

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 1:1-9

1. What qualified Peter to be an apostle? What exactly was an apostle, anyway? (1)
2. In what three ways does God describe believers? (1) Explain or describe each way:
3. What three words or phrases qualify our election in verse 2? Explain how each word or phrase relates to our election:
4. What has God done for us according to His abundant mercy? What does Christ's resurrection have to do with this work of God? (3)
5. How does God describe the believer's inheritance? Where is it now? (4)
6. How secure is our inheritance? Why? (5)
7. In what do Christians greatly rejoice? (6)
8. What benefits can come out of enduring grievous trials? What form may these trials take? (6-7) See 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; James 1:2-8; and Romans 5:3-5
9. Though we haven't seen Jesus, how does God want us to respond to Him? (8)
10. What will we be receiving as the end or goal of our faith?
11. SO WHAT? How could you use this passage to encourage someone going through a severe trial?

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 1:10-21

1. What did the Old Testament prophets carefully investigate? Can you think of specific passages in the Old Testament that prophets might have searched diligently? (10-11)
2. What does this description of the prophets (10-11) tell you about their attitude toward God's Word and their approach to interpreting the Bible?
3. What was revealed to the Old Testament prophets concerning their ministry? (12)
4. In view of the passion of the prophets for understanding and the fact that angels long to look into these things, why are so many believers today so blasé about their faith?
5. How does verse 13 help answer the question of #4? What exactly does God mean in these three exhortations in this verse?
6. As obedient children, what three admonitions are given to Christians? (14-17)
7. Check out Leviticus 11:44-45, 18:30, and 19:2. What do they teach you about holiness?
8. What three reasons are given to obey these admonitions? (14-19)
9. From what kind of life were you redeemed?
10. Why does Peter refer to Christ's redeeming work as a "lamb"?
11. What four things are said about Christ's redeeming work in verses 20-21?
12. SO WHAT? How do the truths of this passage motivate us to pursue holiness?

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 1:22-2:3

1. Believers must be committed to loving one another. What two reasons does Peter give us in verse 22? How does he qualify or describe how we are to love one another? How does this differ from the world's buzz about loving everybody? Find at least three cross references about the believers' agape love for one another.
2. What does God's Word bring about in us according to vs. 23? How does Peter describe God's Word?
3. How does Peter contrast the flesh and the Word of God in vss. 24-25?
4. Why is Peter emphasizing the power of God's Word in this section (vss. 22-25)?
5. Chapter 2:1 gives us a list of enemies of our spiritual growth. List them and explain them:
6. How should we long for the Word if we want to grow spiritually? Why do you think Peter used this illustration? (2)
7. How does Peter describe the Word in vs. 2?
8. What will a vigorous diet of God's Word do for us according to vs. 2?
9. What should motivate us to desire the Word with such longing? (3)
10. SO WHAT? Are you spiritually healthy or malnourished? Do you have a well-balanced diet of reading, hearing, studying, memorizing, and meditating on God's Word? What needs to change?

A believer should count it a wasted day when he does not learn something new from or is not more deeply enriched by the truth of God's Word.... Scripture is food for the believer's growth and power—and there is no other.... The church cannot operate on truth it is not taught; believers cannot function on principles they have not learned." John MacArthur Recommended Message on CD, *Desiring the Word* by MacArthur.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 2:4-10

1. What kind of stone is used to describe Jesus? How does Peter contrast God's and mankind's attitudes toward this stone? (4)
2. How are believers described in vs. 5a? And what is happening to them as they come to Jesus? Is the verb "built" active or passive? What does this say about how we become part of this house? (5)
3. What is the nature of this house and how are we to function as we are made a part of it? What is especially encouraging about the truths in this verse? (5)
4. What is Jesus to those who believe in Him? What is the significance of Christ being the "cornerstone?" (6-7)
5. What is Jesus to those who do not believe? Why do so many stumble over Jesus? (7-8)
6. In contrast to those who stumble over Christ, how does Peter describe true believers in vs. 9? What is the significance of each description:
7. What will we be proclaiming about God as He calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light? How, when, and where should we be doing this?
8. What is now true of us that didn't use to be true of us? What Old Testament passage is Peter thinking of as he writes this verse?
9. SO WHAT? Looking back over this passage, jot down all the blessings of God's mercy to you for which you should praise God:

## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 2:11-20**

1. In what sense are we “aliens” and “strangers”? (11)
2. See Galatians 5:19-21. What happens to people who practice the lusts of the flesh rather than abstain from them? (11)
3. Why is it important to keep your behavior excellent among non believers? (12)
4. What is meant by the “day of visitation”? (12)
5. Are there any exceptions to the command to submit yourself to every human institution? What else are we commanded to do regarding our government and those in authority? (13)
6. What does the Bible say is the purpose of government? (14)
7. What is the ignorance that right behavior will silence? (15)
8. In what way are we free men and what is the freedom that we have? (16)
9. Who is the brotherhood? What is the distinction between “honoring” all people and “loving” the brotherhood? (17)
10. How would the exhortation for slaves to submit to their masters be applicable today? (18)
11. How is God’s call for us to patiently endure suffering for righteousness different from the “rights” based philosophy of modern society? (19-20)
12. SO WHAT? How should the command for us to submit to those in authority and patiently endure suffering shape our view of God’s sovereignty?

## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 2:21-25**

1. What does being “called” signify? (21)
2. In what way was Christ’s suffering an example for us to follow? In what way was it unique to Christ only? (21, 24)
3. See Isaiah 53. How many prophecies were fulfilled in verses 22-25?
4. How did Christ entrust Himself to God? How is that an example for us? (23a)
5. What gives us the confidence to entrust ourselves to God in unjust situations? Give several examples. (23b)
6. Why did Christ bear our sins? Do we now have any responsibilities to Christ? (24a)
7. How are we “healed”? What type of healing is it that we receive? (24b)
8. What is the difference between a Shepherd and a Guardian? (25)
9. If God is the Guardian of our souls, what does that tell us about the nature of our salvation? (25)
10. SO WHAT? How should our calling to follow Christ’s example change our perspective on suffering and trusting God?

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 3:1-12

1. How is God's call for wives to be submissive, chaste and respectful different from modern society's view of women? (1-2)
2. How can such behavior win over a disobedient (i.e. unsaved, see vs 1:2, 2:8) husband? (1-2)
3. Why is inward beauty and character more important than outward adornment? How is this different from the way society portrays women? (3-5)
4. Why might being submissive to her husband cause a wife to be frightened? (6)
5. What does it mean for husbands to live with their wives in an understanding way? (7a)
6. Although Peter describes wives as "weaker vessels", how else does he describe them? Why is this an important point to make? Gal 3:28 (7b)
7. What are several practical ways a husband may show honor to his wife? How does this affect his prayer life? (7c)
8. Give a practical definition of each of the qualities listed in vss. 8-9.
9. For what purpose have we been called? What is the blessing we inherit? (9)
10. What is the instruction for one who desires life, love, and good days? How is this applicable to the preceding verses regarding our relationships? (10-12) See also Psalm 34:12-16.
11. SO WHAT? How does this entire passage illustrate what God means in 2:21 about following in Christ's steps?

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 3:13-22

1. How does the world regard people in general who are outwardly doing good deeds? How is this sometimes different when the person is a Christian? Why? (13)
2. How are we blessed through suffering (Matt 5:10-12)? Why should we not fear or be troubled? (14)
3. What does sanctifying Christ as Lord in your heart mean? (15a)
4. What does being ready to make a defense mean? How do we make ourselves ready? With what attitudes are we to bring this defense to those who ask? (15b)
5. Why is it important to keep a good conscience in case we are slandered? How can we keep a good conscience? How might that put the slanderers to shame? (16)
6. Why is it better to suffer for doing what is right? What are some ways American believers are suffering for doing what is right? (17)
7. What is significant about Christ dying once for all? How does this verse teach the doctrine of substitutionary atonement? What is the result or purpose of Christ's death for us? (18)
8. Who are the "spirits now in prison"? What did Christ proclaim to them? (19)
9. How were the spirits in prison disobedient? (Gen 6:1-4) What did God do to them? (Jude 6) (20)
10. What type of baptism saves? Through what does it save? (21)
11. Where is Christ now? What was made subject to Him? (Phil 2:9-11) (22)
12. SO WHAT? How should Christ's victory over suffering and death, and ultimate sovereignty, motivate and comfort us if we suffer unjustly as well?



## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 4:1-11**

1. For what purpose are we to arm ourselves? How do we do that? (1)
2. How are we to live the rest of our lives? How will this be different from the world around us? (2-3)
3. Why are lost people “surprised” that you don’t do as they do? How do they often respond? Any current examples? (4)
4. What is meant by God being the judge of the living and the dead? Who are the dead being judged and when? (5-6)
5. What does being of “sober spirit” mean? How does this affect prayer? (7)
6. What should characterize our love? In what ways does love cover sins? (8)
7. In what way can we be “hospitable”? Why is it important to do so without complaint? (9)
8. Outline in three or four points what verse 10 says about spiritual gifts:
9. Identify the two major categories of spiritual gifts in verse 11. What is the ultimate purpose of all of our service to God?
10. SO WHAT? We have been given instruction on suffering and service because the “end of all things is near” (7). Why do we usually live as if we don’t believe it’s true. If we really believe it is true, how will that belief affect our attitudes and service?

## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 4:12-19**

1. Why should we not be surprised when persecution comes? John 15:18-21 (12)
2. Why should we rejoice when enduring these trials? Is this really possible? (13)
3. What is our natural reaction to being reviled? But really, how are we blessed when being reviled? Luke 6:22-23 (14)
4. Why is it important that we not suffer for doing wrong? (15)
5. Why does Peter also mention people who are troublesome meddlers in addition to criminals? Why is that something Christians are to avoid? See 1 Thes 4:11, 2 Thes 3:11-12 (15)
6. Why should we not be ashamed for suffering for Christ's sake? Does that imply we should be ashamed if we suffer for wrong doing or causing trouble? (16)
7. What is meant by judgment beginning with the household of God? What type of judgment is it? 1 Cor 11:32 (17)
8. What does it mean that the righteous are saved with difficulty? (18)
9. Why is it God's will for us to suffer? What are we to do in response? (19)
10. SO WHAT? What part of the Christian life does suffering play according to this passage? Do you really believe that? Be honest: How do you handle difficult trials?

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 5:1-5

1. Who are the elders Peter is addressing? Why is it important to note the term elders is always found in plural form when in reference to ministry? (1) Where else in the New Testament do we read about church elders?
2. What is the glory that is to be revealed? (1)
3. List several examples of why elders are compared to a shepherd and members are compared to sheep. (2)
4. Why must the shepherd's motives be pure? Can you think of any examples of shepherds that didn't have pure motives? What happened? (2)
5. In what ways can a shepherd lord it over the flock? (3)
6. List several ways in which a shepherd should be an example to the flock. (3)
7. Who is the Chief Shepherd? (4) Compare this title with John 10:11 and Hebrews 13:20.
8. What is the unfading crown of glory? (4) Find all of Peter's references to glory in this letter. There are ten.
9. Why are younger men commanded to be subject to their elders? Who are their elders? Is this specifically addressing young men only? (5)
10. How do believers clothe themselves with humility? What reason does Peter give for practicing humility? (5)
11. SO WHAT? Knowing the charge given the elders, what then is the responsibility of the members of the flock toward them? List several ways in which the members can fulfill their responsibility.

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FOR 1 PETER 5:6-14

1. What is “the mighty hand of God” in this context? How do we humble ourselves under it? What does God promise those who do? (6)
2. How do you cast your anxiety on Christ? Why should we? Ps 55:22 (7)
3. What does it mean to be of sober spirit and on the alert? (8)
4. Why is Satan compared to a roaring lion? In what ways does he “devour” people? (8)
5. How do we resist the devil? (9)
6. List three encouraging points from verse 10 in full sentences. (10)
7. In what ways does Christ have dominion? (11)
8. What is the true grace of God Peter is talking about? (12)
9. Who is “she” and what is “Babylon”? Why is that analogy used? (13)
10. Who is Mark? (13)
11. What kind of peace is Peter speaking about? (14)
12. SO WHAT? In a sentence or two, what have you learned from 1 Peter about our:  
  
Salvation (1-2:12)?  
  
Submission (2:13-3:12)?  
  
Suffering (3:13-5:14)?