’s. Pray for Jennie’s Pastoral Care ministries, especially in her work with women, of visitation and Bible Study in our local retirement villages.

Missionaries

Pray for Shane and Ruth, Kye, Joel, and Finn Sparks and their mission work with Pioneers in Gijon, Spain.

Pray for Pastor John and Jodi, Gemma, Amber, Zoe, Jasmine, Claudia and Elias Lovell and their work with CMS in the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church in Valencia, Spain.

Community

Pray for our Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, and his government. Pray for our local and state members, Eleni Petinos, Mark Speakman and Scott Morison. Pray for our Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. Pray for our Mayor, Carmelo Pesce.

Local Mission

Thank God for his loving provision in drawing us to him and making us his children and heirs. Pray for members of your family and those close to you who do not know Jesus and Lord and Saviour. Pray for both wisdom and boldness in how to share the good news we have with those who are nearest and dearest to us.

Coming Events

27th-29th October: Square 1 Camp for kids in years 3-5

Study 3 – Godly Submission

1 Peter 2:13-3:7

Talk

Has there been an occasion when you had to submit to someone else's authority and found it really hard?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-3:7

What are your initial thoughts on this passage?

(As you think through this, it might help to apply the "Swedish Method". As you read, you can apply three different tags to passages. When you find something that is a key idea in the passage, you can give it a "tick". If you come across something that is confusing to you, you can give it a "question mark". If you find something that has struck you as new/exciting, you can give it a "light globe").

Investigate 1 Peter 2:13-25

- 1) According to verses 13-17, what is a primary purpose of our living good lives in society?

- 2) How does verse 15 extend the Christian's responsibility beyond merely keeping the law?

- 3) What are the six actions that Peter calls for in verses 16-17? Which do you think are the easiest? Which are the hardest?

- 4) 1 Peter 2:18-3:8 outlines how three different people groups (slaves, wives, husbands) ought to respond in submission. Is there anything in particular that stands out to their order? (You could compare to Ephesians 5:22-6:9)**

SIDE NOTE: The discussion about whether the Bible actively advocates for slavery is a big one that would take more time than we have during these bible studies. For the sake of clarity, it's worth noting here that instructions to people who find themselves in an unjust situation is not necessarily advocating that unjust structure. We see throughout the New Testament an encouragement for Christians to be Christ like regardless of the situation they find themselves in.

While we can't always be responsible for the social structures we find ourselves working in, we can be responsible for how we respond.

- 5) What is Peter's reasoning for slaves to endure unjust suffering? (v19ff)**

- 6) Verse 22 is a direct quote from Isaiah 53:9. What is the significance of this chapter, written 700 years before Jesus' birth and how is it an example to us?**

Investigate 1 Peter 3:1-7

- 7) What makes you uncomfortable about this passage?**

8) As he begins his encouragement to wives, which sub group is Peter's particular focus on in the first two verses?

9) Some individuals have used passages such as this and Ephesians 5:22-33 to suggest that women ought to submit themselves even to abusive husbands. What correctives to this mindset appear in these two passages?

SIDE NOTE: Just to be absolutely clear, that the Sydney Anglican Church has a zero tolerance policy for misconduct or abuse of any kind? If you are aware of abuse of any kind within the church context, you can call our hotline on 1800-774-945, or refer to the diocesan website: <https://safeministry.org.au/zero-tolerance/>
Alternately, you can call the police, even about something you're unsure about.

10) Read verses 3-4. Why do you think it is a problem if "outward adornment" is your primary source of beauty?

11) Do you think this passage implies that there is something inherently wrong with owning hold jewellery or fine clothes?

- 12) What do we make of Sarah's submission to Abraham, particularly considering passages like Genesis 16:2, 6 and 21:12, where Abraham submits to Sarah's wishes?**
- 13) How do you understand Peter's reference to husbands treating wives with respect as the "weaker partner"?**
- 14) When we think about our 21st century context versus Peter's 1st century context, how might social situations change the 'feel' of this passage?**

Apply

- 1) Remembering v15, do you see yourself as an agent of good in your community? How might you as a Bible study do this? How could we as a Church act more effectively as agents of good? (If you think you come up with a great idea, why not let Tim, our pastor for local mission know!? tim@stlukesmiranda.org.au)**
- 2) How might our day-to-day routines change if we don't see "outward adornment" as our means of validation?**

3) Brainstorm as a group, what might be the key factors you want to consider if a non-Christian friend of yours asked about Biblical submission, and this passage in particular?

Pray

Weekly Prayer Points:

Staff

Pray for Brett and Mardi, Evie, Harriet, Olivia, and Willow Middleton. Pray for Brett as Focus Pastor for 10am. Pray for Brett as he heads up our Ministry profile for St Luke's through the training program MTS.

Pray for Russ Denten as he undergoes his ministry traineeship; that his ministry and studies would bring glory to God.

Missionaries

Pray for Luke and Jess, Cooper, Ace, and Penny Moran and their mission work with Pioneers in Indonesia.

Community

Pray for peace and wise leadership in our world, specifically in countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Sudan and South Sudan, Somalia, Pakistan, Mexico, Libya, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Ukraine. Pray that there would be opportunities for Christians to share the love, peace and saving grace that Jesus offers to all.

Local Mission

Pray for the wide range of outreach opportunities that we have with local schools. That our scripture teachers would be diligent and loving as they teach classes, that our school chaplains would effectively model Christ in the way they love and support the school community and that St. Luke's Miranda North would continue to build a healthy relationship with the school we meet in.

Study 4 – Living and Preaching the Gospel

1 Peter 3:8-22

Talk

What is the worst trouble you've been in for something you didn't do?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-22

What are your initial thoughts on this passage?

(As you think through this, it might help to apply the "Swedish Method". As you read, you can apply three different tags to passages. When you find something that is a key idea in the passage, you can give it a "tick". If you come across something that is confusing to you, you can give it a "question mark". If you find something that has struck you as new/exciting, you can give it a "light globe").

- 1) How does 8-12 act as a summary of the last chapter and a half?
- 2) Compare verses 8-12 with Romans 12:10-16. What are the key virtues that both Peter and Paul see as building up Christians in community?
- 3) How might verses 8-12, a passage focused on radical commitment to community, challenge our Western commitment to individualism?

- 4) Does verse 9 imply that we have to earn a blessing from God by blessing others?**
- 5) How is it that Peter could refer to his readers' suffering for doing what is right and suggest that they could be blessed in this?**
- 6) The middle of verse 15 gives a clear instruction to be "prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have". How does the beginning and end of the verse help shape how we might go about this?**
- 7) Why do you think Peter speaks of "sharing the reason for our hope" in verse 15, then "keeping a clear conscience" in verse 16?**
- 8) What are some of the reasons you've encountered (and maybe even given) for not saying something when someone asks you about your faith?**

That Tricky Passage

9) What are your impressions of verses 18-22? What is clear in this passage? What is unclear?

Even Martin Luther, usually definitive in his opinions, said of this passage: *“This is a strange text and certainly a more obscure passage than any other passage in the New Testament. I still do not know for sure what the apostle meant”* (Vol. 30 of *Luther’s works*. Pelikan (ed.) 1967: 113).

Apply

1) Think of at least concrete chance that you could make in your life that would bring you closer to the actions Peter describes in 3:8-12.

2) Next week we’re taking a break to think a little about evangelism. Your homework for the remainder of Bible study (if you have any time left) is to answer this: If someone came up to you and said: “explain the Gospel to me in 5 minutes or less”, what would you say?

Down the Rabbit Hole

How do we navigate the path between being committed to unity and dealing with people/teaching that is unbiblical?

Pray

Weekly Prayer Points:

Staff

Pray for Tim and Shona, Annika, Hamish, Edward and Hugo Goldsmith. Pray for Tim as he leads Miranda North. Pray for Tim as he heads up our local Mission profile for St Luke's and focuses on outreach and evangelism.

Pray for Mike and Amelia, Ella, Ashleigh, and Ethan Begbie. Pray for Mike as Focus Pastor of 5pm. Pray for Mike as he develops music across the whole of St Luke's. Pray for Mike as he heads up our Magnification profile for St Luke's.

Pray for Student Minister Zack Hankin and his work at Miranda North and Church at 5.

Missionaries

Pray for Andrew and Adele, Isaac, Lucy, and Finn Southerton and their church plant in Wellington, New Zealand. Continue to pray for Isaac's health.

Community

Pray for Miranda North; that there would be many opportunities to connect with the local community through school and other activities.

Pray for English as a Second Language classes each Friday. Give thanks for Marina and her team as they teach and encourage those who come along.

Local Mission

Pray that that the word of God we have heard from on Sunday might shape how we live Monday to Friday. Pray that we would be respectful of workplace boundaries, but that we'd also *"be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have"* (1 Peter 3:15). Thank God that we have the opportunity to represent Christ in how we speak and act in the workplace.

Coming Events

Saturday 18th November: Women's Christmas Event

Christmas letter box drop being delivered by our wonderful volunteers from 22nd November

Study 5 – Giving Everything to God

1 Peter 4:1-11

Talk

What is one thing that you had to work hard (suffer) for, but it was worth it in the end?

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11

What are your initial thoughts on this passage?

(As you think through this, it might help to apply the “Swedish Method”. As you read, you can apply three different tags to passages. When you find something that is a key idea in the passage, you can give it a “tick”. If you come across something that is confusing to you, you can give it a “question mark”. If you find something that has struck you as new/exciting, you can give it a “light globe”).

What is the biggest before and after transformation that you have witnessed?

Investigate 1 Peter 4:1-6

1) What does it mean in v1 “he who has suffered in his body is done with sin”? Is it saying we can be sinless? (see Hebrews 5:8)

2) To what do you think the “suffering” in verses 1-2 is referring to? (See also Matthew 4:1-11)

3) How do verses 3-5 capture a sense of both the internal and the external struggle when it comes to sin?

The first five items Peter mentions reflect unrestrained desires for sex, food and drink, things which instantly resonate with our modern world. Peter then ends with the phrase “detestable idolatry”. In what ways might we be tempted not to take idolatry seriously today? Why should we see idolatry as an equal temptation these days?

4) How might you respond to someone who, (verse 4), thinks it’s strange that you now live with different priorities? If they were to say to you “all of a sudden you think you’re better than us because you don’t do X anymore”? (1 Peter 3:15)

5) What is Peter's primary response? (v5)

6) Why do you think we might be tempted to shape our behaviours by how our peers respond to them, rather than how God responds?

7) Some have read v6 as being connected to 3:19, and "preaching to the spirits in prison". Given what Peter has written about in v5, what is the more likely way to understand verse 6? (If you have people in your study with different translations, it might be helpful to look at the slight difference between ESV and NIV – which is clearer?)

Investigate 1 Peter 4:7-12

8) What four practical suggestions does Peter give the Christian community for loving each other in a Christ-like way?

9) What does Paul see as the first port of call for Christians in their behaviour, and how does it challenge our usual mindset when it comes to practical advice?

10) What do you think Peter is getting at by saying “love covers over a multitude of sins”? (See also Proverbs 10:12)

11) How are we as Christians “speaking the very words of God”? (v11, see also 2 Corinthians 4:7)

Apply

1) How might our answer to question 9 reshape how we live our day-to-day lives?

2) What practical ways might we arm ourselves against the temptation to fit in with ungodly actions and attitudes?

3) How might love “cover a multitude of sins” when it comes to current debates like that of same sex marriage?

Pray

Weekly Prayer Points:

Staff

Pray for Sam and Jess, Percy and Lois Morton. Pray for Sam as Focus Pastor of Night Church and JNR Church. Pray for Sam as he heads up Youth Ministry at St Luke’s – coordinating our youth groups on Friday nights and high school Scripture in our local schools.

Pray for Music Student Minister James Peters and his work at Miranda North and at Night Church.

Missionaries

Pray for Kylie Zietsch and her work at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa.

Pray for Elisha and Eleanor Bililiza and their church, Holy Trinity Church, in Bukoba, Tanzania.

Community

Pray for those who serve to protect our country. Pray for health and safety for the service men and women and their Chaplains both here and overseas. Pray for their families waiting at home.

Local Mission

Thank God for the many and varied resources available to us as a parish. As we seek to witness to the goodness of God daily, pray that we might make the most of opportunities to invite people we know to events such as Carols on Sunday 3rd December. Pray that God would be preparing the heart of people you could invite to an upcoming event.

Coming Events

28th and 29th November: Local Schools Scripture Christmas assemblies

Study 6 – Suffering for our Faith

1 Peter 4:12-19

Talk

What is the most painful thing you've experienced?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

What are your initial thoughts on this passage?

(As you think through this, it might help to apply the "Swedish Method". As you read, you can apply three different tags to passages. When you find something that is a key idea in the passage, you can give it a "tick". If you come across something that is confusing to you, you can give it a "question mark". If you find something that has struck you as new/exciting, you can give it a "light globe").

- 1) How does Peter's statement here in 4:12 (the word that the NIV translates as "painful" is literally "burning" or "fiery") build on the letter's opening statements, particularly 1:7?

- 2) What do you think it means to be "participating in the sufferings of Christ"?

8) How is the idea of “suffering according to God’s will” a comfort in those inevitable times when we feel despondent as Christians? (See also 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Read Isaiah 53

9) How is Jesus the great example of what it is to suffer for the gospel?

10) How does he typify what it is to “suffer according to God’s will”? (See also Luke 22:42)

Apply

1) In some senses it is really hard to apply a passage like this to our modern experience in the Western world. What kind of fiery trials do you think we face (or stand to face in the future)?

2) How might we carry ourselves in such trials if we are “suffering according to God’s will?”

Pray

Weekly Prayer Points:

Staff

Pray for Cam and Katrina Harte. Pray for Cam as he heads up Children's Ministry, including KOS (Kids on Sunday), Primary Scripture, Alive (lunch-time Christian group at Miranda North Public School), Homework Club, Children's Thursday night programs, and Kids' Clubs. Pray for Cam as he also heads up Young Adults ministry and Young Adults Bible Studies.

Pray for Joshua and Jordan Roberts as they work alongside Cam while doing Year 13.

Missionaries

Pray for Matt and Lauren, Ezra and Joanna Thomas and their mission work with OMF in South East Asia.

Community

Pray for our ongoing and various Children's, Youth, and Young Adults Ministries; that God would be using the leaders and volunteers to sow seeds and help people grow into mature and loving relationships with Jesus and that this would be a great witness to the wider community.

Pray for our Scripture Teachers, Kids Hope Mentors, and the School Lunch program leaders as they go into the schools in our Parish in outreach to children and youth.

Coming Events

3rd December: Carols Under the Stars

Study 7 – Godly Leadership

1 Peter 5

Talk

Who is the most impressive leader you've met? What made them stand out?

Read 1 Peter 5

What are your initial thoughts on this passage?

(As you think through this, it might help to apply the "Swedish Method". As you read, you can apply three different tags to passages. When you find something that is a key idea in the passage, you can give it a "tick". If you come across something that is confusing to you, you can give it a "question mark". If you find something that has struck you as new/exciting, you can give it a "light globe").

Investigate 1 Peter 5:1-7

1) In 1 Peter 1:1, Peter identifies himself as an "Apostle". Why do you think he appeals to his readers here as a "fellow elder", rather than "pulling rank" on them?

SIDE NOTE: We have here another example of Peter, the man feted.

2) As Peter implores his fellow elders to be “shepherds” of the flock, he’s drawing on a metaphor that has a rich tradition of use in the Bible. Look at the following passages and consider how they would shape the reader’s understanding (and Peter’s understanding as he writes).

I. Ezekiel 34:1-17

II. John 10:11-18

I. John 21:15-19

3) What three instructions for leaders does Peter deliver in verses 2-4, both in the negative and the positive?

4) What do you think would be the net effect of Church leaders acting like this consistently?

How might this advice reframe the way you serve at church?

- 5) Peter builds on the theme of humility in his instructions to young men. What do you think it means to “clothe yourselves with humility toward one another”? (It might help to look at other NT examples of this metaphor: Romans 13:14, Ephesians 6:11, and Colossians 3:12)**
- 6) Verses 8-9 implore Peter’s reader to remain “self-controlled and alert” before describing the devil as being like a “roaring lion looking for someone to devour”. How is this similar to the story of the fall?**
- 7) Verses 10-11 conclude Peter’s teaching in this letter. How does this promise in these finale verses undo the work of the fall?**
- 8) How is this a fitting conclusion to the book as a whole?**

Apply

1) Where do you think the danger spots are for us as a church in forgoing our self-discipline and succumbing to the roaring lion, the devil?

2) Still got some spare time? Read through 1 Peter again. Is there anything that really sticks out now, that you feel you didn't notice when we began the series?

Pray

Weekly Prayer Points:

Staff

Pray for Sharyn Perry as she deals with the day to day running and administration of St Luke's.

Missionaries

Pray for John-Francis and Anup Wallace and their mission work in Indore, North India.
Pray for Sarah Prabhakar and her work in India with BCTI and SIM.

Community

Praise God for our Bible Study leaders and for their faithful work in teaching and ministering to us throughout the term.

Coming Events

End of year parties for all our parish groups

Pray for a happy and safe Christmas in our local parish – that Jesus' name would be known and people will turn to him as the reason for the season.

NOTES

5 Goals for Bible Study Groups

Bible Study – Learning from God's word

Prayer – Talking to God

Pastoral Care – Mutual encouragement and awareness of others

Service – Participating in our church and community

Outreach – Sharing the message of God's love with others

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM - TERM 4 2017

Week Commencing		Reading Plan	Page Number
16 th October	1. Birth into a living hope. The Perishable and the Imperishable	1 Peter 1:1-2:3	p.4
23 rd October	2. Faith in the Cornerstone	1 Peter 2:4-12	p.9
30 th October	3. Godly Submission	1 Peter 2:13-3:7	p.13
6 th November	4. Living and Preaching the Gospel	1 Peter 3:8-22	p.18
13 th November	All - in Seminar on Evangelism Details TBC		
20 th November	5. Giving Everything to God	1 Peter 4:1-11	p.22
27 th November	6. Suffering for our Faith	1 Peter 4:12-19	p.27
4 th December	7. Godly Leadership	1 Peter 5	p.31
11 th December	Bible Study Party Week!		

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