Sun, May 29
1: Introduction to 1 Peter
   Overview (R. LaGrone)
Wed, June 1
2: Stand Firm in Salvation
   1 Peter 1:1-12 (R. LaGrone)
Sun, June 5
3: Stand Firm in Hope & Holiness
   1 Peter 1:13-2:10 (P. Shumake)
Sun, June 12
4: Stand Firm in Community and Family
   1 Peter 2:11-3:12 (P. Shumake)
Wed, June 15
5: Stand Firm in Zeal during Suffering
   1 Peter 3:13-4:19 (P. Shumake)
Sun, June 19
6: Stand Firm with the Chief Shepherd
   1 Peter 5:1-13 (R. LaGrone)
Wed, June 22
7: Introduction to 2 Peter
   Overview (R. LaGrone)
Sun, June 26
8: Stirring Up our Spiritual Growth
   2 Peter 1:1-21 (P. Shumake)
Wed, June 29
9: Stirring Up Pure Doctrine and Pure Living
   2 Peter 2:1-22 (P. Shumake)
Sun, July 3
10: Contending for the Faith (Jude)
    Jude (P. Shumake)
Wed, July 6
11: Stirring Up our Insight
    2 Peter 3:1-18 (P. Shumake)
Sun, July 10
12: Grounded & Growing in Difficult Times
    Overview (P. Shumake)
Wed, July 13
13: Review
    Overview (P. Shumake)
Lesson 1 - Introduction to I Peter

AUTHOR
1. Who does the letter say wrote it? How does he describe himself?

2. Does the letter show a clear knowledge of Jesus teaching? Compare:
   3:9 to Luke 6:27,28
   1:3, 23 to John 3:3,5
   3:14 to Matthew 5:10
   2:2-10 to Matthew 21:42-45
   3:21 to Mark 16:16
   5:4 to John 10:11-15
   4:14 to Matthew 5:11
   2:12 to Matthew 5:16
   5:6 to Luke 14:11

3. What events of Jesus’ life are mentioned? (1:20, 1:19; 2:24, 3:21-22, II Peter 1:16-18)

4. What was Peter’s view of the source of Scripture (1 Peter 1:11, 2 Peter 1:20,21)? Did that include the New Testament preachers and writers (1 Peter 1:12, 2 Peter 3:16)? Did that include his own writings (2 Peter 3:2)?

ADDRESSEES
1. To whom is the letter addressed?

2. Were they Jews or Gentiles? (1:1, 2:12, 1:14,18, 2:10, 4:3)

3. Find the regions mentioned on a map. How might all of these churches have been established?
PURPOSE
1. Is there evidence of a present persecution (2:12, 3:13-14, 17)?


3. Long-term: Using information from Peter’s first letter, determine why Christians who are: good citizens, good servants, good husbands and wives, and generally mild mannered and law abiding would be persecuted as described in 1 Peter.

DATE
If this is the persecution by Nero (who died in 68 AD), near or after the time of Paul’s death (because of ref. to Paul’s writings), the date of the letter is about 64 or 65 AD.

LOCATION
1. From where is the letter written (5:13)?

2. What city might Babylon be (see Rev 14:8; 17:4, 5:18)?

3. Who was with Peter (5:13)?

4. Where was he last seen (see Col. 4:10)?

STYLE
As you read through the book to do the above exercises, notice the style.
1. Is it terse or wordy? Are there more commands or suggestions?

2. What are some recurring themes?
Lesson 2 – Stand Firm in Salvation
I Peter 1:1-12

OBSERVATIONS
1. Outline the beginning of this chapter:
   I.) 1:1-2 ______________________________
   III.) 1:2-12 __________________________
       A.) __________________________ (1:3-9)
       B.) __________________________ (1:10-12)

2. Discuss the definition and significance of the following words:
   Apostle:
   Elect:
   Sojourners:
   Dispersion:
   Sanctification:

3. Read I Peter 1:3-9.
   a. What is the central topic? Why is God blessed, and why are we rejoicing?

   b. God has “begotten us again” unto what?

   c. What is the significance of this metaphor? (1:14, 17, 23; 2:2; 3:6)

4. List all of the descriptors of the “hope,” the “inheritance,” and the “salvation: given in verse 3-5.
   a. What one event made the hope possible?

   b. Does the inheritance exist now?
DISCUSSION
1. In what are we rejoicing?

2. Why do we need to be put to grief in manifold trials? What is their duration?

3. What is tested? How does vs. 8 describe faith? What is the end of our faith?

4. What were the prophets prophesying about (vs. 10,11)? What did they want to know about their own prophesies? What was revealed to them about their ministry?

5. When, and in what way, were “these things” announced? Who else desired to look into these things?

ANALYSIS
1. Describe the importance of the resurrection to Peter personally (1:3, 21):

2. How was he given a “second chance” — a new birth — by the resurrection?

3. In what sense are we begotten again? Look ahead to verse 23 to see how this new birth occurs.

4. Had these Christians seen Jesus’ works, heard Him preach? His resurrection?

5. How did they know these things? (1:25, 2 Peter 1:12,13, 3:1,2) Are they similar to us in this way?
Lesson 3: Stand Firm in Hope & Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-2:10 (P. Shumake)

OBSERVATIONS
What reasons does Peter give in this section for Christians to be a people full of hope and devoted to holiness?

(1:13) Peter tells us to set our hope “completely”, “fully”, or “to the end.” (Strong’s # G5409) What does this mean? What does this require of us?

(1:14-18) What three family terms does Peter use in this section to advance his argument?

(1:20) How is this verse similar to Titus 2:11?

(2:1) Five sins must be rejected by Christians in order to love one another fervently. Name a Bible person whose life shows the sad outcome of allowing one of these sins to continue?

(2:5) What are the spiritual sacrifices that we offer up to God?

DISCUSSION
(1:22) What does it look like when Christians “fervently love one another from the heart?”

(1:14, 1:21, 2:5, 2:9-10) This entire section is rich with descriptions of our true identity in Christ. List several that are especially encouraging to you and tell why.

Which of these terms do you find challenging to live up to?

APPLICATION
When is it hardest to stand firm in Holiness?

Is “grace” the dominant concept you associate with the return of Jesus? What is?

(2:4) How does the fact that Jesus was “rejected by men” prepare us for the difficulties we will face as Christians?
Lesson 4: Stand Firm in Community and Family  

1 Peter 2:11-3:12 (P. Shumake)

OBSERVATIONS
(2:11) Peter emphasizes the battle with lusts Christians must fight. List all the other verses in 1 & 2 Peter that mention the words: lust or lusts.

(2:12-20) Not only is civil submission commanded of Christians, but it actually helps us fulfill our spiritual mission to be salt and light. According to these verses, what positive aspects of our reputation should we be known for, especially when living in a culture that is unsupportive of the gospel?

(2:21-23) What specific good behavior of Jesus does Peter ask us to imitate here? Why is this very important to our influence during times of suffering?

(3:1-4) List the 7 (or more) qualities of Godly wives described here.

(3:7) List the 4 (or more) qualities of Godly husbands described here.

How does 2:12 relate to the commands given to families in 3:1-7?

DISCUSSION
(2:18-2:20) How can this passage help us be better employees today?

(2:25) What event from Peter’s life makes him the perfect teacher to make this point?

(3:6) What events from Sarah’s life make her an excellent example of the qualities Peter describes? Which of these qualities may have been a challenge for her to exercise?

APPLICATION
(3:8-12) “…all of you be harmonious…” What does harmony require in music? In the family? In the church?

How can we best teach our sons and daughters to live with the awesome traits of citizens, servants, wives and husbands described in this section?
Lesson 5: Stand Firm in Zeal during Suffering 1 Peter 3:13-4:19 (P. Shumake)

OBSERVATIONS
(Review) If Christians obey the commands in 3:1-12 what areas of their lives will be basically stable even BEFORE persecution comes?

(3:18, 3:20, 4:1, 4:12,13,18) When we suffer for doing what is right who do we become more like?

List the traits of Jesus that comfort the suffering and inspire the saved?

| 3:15 | 4:1 |
| 3:18 | 4:11 |
| 3:19 | 4:13 |
| 3:22 | 4:19 |

(4:13) Contrast the normal emotional response to suffering with a Christian’s emotional response to suffering for the Lord.

DISCUSSION
(3:13) Define Christian “zeal.”

(3:15) Why are gentleness and reverence important parts of our response to the world?

(4:7-11) What urgency does Peter expect of Christians in zealously serving one another? Which of these good works have other Christians exercised in blessing you?

APPLICATION
In your own words, explain why you live with the hope of eternal life?

(4:19) What does it take for us to peacefully and confidently “entrust” our souls to God?

(3:18-22) Noah’s family could count on him. What qualities can we develop so that our friends and family can count on us to lead them towards God during times of persecution?
Lesson 6: Stand Firm with the Chief Shepherd 1 Peter 5:1-13 (R. LaGrone)

OBSERVATIONS

Outline:
Exhortations to Shepherds (5:1-5)
Exhortations to Soldiers (5:6-11)
Conclusions (5:12,13)

What did Peter have in common with the elders he is exhorting in this section?
What superiority did he have over them?
What 3 contrasts are given between the wrong and right way to tend the flock?

1 Peter 5:1-5 - Tend...Exercise Oversight...

NOT                        BUT:
vs 2b                        
vs 2c                        
vs 3                        

Who is the Chief Shepherd? What is His method of leadership? (2:25)

What is the duty of the younger? Who are the “younger”? (Men? Women? All Others?)

What responsibilities do “all” have? What motivates this humility?

DISCUSSION

A military imagery is used in these verses. To whom must we “surrender”? What reward results? What duties are assigned? Who is the adversary? What is his intent? How long will the danger (suffering) continue? (Remember 1:6) What final outcome awaits us?

Who is Silvanus? What was his role in the letter? How does Peter summarize his “brief” message? Who else greets the addressees with Peter?

ANALYSIS

What can you learn about the duties of elders from the descriptions of the dangers listed in the chart above? Is there evidence they were appointed or selected (perhaps even pressed into service)? Is there evidence that they had opportunity to be paid (or at least handle money)? Is there evidence that they had some measure of authority more than other Christians? Is it clear from this passage that “elders” refers to appointed men or could it be just older men in general? What evidence do you find? What other passages should be considered?
Lesson 8: Stirring Up our Spiritual Growth

2 Peter 1:1-21  (P. Shumake)

OBSERVATIONS
What phrases in the following verses begin to indicate that Peter is writing to warn the brethren about false teachers?

1:1 “…received a faith ____________________…”
1:3 “…through the ________________ of Him who called us…”
1:16 “…did not follow _______________ when we made known to you…”
1:20-21 “…no prophecy of Scripture is ______________…”

(1:4,1:9) How are these verses similar to the warnings Peter includes in 2:20-22?

(1:5-8) How can we be increasing in these qualities?

(1:12-15) Peter writes these reminders with the goal that other Christians will:

(1:16-18) Why is this event particularly important for all Christians to remember?

DISCUSSION
(1:9) What contributes to Christians becoming “blind” or “short-sighted” or forgetting their “purification” from their sins? How can we help them see clearly again?

(1:12-13) How can remembering spiritual lessons we’ve heard long ago actually produce growth in the present?

APPLICATION
How can I be certain that God has called and chosen me?

According to 1:8, if we are unfruitful, what is one source of the problem?

2 Peter 1:20-21 emphasize the wonderful role the Holy Spirit has played in delivering the scriptures. How can you express thankfulness for His work more often?
Lesson 9: Stirring Up Pure Doctrine and Pure Living  2 Peter 2:1-22  (P. Shumake)

OBSERVATIONS
(2:2, 2:6, 2:7, 2:10, 2:14, 2:18) What terms are used to describe the sexual immorality that Peter says will accompany this false doctrine?

(2:1-2) Peter makes it clear that false teachers will be condemned. According to 2:2, 2:9, 2:17, 2:20 and 3:17, what is the end for those who follow the false teachers?

(2:9) What examples does Peter use in chapter 2 to prove God’s ability to rescue the godly and punish the unrighteous?

(2:14-15) What kind of heart is causing people to forsake “the right way?”

DISCUSSION
(2:1-3) What typical characteristics help us recognize false teachers?

(1:4, 2:18-19) Contrast the promises of God with the promises of evil.

(2:17-19) What is the meaning of calling false teachers and rebellious Christians “springs without water?”

Considering the whole chapter, why should Christians reject false teachers?

Considering the whole chapter, how does pride contribute to the problems Peter addresses?

APPLICATION
What precautions can we take to avoid being persuaded to follow false teachers?

What sins does our culture glorify that Christians today must be reminded are as disgusting as vomit?

How can we show love towards those who are caught up following false teachers?
Lesson 10: Contending for the Faith (Jude)

Jude (P. Shumake)

OBSERVATIONS

(vs 3) What topic did Jude originally wish to write about?

(vs 4) What does it mean to “contend earnestly” for the faith?

(vs 5-16) Describe the primary error that Jude addresses?

(vs. 19) In addition to tempting people into sins of lust, what other sinful and evil outcome does Jude attribute to false teaching?

(vs 25) Jude acknowledges the glory and authority of Jesus extends to what time periods?

DISCUSSION

Three passages tell Christians an important tool for resisting false teaching: Jude vs 17 and 2 Peter 1:13, 3:1-2. What is this tool, and why is it so powerful?

(vs 9, 14) What extra-biblical examples does Jude appeal to when warning about the dangers of false teachers? Why would he reference these events?

APPLICATION

Jude stirs us up to help those who are led by false teaching. What three approaches does he command and when should each approach be used…

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<th>When To Use It</th>
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<td>(vs 22)</td>
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What actions does Jude call upon Christians to take to keep their faith strong? (vs 17, 20-21, 24)
Lesson 11: Stirring Up our Insight 2 Peter 3:1-18 (P. Shumake)

OBSERVATIONS
(3:1-7) Peter gives us insight into God’s plans for the future. According to verse 4, what event is being anticipated?

(3:6) What past evident does Peter remind us of? Why is it helpful for Christians to keep this event in mind, when considering God’s plans for the future?

(3:7-10) How is this destruction different from the flood?

(3:11-15) What specific terms does Peter use to describe faithful Christians who are awaiting the day of God?

DISCUSSION
(3:1-2) How can reminders of things we’ve already been told “stir up” our actions?

(3:4,13) What verses outside of 2 Peter give you great hope in the “promises” of God?

APPLICATION
(3:1-2) How can you stir up your family and friends to remember God’s words?

(3:8-15) How are Christians to think about and respond to the patience of the Lord?

(3:17-18) Name a Bible role model who was on “guard” against error. What did this person do to avoid being carried away in error?

(3:17-18) Growing in knowledge requires study and meditation. What is required to grow in grace? (See Luke 2:52 as one possible example.)
Lesson 12: Grounded & Growing in Difficult Times

Overview

Peter uses the Old Testament Scriptures masterfully! Make a list of the concepts Peter urges Christians to grow in based upon Old Testament quotes. (You may want to use a study Bible that includes the cross references to complete this assignment.)

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<tr>
<th>VERSE</th>
<th>OT REFERENCE</th>
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Lesson 13: Review

GOALS
Cite one or more verses from 1 Peter, 2 Peter, or Jude which help you to fulfill the goals we established for this class.

1. Develop a reputation for good works among those who are most critical of our faith.
   KEY VERSES: __________________________
   To reach this goal I need to…__________________________.

2. Promote greater “Harmony” in our home and congregation by learning our part well.
   KEY VERSES: __________________________
   To reach this goal I need to…__________________________.

3. Build a deeper relationship with the shepherds.
   KEY VERSES: __________________________
   To reach this goal I need to…__________________________.

4. Deepen our appreciation for the suffering of Christ and what it means to share in that suffering.
   KEY VERSES: __________________________
   To reach this goal I need to…__________________________.

5. Invest in the things that last the longest.
   KEY VERSES: __________________________
   To reach this goal I need to…__________________________.

APPLICATION
(1 Peter 1:13) Christians who STAND FIRM will fix their hope on ______________.

(1 Peter 2:9-10) Christians who STAND FIRM will think of themselves as ______
   ____________________________________________________.

(1 Peter 2:12, 13, 18) Christians who STAND FIRM will demonstrate ____________ as a citizen and as an employee.

(1 Peter 3:1-12) I am not STANDING FIRM in my role at home unless I am living with a heart of _____________________________________________.

Overview
(1 Peter 3:13, 4:12-16) God will help me STAND FIRM during persecution if I face the situation with ________________________________.

(1 Peter 5:1-6) My local spiritual shepherds help me STAND FIRM by lovingly ________________________________________________________.

(1 Peter 5:10) My Chief Shepherd helps me STAND FIRM by lovingly ________________________________________________________.

(2 Peter 1:5-8) Peter’s instructions STIR ME UP to grow in ____________________.

(2 Peter 2:10,14,19) Peter’s warnings STIR ME UP to avoid false teaching because it inevitably leads to ________________________________________________________.

(2 Peter 3:9-10) Peter’s insights into the future STIR ME UP to be appreciate God’s _____________ and prepare for ________________________________.

(2 Peter 3:11, 17-18) Christians who STAND FIRM and are STIRRED UP will grow in ________________________________________________________.

(Jude vs 4) I will STAND FIRM against doctrines that twist God’s grace into an excuse to behave __________________________. I will STAND FIRM against doctrines that deny ________________________________.

(Jude vs 24) I am STIRRED UP not only to live righteously myself, but also to show _________ to the doubting, to act quickly to save those who are practically in _____________, and to use wisdom, courage and even some caution showing ____________ with ____________ towards those whose lives are saturated with sin.