

WEEK 2

CAST YOUR NETS:

A STORY OF PROVISION

FIRST BAPTIST church

Cultivating Love, Choosing Progress, Cherishing Civility

First Baptist Church of Rancho Cucamonga
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☐	Day 1	1 Peter 1:1-2	☐	Day 21	1 Peter 4:12-15
☐	Day 2	1 Peter 1:3-8	☐	Day 22	1 Peter 4:16-19
☐	Day 3	1 Peter 1:9-12	☐	Day 23	1 Peter 5:1-4
☐	Day 4	1 Peter 1:13-16	☐	Day 24	1 Peter 5:5-11
☐	Day 5	1 Peter 1:17-21	☐	Day 25	1 Peter 5:12-14
☐	**Day 6**	**1 Peter 1:22-25**	☐	Day 26	2 Peter 1:1-2
☐	**Day 7**	**1 Peter 2:1-3**	☐	Day 27	2 Peter 1:3-8
☐	**Day 8**	**1 Peter 2:4-7**	☐	Day 28	2 Peter 1:9-11
☐	**Day 9**	**1 Peter 2:8-12**	☐	Day 29	2 Peter 1:12-16
☐	**Day 10**	**1 Peter 2:13-17**	☐	Day 30	2 Peter 1:17-21
☐	Day 11	1 Peter 2:18-21	☐	Day 31	2 Peter 2:1-4
☐	Day 12	1 Peter 2:22-25	☐	Day 32	2 Peter 2:5-8
☐	Day 13	1 Peter 3:1-6	☐	Day 33	2 Peter 2:9-12
☐	Day 14	1 Peter 3:7	☐	Day 34	2 Peter 2:13-17
☐	Day 15	1 Peter 3:8-12	☐	Day 35	2 Peter 2:18-22
☐	Day 16	1 Peter 3:13-17	☐	Day 36	2 Peter 3:1-3
☐	Day 17	1 Peter 3:18-22	☐	Day 37	2 Peter 3:4-7
☐	Day 18	1 Peter 4:1-3	☐	Day 38	2 Peter 3:8-10
☐	Day 19	1 Peter 4:4-7	☐	Day 39	2 Peter 3:11-16
☐	Day 20	1 Peter 4:8-11	☐	Day 40	2 Peter 3:17-18



Requests	Answers



NOTE: The foundation of spiritual growth is your understanding of God's Word. Each week, bring your Bible and your study guide to the group meeting.

CONNECT ..... 15 minutes

1. Complete your growth group calendar with the necessary information, including who will facilitate each session if you decide to share that role.

2. Share insights from the devotional section of **Follow Me: Stories from the Life of Peter**.

GROW ..... 30 minutes

Chapter two of 1 Peter begins by calling believers to abandon destructive behaviors – deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and malicious speech – establishing ethical conduct as foundational to Christian identity. However, the chapter's ethical vision extends far beyond personal virtue. Peter grounds ethics in the believer's identity as *"living stones"* forming God's spiritual temple and serving as holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices through Christ. This theological foundation proves essential. Ethics and theology become inseparable in Peter's vision.

The ethical implications unfold through a specific social context. Early Christians had become marginalized and treated as a dangerous sectarian movement after their conversion, yet Peter instructs them to resist worldly desires and conduct themselves honorably among unbelieving neighbors, so that observers might witness their integrity and ultimately honor God. Rather than demanding rights or retaliation, believers are called to set aside personal claims and submit to misunderstanding and innocent suffering to witness to their hope, with submission serving the larger theme that right action matters even when it produces undeserved suffering.

Crucially, good works serve a missional purpose – not to gain praise for Christians themselves, but to lead nonbelievers to praise God, silence slanderers, and potentially convert pagan spouses. The Messianic pattern of suffering and exaltation becomes foundational: just as Christ suffered unjustly for others, Christians follow in His steps. The spiritual nourishment believers receive enables the ethical life, transforming conduct from mere rule-following into an expression of their reborn identity and witness to a watching world.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

- ✓ What is something that is very precious to you?

- ✓ How has your ethnic heritage influenced you?

- ✓ What is your general attitude toward people in authority over you (bosses, parents, police, government)?

Read **1 Peter 2** and interact with the following questions:

"So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. **2** *Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,* **3** *now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness."*

Living Stones for God's House

4 *"You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.* **5** *And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.* **6** *As the Scriptures say, 'I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.'* **7** *Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, 'The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.'* **8** *And, 'He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.* **9** *But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.* **10** *'Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy.'* **11** *Dear friends, I warn you as 'temporary residents and foreigners' to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.* **12** *Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world."*

Respecting People in Authority

13 *"For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority – whether the king as head of state,* **14** *or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.* **15** *It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.* **16** *For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil.* **17** *Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king."*

Slaves

18 *"You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you – not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel.* **19** *For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment.* **20** *Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.* **21** *For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.* **22** *He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.* **23** *He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.* **24** *He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.* **25** *Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls."* [1]

WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY:

1. Of what did Peter urge us to rid ourselves? (2:1)

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2. What should we crave? Why? What have believers tasted? (2:2-3)

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3. How did God and people treat the living Stone (Christ) differently? (2:4)

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[1] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 1 Pe 2:1–25.

4. How are we like living stones? (2:5)

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5. What status did Peter give to believers in Christ? (2:9)

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6. How does our past compare with our present condition? (2:10)

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7. Why does God allow government? What effect does obedience to government have on many people? (2:14-15)

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8. What role does respect play in our interactions with authority? (2:17)

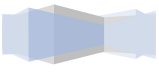
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9. Why did Christ bear our sins? (2:24)

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THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF CHAPTER 2:

Understanding 1 Peter 2 requires grasping the precarious social position of its audience. Peter addresses Christians scattered across northern Asia Minor – Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia – who faced a distinctive kind of marginalization that shapes the chapter's themes.

These recipients may have been Christians forced to leave Rome and resettled in Asia Minor because they were perceived as foreigners threatening Roman order. Emperor Claudius, zealous for traditional Roman religion, expelled Jews from Rome in the A.D. 40s – an expulsion that possibly connects to Christ, suggesting Christians may have been included. When relocated to Asia Minor, these Christians remained viewed as outsiders by local populations.

This displacement explains Peter's language in chapter 2. The metaphor of "dispersion" suggests people on the move but not at home, and Peter refers to his audience as "strangers and exiles." The suffering described is primarily social in nature. These Christians experienced the lot of outcasts and displaced persons lacking the status and security they once enjoyed.

Christians faced immense pressure to conform to local religious and cultural customs, and refusal to worship traditional deities meant being labeled unpatriotic. Civil authorities did not systematically pursue them; rather, hostility came from their social environment. This context illuminates why 1 Peter 2 emphasizes submission to authorities, honorable conduct, and patient endurance. Peter counters their homelessness by offering them a new spiritual home in God's covenant community, built upon Christ as the rejected cornerstone, transforming them from displaced persons into God's chosen people.

THINKING THROUGH THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PASSAGE:

10. How do we satisfy our spiritual longings?

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11. How is Jesus Christ special to you? Why?

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12. To what authorities or "masters" should we submit ourselves today?

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13. How can you exercise your freedom in a way that honors God?

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HOW GOD WANTS ME TO APPLY THIS PASSAGE TO MY LIFE:

14. How do you need to change your plans for the near future so that you will be an example to the unbelievers with whom you have regular contact?

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SHARE ..... 10 minutes

Seek to invest in others who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and invite them to FBC.

SERVE ..... 5 minutes

Thoughts for a service project …

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WORSHIP ..... 15 minutes

Pray that God will keep you rooted in His word and that you will not neglect His truth.

Devotional Day 6:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 1 Peter 1:22-25 and The Devotional Thought

"You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. **23** *For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.* **24** *As the Scriptures say, 'People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades.* **25** *But the word of the Lord remains forever.' And that word is the Good News that was preached to you."* [2]

Devotional Thought

The implications of the obedience to the truth that cleansed us from our sin are that we demonstrate sincere, deep love to other believers. Our new life as a Christ follower will last forever. That truth is based on the *"eternal, living word of God"* which is the Good News that brought us salvation.

J. Ramsey Michaels believes that, "Peter considers this theological context absolutely necessary to the understanding of the love command, and more important, to its realization in practice. He knows that brotherly affection among those who are not literally brothers and sisters is impossible without purification of soul, and that mutual love even in a community of shared belief is impossible without the new birth of which Jesus had spoken in the Gospel tradition.[3]

Love is the quality that connects believers into a community far different than society. Salvation is more than just an individual 'get out of hell free' card. We are expected to live transformed lives that include and impact others. Our influence is to be seasoned with and motivated by love. An extension of our sincere, deep love is that the Good News preached to us should then be preached to others who are not yet believers.

Love is a quality that is easy to give to those you like and for which you care. Love is difficult when people are irritating and annoying. Yet you really cannot connect with God if you will not connect with others. The Good News of Jesus Christ demands an attitude that cares about the eternal destination of those without Christ. Therefore, we must be more loving to all, less hypersensitive to the annoyance of people that require extra grace, and put aside the whining and complaining associated with an ungrateful heart.

Lord, I confess to you my ungrateful heart and my hypersensitive spirit. May I remember that I require extra grace as well as the next person. May it shape my heart to reflect more of You.

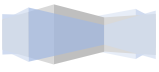
[2] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 1 Pe 1:22–25.

[3] J. Ramsey Michaels, *1 Peter*, vol. 49, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1988), 80.

Reflect: Focus your thoughts on what God has revealed to you through your reading.

Record: Your thoughts, impressions, things to remember, & an application statement.

Request: Based on what you have learned today, write out a prayer to God.



Devotional Day 7:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 1 Peter 2:1-3 and The Devotional Thought

"So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. **2** *Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment,* **3** *now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness."* [4]

Devotional Thought

We are to get rid of ALL evil behavior (malice). This mandate includes deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy (envy), and unkind speech (slander). We then move to crave pure, unadulterated spiritual milk for the purpose of growing to maturity in Christ. Then we cry out for this sustenance because we have experienced the kindness of Christ. God in his kindness is revealed specifically in Jesus Christ.

This passage is a progression from the previous section's call to holy living. We are cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus and commanded to show deep love for each other. Now, Peter asserts that we are to put off, get rid of, and put aside, the behavior that marked our previous sinful existence. As a new person in Christ, we are to long for nourishment that will take us away from the impulses that previously controlled us. Desire for growth helps take away the impulses of sin.

"Had a taste of the Lord's kindness" may be an allusion to Psalm 34:8 where it says, *"Taste and see that the Lord is good."* The point is, desire the spiritual nourishment necessary for spiritual growth … because it is good.

Malice - the intention or desire to do evil. **Deceit** - the action or practice of deceiving someone by concealing or misrepresenting the truth. **Hypocrisy** - the practice of claiming to have higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case. **Jealous** - feeling or showing an envious resentment of someone or their achievements, possessions, or perceived advantages. **Envy** - a feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck. **Unkind Speech** - refers to words or verbal behavior that lack kindness, compassion, or consideration, often causing emotional hurt, discomfort, or offense. It can be intentional or unintentional, but in either case, it fails to show empathy or respect toward the listener. **Slander** - the action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.

Take a look at the definitions above. When we think of these words, we think of extreme actions where we might exhibit these behaviors. However, the test is to look at these words in the subtle ways we abuse them in our everyday dealings with others. We inflict these actions often in the name of sarcastic joking. Beware of sarcasm.

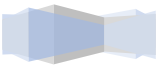
Father, I confess that I let my sarcasm hide these character flaws. A deeper look reveals a propensity for subtle or not so subtle presentations of these behaviors. Poor behavior or performance on the part of others does not warrant exhibiting any of these evil actions. So, Father, let us truly crave the *"pure spiritual milk"* of Your word, grow to be more like Your Son, Jesus, and truly love one another, so that we might *"taste of the Lord's kindness."*

[4] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 1 Pe 2:1–3.

Reflect: Focus your thoughts on what God has revealed to you through your reading.

Record: Your thoughts, impressions, things to remember, & an application statement.

Request: Based on what you have learned today, write out a prayer to God.



Devotional Day 8:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 1 Peter 2:4-7 and The Devotional Thought

4 *"You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.* **5** *And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.* **6** *As the Scriptures say, 'I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honor, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.'* **7** *Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, 'The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.'"* [5]

Devotional Thought

Jesus is the foundation and cornerstone of God's spiritual temple. Each believer is a stone in that structure. While Paul uses the body, Peter uses the temple to provide another picture that emphasizes community. When God calls you, He also calls others to work with you. Working together causes our individual efforts to be multiplied.

Jesus *"...was rejected by people but chosen by God for great honor."* Not trusting Jesus leads to disgrace. Trusting Him supplies security and confidence. Jesus is completely trustworthy; precious to believers; and the most important part of the church. Taking the step to trust Him recognizes all the honor God has given to Him.

Christ's cornerstone role is important to the church. The apostles and prophets are important for the foundation because of their teaching. Jesus is important because of who he is and what he has done. He makes the whole building, including the rest of the foundation, possible. Christ is the one who unites us and leads us to encounter God. Life in Him means unity with God and with other people. That union is where God chooses to dwell.

Understanding who Jesus is and what He has done is the cornerstone to the church's entire belief system; its worship; and its way of life. Jesus is the basis of salvation. There can be no foundation other than Jesus.

Peter describes believers as *"living stones"* and *"holy priests"* emphasizing our purpose to offer ourselves as living and spiritual sacrifices. Therefore ...

- I will daily lay aside my own selfish desires and follow him.
- I will put all my energy and resources at his disposal.
- I will trust him to guide me each day.
- I will recognize that obedience is more important than sacrifice.

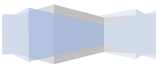
Father, the words are easy to write but difficult to live. Give me the power and grace to honor You with my obedience.

[5] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 1 Pe 2:4–7.

Reflect: Focus your thoughts on what God has revealed to you through your reading.

Record: Your thoughts, impressions, things to remember, & an application statement.

Request: Based on what you have learned today, write out a prayer to God.



Devotional Day 9:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 1 Peter 2:8-12 and The Devotional Thought

8 *"And, 'He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.* **9** *But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.* **10** *'Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy.'* **11** *Dear friends, I warn you as 'temporary residents and foreigners' to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.* **12** *Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world."* [6]

Devotional Thought

Unbelievers stumble because they do not obey the word of God. The point of that statement is not that stumbling is synonymous with the rejection of the Christian message, but that it is a consequence of that rejection. In contrast, believers are a *"chosen people," "royal priests,"* a *"holy nation,"* and God's *"own possession."* Believers are called to *"show others the goodness of God."* Peter reminds his readers of their origin. They were brought out of darkness into the light. They formerly had no identity, now they are God's people. Previously they were shown no mercy, but now they have God's mercy.

These early Christians, are reminded of their temporary status in this world. Peter warns them to keep away from the evil desires that plague them. He further cautions them to be careful to live with integrity among unbelievers. The purpose of living in this manner is that it brings honor to God.

We are God's people. The call Peter sends out to these early Christians is directed to us as well. Through Jesus Christ, we are brought into the light, shown mercy, and have a new identity. So, we heed the same warning – live honorably among unbelievers.

Cultivating *"honorable behavior"* centers on developing intentional practices that deepen your relationship with God rather than treating spiritual growth as something that happens by chance. Devotion to the Lord requires deliberate choice and discipline. It will not emerge from busyness or distraction alone. Reflection on God's truth, paired with a prayerful spirit, builds a devoted life.

Comprehend and appreciate mentally, morally, and with spiritual understanding that all things come from God and that I will ask God when I am lacking.

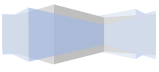
Lord, I pray that my behavior will always stand up against any accusation of wrong doing and bring honor to You.

[6] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 1 Pe 2:8–12.

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Record: Your thoughts, impressions, things to remember, & an application statement.

Request: Based on what you have learned today, write out a prayer to God.



Devotional Day 10:

Relax: Focus on God speaking to you through His Word today. ☐ **Prayer**

Read: 1 Peter 2:13-17 and The Devotional Thought

13 *"For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority – whether the king as head of state,* **14** *or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.* **15** *It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you.* **16** *For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil.* **17** *Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king."* [7]

Devotional Thought

Submit to all human authority. Their purpose is to punish wrongdoers and honor those who do right. When we live honorable lives, it silences the ignorant and their false accusations. We have freedom, even as God's slaves, yet freedom is not an excuse to do evil. We are to respect everyone, love the family of God, fear Him and respect those in authority.

Our society has a major problem with this admonition from Peter. We do not easily submit to authority. We certainly do not respect our leaders. I believe that if you cannot respect the person, then at least respect the position. Their job is difficult enough without all the hate. They serve a godly purpose whether they realize it or not. Our purpose is to pray for them, not for their destruction, but for their use as God's instrument of justice.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, we must remember the truth of verses 15-17 and apply it to our lives. *"It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king."*

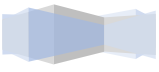
Father, You care about every individual, even the ones we despise. Help us to cultivate loving relationships with You and others. Inspire us to choose progress in our growth as believers. Motivate us to cherish civility in our words and actions. Any submission in our lives begins with submitting to You. May we bring You honor as we turn our lives completely over to You.

[7] Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), 1 Pe 2:13–17.

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FBC Growth Group Covenant

Congratulations on your desire to grow deeper in your relationship with God through this weekly study and the relationships that will begin as a result of your participation.

As a member of this group, you will be asked to enter into a covenant with the other group members. You are requested to make this Growth Group a priority; by making the following commitments:

- ☐ I will make this group a priority by attending each week (call if I'm going to be absent or late), keeping up with my assignments and participating openly in group discussion.
- ☐ I will regularly attend church services and contribute to the ministry of the church through my attendance, giving, service and inviting of others.
- ☐ I will strive to build authentic relationships with those in this group by showing care, providing encouragement and praying for their needs.
- ☐ I will avoid gossip (including, what happens in the group stays in the group) and immediately resolve any concerns by following the "conflict resolution" principles of Matthew 18:15-17.
- ☐ I will limit my freedom by not serving or consuming alcohol during growth group meetings or events so as to avoid causing a weaker brother or sister to stumble. (1 Cor. 8:1-13; Romans 14:19-21)
- ☐ I will serve with my group once a month during the semester and will participate in a mission project and play together with my group once.
- ☐ I will honestly explore my next steps for spiritual growth and give permission for other group members to speak God's truth into my life.

_____ _____

NAME (Signature) DATE



CAST YOUR NETS: A STORY OF PROVISION

JESUS DEMONSTRATES HIS POWER TO PROVIDE FOR PETER'S NEEDS

Luke 5:1-11 (NLT)

"One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. [2] *He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets.* [3] *Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.*

[4] *When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.'* [5] *'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again.'* [6] *And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!* [7] *A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.*

[8] *When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, 'Oh, Lord, please leave me – I'm such a sinful man.'* [9] *For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.* [10] *His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!'* [11] *And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus."*

How Jesus Provides for My Needs

5 Lessons from Luke 5:1-11

- JESUS KNOWS MY NEEDS <u>BEFORE I DO</u>.

"[Jesus] noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets." – **Luke 5:2 (NLT)**

(Jesus) *"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs."* – **Matthew 6:31-32 (NLT)**

- JESUS PROVIDES FOR MY NEEDS <u>WHEN I TURN TOWARDS HIM</u>.

"Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there." – **Luke 5:3 (NLT)**

<u>Memory Verse</u>: *"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."* – **Matthew 6:33 (NLT)**



➢ JESUS PROVIDES FOR MY NEEDS THROUGH MY OBEDIENCE. (ALWAYS)

"When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.' 'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again.'" – **Luke 5:4-5 (NLT)**

This Week's Follow Me Principle:

WHEN JESUS GUIDES, HE PROVIDES.

"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence." – **2 Peter 1:3 (NLT)**

➢ JESUS PROVIDES FOR MY NEEDS SUPERNATURALLY. (SOMETIMES)

"And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! … When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, 'Oh, Lord, please leave me – I'm such a sinful man.' For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed." – **Luke 5:6-10a (NLT)**

➢ JESUS PROVIDES FOR MY NEEDS TO DEEPEN MY MATURITY.

"Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!' And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus." – **Luke 5:10b-11 (NLT)**

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose him as your ransom long before the world began." – **1 Peter 1:18-20a (NLT)**

FIVE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

(Levels of learning for assessing spiritual maturity)

- **Knowledge** – *"what to do"* – building a spiritual foundation by determining a person's level of biblical understanding; what does s/he already know and what does s/he still need to learn. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Evaluative Question: Are people learning the content and meaning of the Bible?

- **Perspective** – *"why to do it"* – seeing life from God's point of view by understanding His nature and ways. Perspective enables us to answer the "why" questions of life by seeing life from God's eternal frame of reference. **Ephesians 4:13-14**

Evaluative Question: Are people seeing themselves, life, and other people more clearly from God's perspective?

- **Conviction** – *"motivation to do it"* – biblical conviction that empowers us to counter secular values in the process of becoming more like Christ. **Romans 12:2**

Evaluative Question: Are people's values becoming more aligned with God's values?

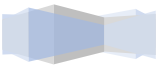
- **Skills** – *"how to do it"* – skills developed by practice and experience that equip us to grow spiritually. **James 1:22**

Evaluative Question: Are people becoming more skilled in serving God?

- **Character** – *"what it does to you"* – responding in God-honoring ways in character-building situations. When we make the right choices in life, we are spiritually transformed. **Colossians 1:28**

Evaluative Question: Are people becoming more like Christ?

(Source: The Purpose Driven Church, pages 361-362)





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Cultivating Love, Choosing Progress, Cherishing Civility