

**Peter**  
**The Unlikely Disciple**  
September 25—November 24

**Week 1      The Call of Simon the Fisherman      September 25-29**

Simon made his living netting fish in Lake Galilee to sell in the market where he lived. When his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus, Jesus gave Simon a significant nickname. It's the one by which we know him today, the "Rock," promising stability and strength. Jesus later climbed into Peter's fishing boat to preach. Afterward, He told Peter to set out his nets, which Peter reluctantly, but obediently did. When deciding to fish that day, Peter had no idea what hung in the balance of his decision to go fishing with Jesus. The moment Peter's simple act of faith intersected with Jesus' faithfulness, everything changed. Just as Jesus reveals and represents God, Simon Peter represents all who seek to follow Jesus.

**Day 1    John 1:35-42**

**Reflect:** Where would Peter be without his brother? Who is your "Andrew"? Have you been an "Andrew"? What are reasons why Jesus may have given Peter the nickname "rock"?

**Apply:** Jesus asked the two men who were following Him what they wanted. Answer these questions: What are you seeking? Why are you following? What are your expectations?

**Pray:** *Jesus, I long to know You more fully and to respond to Your invitation to "come" to You for all my needs. Use me to point others to You.*

**Day 2    Matthew 4:18-22**

**Reflect:** How would you describe what Jesus said in verse 19? What is important about His choice of words—*come, follow, I will...*? Have you ever used these words with someone?

**Apply:** Is there something new that Jesus may be inviting you to do with Him? What do you think about the words describing the men's response to Jesus—*at once, immediately*?

**Pray:** *Jesus, show me what I need to leave behind to be Your disciple. Do not let me fall behind and lose sight of You. Keep me close.*

**Day 3    Luke 5:1-11**

**Reflect:** What insights did you get from this text? Any convictions? Where do you see yourself? What excuses do we offer when we are reluctant to say yes to Jesus' call?

**Apply:** When have you chosen to trust God even though doing so didn't seem to make sense at the time? What happened? Have you ever been afraid that God separates Himself from you because of your sin? Why?

**Pray:** *Father, help me correctly evaluate myself in light of Jesus' glory, grace, and character. Thank You for Your forgiveness and unfailing love. Equip me for Your service.*

**Day 4    Matthew 8:14-17**

**Reflect:** What did you learn about Peter from this passage? What insight do you gain from Peter's mother-in-law's behavior? What aspects of Jesus' nature are emphasized?

**Apply:** When has Jesus had compassion on an afflicted family member? How did He minister to him/her? How have you experienced Jesus' goodness and power?

**Pray:** *Jesus, You care for our physical, emotional and communal needs, not only making us well, but also healing us to make us whole, that we may live in peace and joy with those around us.*

## **Day 5 Luke 8:40-56**

**Reflect:** What did you learn about Peter? About Jesus? What was Jesus teaching Peter? Through this text, what is Jesus teaching you?

**Apply:** When have you said something about Jesus, showing that you didn't fully know Him? How did you come to the truth? How and in what ways does faith in Jesus bring healing?

**Pray:** Father, I know what it's like to be afraid and believe, only to have my hopes dashed. Your Word encourages me to ask for miracles of healing, for restored faith and fearless surrender anew.

## **Put It Into Practice!**

### **Week 1: The Call of Simon the Fisherman**

Talk with Jesus about His call on your life and what He may want you to change, stop, or do more.

## **Week 2 Walking with Jesus in the Storm**

**October 2-6**

When the disciples witness Jesus walking on water in the midst of the storm, it is Peter who shouts, "Lord, if it's You, tell me to come to You on the water." Jesus affirms his request with one simple word, "Come." We learn several things from Peter's stormy encounter with Jesus. Peter didn't impulsively and recklessly jump out of the boat. Likewise, before we act, we should first ask God about His will. Then we are to obey Jesus when He calls, even when it seems impossible. With every step of obedience, we cannot lose sight of Jesus. We cannot allow fear to distract us. And when we stumble, we need to remember that God will rescue us.

### **Day 1 Matthew 14:22-34**

**Reflect:** What more do you learn about Peter in this text? What does verse 22 teach about the "arrangement" of life's events? On what were Jesus' encouraging words based? (v.27)

**Apply:** Who do you relate to more, Peter or the other disciples? Why? What storms have you faced that caused you to feel frightened or even terrified to the point of screaming?

**Pray:** *Lord, thank You that You are in control of every single circumstance of life, no matter how difficult, dangerous, or distressing they become. Keep my heart from doubting Your Word and help me to trust You in all things.*

### **Day 2 Psalm 107:23-29**

**Reflect:** What does this psalm tell us about the sailors' experience on the sea? About God's actions on behalf of the sailors? About their response to God's intervention and love?

**Apply:** What do you learn about God that you can apply to your life? How do you feel about the fact that God both stirs the sea and calms it?

**Pray:** *Father, amid the storm I cry out, depending on Your steadfast love. Thank You for hushing the sea and stilling the storms of my life. May Your peace rule my heart and mind, bringing calm to the chaos.*

### **Day 3 Mark 4:36-41**

**Reflect:** Compare this text with Matthew 14:22-34, noting the differences and similarities. What do you learn? In this encounter, why were the disciples terrified?

**Apply:** When have you been able to "sleep through a storm"? Why? What would need to change for you to do this more often?

**Pray:** *Father, You encourage my faith when the storms of life seem overwhelming. Help me to live as Jesus lived, with total trust and dependence on You.*

## **Day 4 Isaiah 43:1-2**

**Reflect:** What truths are revealed about God's relationship with man? In v.1, note the word *for*; what it is pointing to? Why should we not hang on to fear?

**Apply:** Describe your level of trust in God and your relationship with fear. Of the things that God reminds the people about in v.1, of which do you most often need to be reminded?

**Pray:** *Lord, as I face the overwhelming storms and flames of life, may I remember Your Word of truth. You are the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-gracious God who promises to surround me with Your presence of everlasting love.*

## **Day 5 Psalm 40:1-3**

**Reflect:** While this is a psalm written by David, how do you see Peter's experience reflected in these words? Describe David's experience and what resulted from it.

**Apply:** When have you felt Jesus lift you up as you were sinking? Was your response similar to David's? With whom have you, or will you encourage by sharing the experience?

**Pray:** *Father, thank You that there is no miry clay so oppressive that Your hand of blessing is not able to reach down, raise me up, and set my feet upon the Rock of my salvation. Use my life as a testimony of Your unfailing mercies to bring others to faith in You.*

## **Put It Into Practice!**

### **Week 2: Walking with Jesus in the Storm**

Look for Jesus in the storms that arise in your life, and help others to see Him in their storms, too.

### **Week 3 Peter's Declarations**

**October 9-13**

Near the end of their three years together, Jesus asked His men, "Who do people say that I am?" After they shared the crowd's views, Jesus asked His disciples the same question. Peter quickly declared that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus affirms Peter's correct response and states that He will build His church upon the rock (Peter) and nothing will destroy it. But shortly after that declaration, Peter encourages Jesus to pursue the crown without the cross. Jesus rebukes Peter with strong words, "Get behind Me, Satan!" Jesus then speaks to the disciples about what will be expected of them, "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Me." Truths with which we need to come to terms.

## **Day 1 Matthew 16:13-20**

**Reflect:** What is the significance of Peter's phrase, "living God," in declaring who Jesus is? How do vs.17-19 celebrate the truth Peter just announced? How do you understand v.18?

**Apply:** Who is Jesus to you? What words would you use to describe Him and your relationship with Him? How have you helped others understand who Jesus is?

**Pray:** *Father, I too declare with Simon Peter, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." May my life be a testimony to the truth that Christ alone has the words of eternal life.*

## **Day 2 Matthew 16:21-23**

**Reflect:** What was the basis and the heart behind Peter's rebuke to Jesus? What are the differences between "God's thoughts" and "human thoughts" in v. 23?

**Apply:** When have you misunderstood something about Jesus or something He said? What do you learn from Jesus' reply to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan"?

**Pray:** *"God, I confess that I want to be a follower of Jesus, but do not always want to follow Him. I can be eager to put down my cross to cling tightly to my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit's wisdom and understanding to live a life worthy and pleasing to You.*

### **Day 3 John 6:53-69**

**Reflect:** In what way does Jesus' blood give eternal life? Why didn't Jesus speak more plainly so His listeners could understand? According to v.68, what makes Jesus unique?

**Apply:** Like the disciples (vs. 67-69), when have you, or someone close to you, had an encounter with Jesus? When have you felt that following Jesus was too hard? What changed?

**Pray:** *Jesus, when Your truth conflicts with my built-up perceptions, help me be willing to listen to Your voice and to trust Your Word. You alone have the words of eternal life.*

### **Day 4 Matthew 16:24-28**

**Reflect:** What do you learn about Jesus from this text? About our relationship with Him? About the kind of faith and character He requires?

**Apply:** What about this text brings you comfort? What makes you squirm a bit? After reflecting on v.24, where are you on your walk with Christ? What more do you need to surrender?

**Pray:** *Lord, of all the competing voices vying for my time and attention, You alone have shown sacrificial love to redeem me. As I seek to surrender to Your will, empower me to live with courage and conviction in a world that often hates and ridicules You.*

### **Day 5 Colossians 2:6-10**

**Reflect:** According to this text, what causes us to get off track in our walk with Christ? Why? What sorts of beliefs or forces today, typically lead people away from Christ?

**Apply:** When were you led astray for a time? How did you get back to Christ? How are you a flawed, but faithful, disciple of Jesus Christ? What keeps you rooted in Christ?

**Pray:** *Jesus, keep me from being influenced by the enticing arguments and philosophies which inevitably look for answers to life. May I learn to listen to the leading of Your Holy Spirit and walk in truth, realizing that without You, there is no meaning in life.*

## **Put It Into Practice!**

### **Week 3: Peter's Declarations**

Spend time putting words to who Jesus is to you, and ask Him to show you who needs to hear it.

## **Week 4 Transfiguration**

**October 16-20**

Jesus invites three of His closest disciples—Peter, James, and John—to go up with Him up a high mountain to pray. Suddenly His face and clothing become dazzling white, and the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside him. While this was an amazing encounter, the trouble with mountaintop experiences is that they are a very small part of life in this broken and sinful world. These moments are generally fleeting and far between with most of life spent in the valleys. Discipleship means following Christ where He leads. So we too come down the mountain, with God's glory at our backs, the cross ahead of us, and Jesus beckoning us forward, teaching us what it means to follow Him.

### **Day 1 Luke 9:28-36**

**Reflect:** What do you learn about Jesus? Why is it significant that Moses and Elijah were present? Why do you think Peter suggested building three shelters?

**Apply:** How would focusing on Christ's power and holiness affect your spiritual life? What does it mean to be transformed (or transfigured) into the image of Jesus? How can you make yourself more available to His transforming work in your life?

**Pray:** *Jesus, help me see the areas of my life that need to be changed, and provide the strength and courage for me to do so. I want to humbly and wisely follow You.*

## **Day 2 Exodus 24:13-18; 34:29-35**

**Reflect:** In Ch. 24, what did God's glory look like to Moses? To the people? Why the difference? In Ch. 34, why was Moses unaware of his appearance? What was the purpose of veil?

**Apply:** How have you witnessed the glory of the Lord? How are you changed by being in the Lord's presence? How do you bring "mountaintop" experiences into everyday life?

**Pray:** *Father, reveal Your nearness and fill me with faith as I rest in Your presence. Transform me to be a reflection of Your glory to those around me.*

## **Day 3 2 Corinthians 3:12-18**

**Reflect:** How does this text change your view on the purpose of Moses' veil? How are we transformed into Christ's image? What does having the veil removed do for us?

**Apply:** What is your role in transformation and what is God's? Do you still wrestle with working for your salvation (old covenant)? How aware are you of God's presence in your life?

**Pray:** *Father, help me to read Your Word with childlike expectation and a sense of awe. May I increasingly gaze on the beauty of Jesus and by His transforming power, grow to be more like Him.*

## **Day 4 Deuteronomy 18:14-20**

**Reflect:** How does the promise of a prophet provide comfort and direction for the Israelites? How does it resonate with us today? How does this speak to Jesus' transfiguration story?

**Apply:** What is the role of a prophet, how are they appointed, and why do we need them? Who has been a prophet to you? Have you considered Jesus as the Prophet?

**Pray:** *Jesus, You came as the ultimate Prophet, Priest, and King who spoke only those things You heard from Your Father. Give me wisdom and grace to discern and identify false prophets and to be a true witness for You.*

## **Day 5 2 Peter 1:16-18**

**Reflect:** Why do you think Peter shared these words with the churches? What would you say is his main point of these verses and why? What coming of Jesus is he referring to?

**Apply:** What part do spiritual experiences have in the life of faith? Should we seek such experiences? What spiritual experience will you never forget? How often do you share it?

**Pray:** *Jesus, what a beautiful encouragement to see how Peter, an eyewitness of Your majesty, grew in his knowledge and understanding of You. May I also stand firm in faith, looking forward to Your imminent return, when I too will see You face to face.*

## **Put It Into Practice!**

### **Week 4: Transfiguration**

Make note of the lessons learned in your "mountaintop" experiences to help you in the valleys.

## **Week 5 Denied & Reinstated**

**October 23-27**

Like Peter, we have all denied Jesus by our thoughts, words, deeds and attitudes; by what we have done and by what we should have done but didn't. At times, we have all lived in ways that are inconsistent with the faith we proclaim and the relationship with Jesus we treasure. We've hurt and wounded others, failing to serve them. We've given in to fear or worry or idolatry or pride. There have been moments when our witness or example was needed, but we remained silent and did nothing. But from the story of Peter and his denial of Jesus, we also know that Jesus forgives us. Jesus is the Lord of the second chance. If the disciple, who denied even knowing Jesus, could become the rock on which the church was built, there is hope for us too.

### **Day 1 John 13:1-10**

**Reflect:** Notice that Peter wasn't the first one to whom Jesus went. What does his reaction to Jesus washing his feet tell you about Peter? What did Jesus want him to know?

**Apply:** Would you have been more like Peter or the other disciples in this story? Why? What is harder for you, washing or being washed? Why is it hard to be served in this way?

**Pray:** *Jesus, I see Your example of humble service and realize my hesitancy to receive Your cleansing love and forgiveness. Help my heart to receive love and to forgive like You do.*

### **Day 2 Matthew 26:26-35**

**Reflect:** What led Peter to make such a bold declaration? (v.33) Why did Jesus tell Peter about his coming denials? What was it meant to accomplish?

**Apply:** What does following Jesus have to do with a willingness to die for Him? When and how have you laid down your life as a follower of Jesus?

**Pray:** *Lord, empower me to be courageous and confident in declaring my faith and allegiance to Jesus, whatever the circumstances.*

### **Day 3 John 18:1-11**

**Reflect:** What do you see about Peter's character? How is this situation similar to what happened in Matthew 16:23?

**Apply:** When have you felt you needed to defend Jesus?

**Pray:** *Father, I want to live in utter dependence upon You, learning obedience by the things that I suffer, so that in all things I can say, "Thy will, not mine, be done."*

### **Day 4 Matthew 26:69-75**

**Reflect:** Why do you think the Gospel writers included stories that portray Peter's flaws alongside his strengths?

**Apply:** When have you denied Jesus by your words or your actions? What resulted?

**Pray:** *Lord, forgive me when I have been rash with my promises, slow in keeping my vows, and weak in fulfilling my commitments to You. And even since coming to know You, so often I fail. Yet You will never, ever forsake me. Help me to remain firm in faith and testify to Your saving and redeeming love.*

### **Day 5 John 21:15-19**

**Reflect:** How does Peter's restoration compare to his denials? What did Jesus ask Peter to do? Why was this experience so important to Peter and also to Christ's church?

**Apply:** What does Peter's restoration reveal about the nature of God's grace in the lives of believers? Is there anything that competes for Jesus' love in your life?

**Pray:** *Lord, may my failures enable me to love You more, with greater trust. Teach me to forget my past failures and to embrace Your amazing grace so I can forgive myself and help others to grow in their love for You. Yes, I will follow You!*

## **Put It Into Practice!**

### **Week 5: Denied & Reinstated**

Ask Jesus to give you the words and strength to testify to His grace and truth when needed.

At the end of the Gospels, we find Peter forgiven and restored, but the evidence of his transformation becomes quite apparent in the Book of Acts through Peter's preaching and practice. Starting at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit worked through Peter to do amazing things—doing things that he had only seen Jesus do and experience other signs and wonders. The early church witnesses Peter's transformation and leans on his leadership. We also see a man who, while devoted to Jesus, was still clearly capable of making poor decisions.

### **Day 1 Acts 2:1-4; 14-41**

**Reflect:** What is significant with the way the Holy Spirit showed up? What all did Peter teach the people about Jesus? What key words did he recite, and how were people to respond?

**Apply:** When others look at you, can they tell you are filled with the Holy Spirit? How do you relate to what is told about Peter? (v. 40)

**Pray:** *Holy Spirit, Peter spoke with complete confidence; and the truth of his message and challenge is still relevant today. Purify, unify and empower the church (and me!) to boldly spread the gospel of salvation to millions who are lost in our world.*

### **Day 2 Acts 3:1-20; Acts 4:1-13**

**Reflect:** Where do you see the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in these texts? How did others observe it? How do you now see Peter? How does this encourage you?

**Apply:** Peter took the opportunity to direct the people's attention to God. In what ways can you apply this to those you come in contact with? What fears or concerns do you have?

**Pray:** *Father, thank You for the bold witness of Peter and the other disciples. Enable me to be continuously filled with Your power and grace for Your greater purposes and glory.*

### **Day 3 Acts 9:32-43**

**Reflect:** What is critical about what Peter tells Aeneas? Why do you think Peter sent the others out of Dorcas' room (v. 40)? What happened as a result of the miraculous healings?

**Apply:** How has the Holy Spirit used you to help transform someone's life? What causes people, today, to develop faith in Jesus? Do signs, wonders, and miracles still happen?

**Pray:** *Jesus, as I call on Your mighty name, give me faith and courage to believe that You still long to bless others today. Holy Spirit, fill me and move me to a more expectant faith.*

### **Day 4 Acts 11:4-18; Galatians 2:11-16**

**Reflect:** In Acts 11, how and what, was the Lord teaching Peter? In Galatians 2, why did Paul feel strongly about confronting Peter? What was the result of Peter's actions?

**Apply:** When have you wrestled with thinking that someone was undeserving of God's grace? How did you overcome it? When have you let the "fear of man" impact your choices?

**Pray:** *Lord, by standing fast on the Word of truth, help me not to fear what man can say or do to me. Help me not only to speak the truth in love, but to also be prepared to challenge, in love, those whose conduct does not line up with Scripture.*

### **Day 5 Acts 12:1-19**

**Reflect:** What is the main point of the passage? What do you think was going through Peter's mind during all of this? Why did Luke often mention that Peter was heavily guarded?

**Apply:** How does this text minister to you? When has God stepped into your situation and delivered you? When have you prayed for God to intervene to help someone, and what happened?

**Pray:** *Father, give me a hunger to pray and to believe that You are able to answer my prayers. Also, may I not neglect to tell about answered prayer, but to openly praise You, because You hear me and You have done great things!*

## Put It Into Practice!

### Week 6: Signs, Wonders & Miracles

Pray for daily infilling of Holy Spirit power and wisdom, and to hear clearly how He wants to use you.

### Week 7

### Set Apart

November 6-10

Peter wrote this letter to help the church stand firm in the grace of God, particularly in the face of

suffering. He reminds them of their identity: they are God's chosen people, so they are like temporary foreign residents living outside of their true homeland. Peter was calling them to live a holy life. Christ is distinct, separate, out of the ordinary, and He calls His followers to be like Him. The Biblical word "holy" describes the contemporary word "different". A holy person is not an odd person, but a different person. Being holy means that we live differently. It means that we love differently, and this love displays holiness. Love is the litmus test for Christians.

#### Day 1 1 Peter 1:1-12

**Reflect:** How do you see Peter's past experiences and his relationship with Jesus reflected in these words? What do you learn about the Holy Spirit? About persecution?

**Apply:** In what ways does your hope for the future change your daily life? How have trials strengthened your faith? How does understanding your inheritance affect your life?

**Pray:** *Father, thank You for being with me in my trials. What a comfort to know Your presence and the end result can be stronger faith. In Christ, I have all that I need for life and godliness.*

#### Day 2 1 Peter 1:13-22

**Reflect:** How does this text reflect what Peter learned and experienced with Jesus? What is his key message? What does this passage teach us about God's character?

**Apply:** What does it mean to our everyday lives that God's plan is to make us holy? How would you describe a "holy" Christian life? In what ways do we trivialize Christ's sacrifice?

**Pray:** *Father, I want to be holy and have a life that is set apart unto You. Help me have patience and faithfulness for You to form my character. Help me develop the spiritual wisdom, that the world lacks and that I so need.*

#### Day 3 1 Peter 1:23-2:3

**Reflect:** Why do you think Peter chose to use the phrase "born again" and the analogy of growing up? How do we get rid of the things Peter mentions in v.1?

**Apply:** What do you crave (v.2)? What should you crave? What has most helped you to grow in faith? What would you say Peter is thinking about when he mentions the word of God?

**Pray:** *Lord, fuel my hunger to know your Word more fully and to live it more completely. Thank you for giving me the source of truth that is reliable, stable, and enduring.*

#### Day 4 1 Peter 2:4-12

**Reflect:** How do you see Jesus' influence on Peter? What kind of "spiritual sacrifices" do believers offer to God? In what way are we like living stones?



**Apply:** How does being chosen by God for a special task make you feel? In what way were you in darkness before you became a believer? How are you still at war with sinful desires?

**Pray:** *Father, You penetrated the deepest, darkest places of my heart with the gentle light of Your truth. Thank You that my identity is defined by You alone. May I live in my true identity today.*

### **Day 5 1 Peter 2:13-25**

**Reflect:** What do you learn about Jesus, and how will it help you to become more like Him? What experiences in Peter's life helped him to pen these words?

**Apply:** How hard is it for you to walk in submission to God and other authority? Rate yourself on how well your life reflects the truth that by Jesus' wounds you have been healed.

**Pray:** *Lord, help me to abide in Christ, to submit to Your will, and to entrust my life into Your hands. Help me to not justify myself, but to patiently endure all that I am called upon to face in this life so that Christ's life may be visible in me.*

## **Put It Into Practice!**

### **Week 7: Set Apart**

Note the times you tend to follow worldly ways, not God's. Ask Him to help you grow in holiness.

### **Week 8 Suffering**

**November 13-17**

In the Gospels, we saw that Peter wanted the kingdom of God to come immediately and without human suffering. Now in his first epistle, Peter writes about our heavenly hope—the kingdom of God which will come after the saints' suffering for their faith. He proclaims that the suffering and death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary becomes the pattern for Christian living and service in this life. Suffering is not represented as an exception, but as the rule for true believers. While Peter encourages the church to live a holy life, different from the world, he also comforts those who are suffering by reassuring them of their identity and purpose. Peter exhorted his readers to turn to one another in love, and to strengthen one another.

### **Day 1 Acts 5:17-42**

**Reflect:** What verse spoke to you loudest and why? What made the Jewish elders furious? Why? What made Peter and the others so motivated to speak about Jesus?

**Apply:** In your witness for Christ, how can you become more like Peter? Is there anything that would make you stop sharing? For what principles should a Christian stand at all costs?

**Pray:** *Father, like these early witnesses, I want to live with conviction that Jesus is the only way to find life and all that Your salvation brings. We have this sure hope: that no government, institution, law, nor power, can silence the Word of God.*

### **Day 2 1 Peter 3:1-12**

**Reflect:** How does knowing that Jesus "submitted" to the Father, change our understanding of the word "submit"? What does this text tell us about how living uprightly will affect our lives?

**Apply:** Is there anyone with whom you have a poor relationship? What things can you do to improve it? How can knowing the "eyes of the Lord are on the righteous" comfort you?

**Pray:** *Lord, I trust You to watch over me. Help me choose to be submissive, knowing that You give strength to sustain me, that You see me, and that You hear my prayers.*

### **Day 3 1 Peter 3:13-22**

**Reflect:** What answer does Peter expect to his opening question (v. 13)? Why is it better to suffer for doing good, not wrong? Instead of being afraid, what should we do when we suffer?

**Apply:** Is something amiss if a Christian suffers for his faith? If he never suffers? How prepared are you to respond to someone who asks about your faith?

**Pray:** *Father, You don't always answer why I suffer, rather Your Word tells me how to endure it. Give me faith and confidence in the reality of Your grace, love and provision, and to see times of suffering as opportunities to bear witness to Jesus.*

### **Day 4 1 Peter 4:1-19**

**Reflect:** What is the main message in Ch.4? Why does Peter mention the end, Christ's return? What is the purpose of the gifts we are given? What more do you learn about suffering?

**Apply:** Is Christ's return something you think about often? Why/why not? How can you cultivate humility and faithfulness in the gifts God has given you? Have you rejoiced in suffering?

**Pray:** *Father, may I not be surprised at the fiery ordeals that I am called upon to endure, but to see it as training to draw me closer to You. Empower me to use the gifts you've given me to serve others.*

### **Day 5 1 Peter 5:1-14**

**Reflect:** What are the right and wrong attitudes in shepherding a flock? What does Peter say is behind the suffering Christian's experience? Why is humility a strong focus for him?

**Apply:** Who is the "flock" that God has entrusted to you? How are you caring for them? If you had to choose one verse to memorize from this text, what would it be? Why?

**Pray:** *Pray for our church's pastors and leaders to faithfully follow Christ as they humbly care and shepherd this flock. Pray for your life to faithfully witness to Christ.*

## **Put It Into Practice!**

### **Week 8: Suffering**

If you've never "suffered" for Jesus, ask Him why. If you have, ask Him for more opportunities.

### **Week 9**

### **Last Words**

### **November 20-24**

When Peter wrote his second letter to the early church from a prison near the Roman Forum, he knew that Nero was going to have him executed. Knowing these would be his final words to the church, Peter packed the letter full of passionate words of encouragement and of warning. He encouraged them to remember all the promises of Jesus. He exhorted them to "make every effort" to live in obedience to Jesus' commands, to love others as He loved, and to grow in holiness. Living in this manner would be a testimony to Whom they belonged and worshiped, and an assurance of their eternal destiny. He closed his letter with the declaration for them to continue to grow in grace and knowledge of Christ—beneficial words for us today.

### **Day 1 2 Peter 1:1-11**

**Reflect:** What has been given every Christian and for what purpose? What things did Peter want the church to "make every effort" to do? Why? About what was he most concerned?

**Apply:** What are some of God's great and precious promises that inspire and help you to live a godly life? What has most helped you to escape the corruption of the world?

**Pray:** *Jesus, You have given me all that I need for a godly life. In Holy Spirit power, help me be diligent and disciplined in my Christian walk and encourage others in their faith.*

## **Day 2 2 Peter 1:12-21**

**Reflect:** Why is *remembering* such an important spiritual activity? What did Peter imply are the three ways that truths about Jesus were given? Why does this matter?

**Apply:** Why is it easy to forget what God has done for you? In daily life, what can you do to be frequently reminded of God's truths? When has God used you to speak truth?

**Pray:** *Father, thank You for Scriptural prophecy, foretelling what will happen, so we believe. Your Word shines light in the dark places of life. May I stand firm on the Word of truth.*

## **Day 3 2 Peter 2:1-11**

**Reflect:** How does Peter describe false teachers? How do they destroy people and churches? What are some of their messages and their consequences?

**Apply:** What kinds of false teachings seem to be attacking Christianity around the world? In the church? Your family? What can you do to help protect yourself and others from it?

**Pray:** *Father, give me wisdom and discernment to recognize and reject "teachers" who or present a watered-down gospel that deceives its hearers. Help me to be strong and courageous in standing up for the truth of the gospel.*

## **Day 4 2 Peter 2:12-22**

**Reflect:** What is Peter's purpose for going so deep into the topic of false teachings and leading others astray? Which of his words stir you the most? Why?

**Apply:** What are some of the first signs that someone is a false teacher? To what are you a servant or slave (v.19)? What tends to lead you astray?

**Pray:** *Father, Your word gives many warnings of false teachers who cause such devastation in the Church. Let us know, share and live the truth, prepared to confront false teaching with wisdom and compassion.*

## **Day 5 2 Peter 3:1-18**

**Reflect:** Considering Peter knows these are his last words (see v.1:14), what would you say are his most important teachings about God and how we are to live?

**Apply:** Describe your efforts to be found living a peaceful life that is pure and blameless in Jesus' sight. What would Peter write to you about? Is there someone you need to help?

**Pray:** *Lord, You have given me all I need to live a godly life in the times in which I live. I want to be grounded in Your Word, to hold lightly the things of this world, and draw ever closer to You.*

## **Put It Into Practice!**

### **Week 9: Last Words**

Ask God to increase your: memory of His truths; obedience to Him; love for Him and others; and discernment of lies of the enemy. Read Jesus' last words and check your obedience to them.