

1&2 Peter

Stand Firm

Marilyn Kunz & Catherine Schell

Published by Q Place

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1 & 2 Peter: Stand Firm
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Previously published as *1 & 2 Peter: Strength Amidst Stress*
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Cover photo: [nakorn/Shutterstock](#)
First Q Place printing 2016
Printed in the United States of America
ISBN 978-1-880266-62-5

CONTENTS

GETTING STARTED

How to Use this Discussion Guide	5
What Is a Q Place?	6
Q Place Guidelines	6
Q Place Discussion Tips	7
Tools for Studying the Bible in a Q Place	7
When You Are the Question-Asker	8

1 & 2 Peter: Stand Firm

Introduction to 1 Peter	9
1. 1 Peter	
Overview: Encouragement	11
2. 1 Peter 1	
Motivation and Hope	17
3. 1 Peter 2	
Living and Working in the World	23
4. 1 Peter 3	
Getting Along with One Another	31
5. 1 Peter 4	
Enduring Suffering	39
6. 1 Peter 5	
Keeping Perspective	45
7. Review of 1 Peter	51
Introduction to 2 Peter	55
8. 2 Peter 1	
Growing Up Spiritually	57
9. 2 Peter 2	
Detecting False Teachers	63
10. 2 Peter 3	
Handling Scoffers	69
11. Review of 2 Peter	77

1

1 Peter

— Overview: Encouragement

How do you react when you receive a long, thoughtful message from a wise mentor or trusted friend? Peter's letter was probably read aloud to each group of Christians who received it. Try to experience the entire letter as its first readers did by having your group take turns reading it out loud. Listen carefully for the major themes or ideas of the letter.

Select different readers for each of the following sections:

1:1-12

1:13-25

2:1-10

2:11-25

3:1-12

3:13-22

4:1-11

4:12-19

5:1-14

1. What are the themes or major ideas of this letter?

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2

2. How does the author of this letter describe himself (verse 1), and how does he describe the people to whom he is writing (verses 1-2)?

What identity, destiny, loyalty, and meaning in life can they find?

*Note: To understand the phrase **sprinkled with his blood**, it may be helpful to understand that in the Old Testament, sprinkling with blood was a symbol of cleansing (Leviticus 14:1-7), a sign of being set apart for the service of God (Exodus 29:19-21), and a sign of the covenant between the people of Israel and God, cleansing their past sin and promising their future obedience to God (Exodus 24:1-8).*

3. Compare Peter's introduction of himself and his readers with the way you might introduce yourself to others.
4. In verse 2, what relationship does each person of the Trinity of God have to every Christian, **God's elect**?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

5. Peter reminds those receiving this letter of the benefits God has given them. What are these benefits and how durable are they?

6. Using only verses 3-5, how would you explain salvation to someone?

7. What perspective does Peter want his readers to have regarding their present troubles?

8. How can understanding the realities of the past, present, and future as explained in verses 3-9 help you keep a Christian perspective on difficulties in your own life?

9. What various trials and testing do Christians suffer today?

10. According to verses 3-9, what relationship can you have with Jesus Christ?

What will the result be?

11. What difference does it make as you face the challenges of daily life to know that you are ***receiving the end result of your faith***?

Read 1 Peter 1:10-12

12. What did the Old Testament prophets say ***concerning this salvation***?

What did they know, and what did they not know when they spoke?

13. What is *the gospel*? How did Peter's audience hear about it? How did you learn about it?

14. How does this passage influence your attitude toward the Old Testament?

SUMMARY

1. Trace the roles and interrelationships of the Trinity (God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit) in this passage.

2. First Peter 1:1-12 discusses what is *lasting* and what is *temporary*. What could you use from this section to encourage Christians who live in danger of prison or death because of their faith?

PRAYER

God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for preparing and revealing our salvation in Jesus Christ. We praise you for giving us spiritual birth into a living hope through his resurrection from the dead. Thank you for an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. Help us to hold on to the truth that you use the trials in our lives to show that our faith in you is genuine. We want our lives to bring praise, glory, and honor to Jesus Christ. Amen.