

I and II Peter, Jude

A note of introduction...

Have you ever been laughed at for insisting on doing what is right, wondered if there were any reward for honestly reporting all your income or needed boldness to identify yourself as a Christian in unfriendly territory? Maybe you have never been threatened physically but you have most likely lost some sleep and maybe even friends because of people who would like to steal the peace you have in a life of obedience to Jesus. Peter, a man of experience, offers words of advice to all women who are suffering for the sake of Jesus.

Peter also offers a warning in his second letter about people who would steal your peace by dragging you down an alley with false teaching and leave you there without Jesus Christ and his sovereignty. However, we are not defenseless. Peter tells us how to recognize these teachers, react to them and guard against them. You will receive valuable information to use as a “truth detector” for your journey towards the hope of salvation Peter tells about in his first letter. Jude continues the warnings about people who wear sheep’s clothing but are really wolves inside.

This study is not for wimpy women. The ride promises to be bumpy but the destination is worth it. Keep your eyes straight ahead (focus on the hope you have in Jesus), your map open (Bible study), your gas tank full (disciplined prayer life), your windows closed (to guard against outside influences) and let Jesus do the driving. Don’t be naïve about hitchhikers, but do fill your car with family and friends who also believe. Upon arrival, Jesus has promised to present you to God without fault and with great joy. Doesn’t that sound better than any road trip you’ve ever taken?

Like the other Illumination studies, this workbook is written from the New International Version. You should be able to answer all questions by either examining the text or examining your heart. You will surely need the Holy Spirit’s assistance for both of these activities so don’t even think about opening your book without praying first.

If you receive any benefit from this study, all the glory goes to God. He is the one who has enabled me to type even one word in this book. A special thanks to the Illuminations committee and Debbie McAfee for the hours they have spent editing. And to my husband, Billy—a big hug for helping me road test the “Pensive Ponderings.”

Paula Rhodes

Section I. Read I Peter 1:1-2.

1. a. List all the ways Peter described the recipients of this letter.

b. Which of these could apply to you? Explain.

2. As Peter told how these recipients were chosen, each member of the Godhead was mentioned. What was the role of each? (See additional scriptures listed for further study.)

a. God (Romans 8:29) _____

b. Jesus (Hebrews 12:24) _____

c. Holy Spirit (II Thessalonians 2:13) _____

3. a. Note Peter’s salutation—a common way New Testament writers began their letters. Think of a way to encourage people as Peter did using words that are natural for you.

b. Are you known for an abundance of grace and peace in your life? How does one develop these traits? a) Read more self-help books. b) Wear a WWJD bracelet. c) Make a New Year’s resolution and really try to keep it. d) Ask God. e) Create a chart for each member of the family and reward gracious behavior with a sticker. f) Greet everybody in a “scriptural” manner by using Peter’s exact words g) Be filled with the Holy Spirit. h) _____

Sections II and III. Read I Peter 1:3-5.

4. How does a new birth (or rebirth) happen?

John 1:13 _____

John 3:1-15 _____

James 1:18 _____

I Peter 1:23 _____

5. Contrast a living hope with the hope of godless people.
 (Job 11:20; Proverbs 10:28; Colossians 1:5; Colossians 1:27; I Thessalonians 4:13-14)
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|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Living Hope | | Hope of godless People |
| | | |

6. What are the benefits of a living hope?

Psalm 62:5 _____

Psalm 146:5 _____

Romans 5:2 _____

II Corinthians 3:12 _____

I Thessalonians 5:8 _____

7. Hospice caretakers tell us one of the best ways to encourage a terminally ill patient is to give them something to anticipate i.e. a party, holidays, new treatments, etc. Keeping this principal in mind, with whom will you share your living hope?

Section IV. Read I Peter 1:4-7.

8. a. Exactly what is the promised inheritance referred to in verse 4? (Titus 3:7; Hebrews 1:14)

b. What have you inherited in this life (material goods or empty ways) that is already gone or has caused havoc in your life?

c. What could you pass on to your loved ones that would never perish, spoil or fade?

9. What kind of trials is Peter talking about in 1:6. Also consider I Peter 2:20; 3:13-17; 4:12-19; and 5:9.
 - a. Those brought on by bad choices.
 - b. Afflictions of earthly living experienced by all mankind (disease, breakdowns, irritating people, etc.).
 - c. Persecutions for the sake of Jesus.
 - d. Temptations.
 - e. Other.
10. When have you been ridiculed because you stood up for Jesus and/or the righteous principles he taught?
11. Think of a trial you have been through recently. Share how it has strengthened your faith in retrospect.

Section V. Read I Peter 1:8-12.

12. What do you learn about Christ in verses 10-12?
13.
 - a. Where are the writings of the Holy-Spirit-inspired prophets concerning Jesus found?
 - b. Who were the prophets serving with these predictions? Are we included?
 - c. How does this affect the way you value the Old Testament? (II Peter 1:19)

Pensive ponderings: What could be the explanation if someone considers herself a Christian and yet experiences no persecutions?