



## **Session 1**

### **Study Guide**

The purpose of this Session is to introduce 1 Peter. We'll consider some fundamental questions:

- Who wrote 1 Peter?
- When was 1 Peter written?
- To whom was 1 Peter written?
- Why is it important to know who wrote it, when, and to whom?
- What, broadly speaking, is 1 Peter about?
- How will we go about studying 1 Peter?

There is no assigned reading for this Session but you may find it useful to begin this journey through 1 Peter by looking over the entire letter (come on—it's only five chapters).

Below is an outline of what I'll be talking about in this Session. I'll supply you with a similar outline each week; you may find it helpful to refer to as you watch the video. Likewise, each week I'll provide you with some questions to consider as you read the week's passages.

### **Session Outline**

Authorship of 1 Peter—who wrote the letter?

- seems straightforward enough (1:1), but no...
- question of language
- question of the use of the Old Testament within the letter
- question of letter recipients being persecuted for faith
- question of the role of Silvanus aka Silas (5:12)

The dating of 1 Peter—when was the letter written?

- depends largely on how we answer the question of who wrote it
- if the Apostle Peter wrote it

- if the Apostle Peter didn't write it
- influence of letters of Paul on 1 Peter

The audience for 1 Peter—to whom was the letter written?

- not a letter to a specific church but to multiple churches in a wide geographic Area (1:1)
- who, precisely, was living in this area and what is meant by *exiles*?
- slaves and masters, believing wives and non-believing husbands, younger and older

Does *who, when, and to whom* really matter?

- why knowing how the letter understands doctrine and discipleship may be more important than knowing who actually wrote it
- the socio-political importance of when the letter was written
- ultimately, the audience for the letter is not tied to one place or point in time

Content and ordering of 1 Peter

- why it's helpful to know this from the beginning of our study

1:1-2	Opening greetings
1:3-2:3	Teachings considered by the early church to be particularly important for new believers
1:3-12	Focuses on what God has done for us through Christ
1:13-2:3	Focuses on how we should respond in light of what God has done
2:4-10	Old Testament prophecies understood as referring to Christ and the church
2:11-3:12	Behavior: slaves relative to masters, wives relative to husbands, older relative to younger
	Teachings on conduct in the face of suffering: 3:13-4:7, 4:12-19, 5:6-11
	Instruction on the proper functioning of churches: 4:8-11, 5:1-5
5:12-14	Concluding greetings

Some logistics of how our study will work

### Questions

1) Does it make any difference to you personally if 1 Peter was actually written by the Apostle Peter? Does authorship of a book of the Bible make any difference to the claim it makes on your life? How do you understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the creation of Scripture?

2) As you look over the entire letter, what stands out for you? What seems intriguing? Annoying? Disturbing? What are you looking forward to finding out more about? What in the letter would you just as soon skip (sorry...we aren't skipping anything)?

3) If you're told you need to suffer for Jesus, what do you think such suffering would involve? Have you ever felt persecuted for your faith in Jesus? What did the persecution involve?