



Sojourner:

Suffer Well Submit Humbly Stand Firm

1 & 2 PETER

TEACHER GUIDE

*"After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace,
who called you to His eternal glory in Christ,
will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you."*

– 1 PETER 5:10

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TEACHER GUIDE by KERRY NENN

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Getting the Most Out of This Guide

Suffer Well. Submit Humbly. Stand Firm.

Suffering. Submitting. Standing. Sounds fun, right?

These three themes of 1 & 2 Peter might sound more challenging than enjoyable. The truth is, they are a challenge. Doing these three things usually doesn't come easy. That's what makes studying Peter's letters so important. We need God's Word to tell us how to suffer well, submit humbly, and stand firm.

Whether you're reading this as a participant or teacher, you're about to discover what it means to live out these three concepts. Of course, you won't learn it all in one day. In fact — like everyone else — you'll probably spend the rest of your life learning to apply these truths to your life.

This study will give you a solid foundation to get started.

Companion Book

This teacher guide is designed as a companion book to the study *Sojourner: Suffer Well, Submit Humbly, Stand Firm. 1 & 2 Peter* by Barb Wilson. The participant workbook includes reflection, research, and discussion questions that walk individuals through 1 & 2 Peter and related scriptures. This teacher guide offers additional content to supplement the workbook. Leaders can use this material to teach the main points of each lesson to a Bible study group. The content can work for groups of all sizes, so don't worry if you only have three group members or are teaching to a room of 300. Whatever your setting, the goal of this guide is the same: to come alongside you in your journey through 1 & 2 Peter.

Note: This is not meant to be an answer key for the workbook. Rather, the notes included here are to provide additional insight that is not directly covered by the questions in the participant book. Teachers, you don't get a pass — you'll need to complete the questions in the lessons, just as participants do! The material here will give you “bonus content” that you can share with your study group members. It is designed to help guide your teaching and discussion times.

Ideally, each teaching time will be followed by Small Group time, when participants can gather in groups of 6-10 to discuss questions, review what impacted them the most from the week's study, and spend time in prayer together.

Format

Each chapter in the teacher guide corresponds to a lesson in the workbook. In these chapters, you'll find six types of content. Feel free to use what you find most helpful, what works best in your setting, and what fits well with your teaching style and gifts.

- **Teaching Tools:** At the beginning of each lesson, you'll find a list of the teaching tools recommended for that lesson. These will be used for reference during the teaching, for handouts, or for illustrations.
- **Teaching Points:** Each lesson includes points you may want to highlight during your teaching time. You'll find passage summaries, language clarifications, cross-references to other relevant scriptures, and insights from various Bible commentaries and Christian authors.
Quotes in the participant workbook appendix also make great teaching points, so don't miss those!
- ? **Workbook Questions:** Some teaching points relate directly to specific questions in the participant workbook. The question number is indicated for each of these points.
- **Key Takeaways:** These are in the form of personal application, summaries, or quotes that emphasize core truths of a specific portion of scripture. Use these to provide focus for your lesson. Many of these offer concise thoughts that participants can quickly jot down in their notes during the teaching time.
- ❖ **Illustrations:** For some lessons, illustrations are suggested that can give your lectures greater impact. Incorporating these visuals into your teaching time can help participants grasp biblical concepts and understand how to apply them to their lives.
- 👉 **Handouts:** These pages offer a more in-depth look into a specific aspect of the study. They are designed to be copied and distributed to each participant. These are great tools to: review during the teaching time, discuss during Small Group time, or use for reflection during personal study time throughout the week.

Are you ready, sojourner?

If not, that's ok. Neither was Peter. As you'll see throughout this study, Peter was not a perfect disciple. By teaching this study, you're following in his footsteps to "Feed my sheep," and, like Peter, you may also stumble. Fortunately, the goal isn't perfection. The point of this study is to dig deep into God's Word to know Him more, love Him more, and bring Him glory.

With that in mind, let's get started with prayer:

Father, thank you for the opportunity to study your Word and share its powerful, life-giving truths with others. Please bless this study of 1 & 2 Peter. Guide this teacher with wisdom and discernment. Prepare the hearts and minds of those completing the study to hear and receive your message. Use this study to draw people to you and bring you glory, today and forever.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Now you're ready.

Lesson 1: Life of Peter, Part One

Teaching Tools

- Map of Israel in New Testament times – Reference during teaching – See page 243
- Devotional *In His Presence* by Charles Stanley – Highlight specific devotionals note
- ✎ Life of Peter timeline – Previous resource for participants’ reference
- ❖ Cell phone

Peter: The Fisherman

- **Peter’s Name**
 - Derived from the Greek *petros*, meaning “rock.”
 - The name occurs 159 times in the NT.
 - Simon was his personal name; Peter was given to him by Jesus (Matt. 16:18).
 - Though Peter is dominant, there are three other names: the Hebrew Simeon (Acts 15:14), Simon, and Cephas (Aramaic for rock), used mostly by Paul (1 Cor. 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5; Gal. 1:18; 2:9, 11, 14) and one other time (John 1:42).
 - Peter’s original name was apparently the Hebrew Simeon (Acts 15:14; 2 Pet. 1:1). Perhaps, like many Jews, he also adopted the name Simon, usual in the NT, as a Greek name of similar sound.
- **Name change:** When Jesus first saw Simon, the son of John, He immediately changed his name. Addressing him, Jesus said: “You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is translated Peter).”

When Jesus saw Peter, He saw him for what he would become—*Cephas*, which is Aramaic for “stone.” Peter would become a “stone” in the building of Christ’s church (Matt. 16:16–18).

Throughout his days with Jesus, it appears that Simon was anything but a stone, but after Christ’s resurrection and Pentecost, Simon Peter was strengthened and fortified. He became a pillar and a foundation stone in the building of the first century church (Gal. 2:9; Eph. 2:20).

- **Key Takeaway:** *Jesus not only sees what is in us, He sees what we can be through God’s power and transformation.*¹⁴

- **Peter’s Family**
 - Peter’s father’s name was Jonah, and Peter was called Barjona (Aramaic for “son of Jona,” Matt. 16:17) or son of John (Greek for Barjona, Luke 1:42).

¹⁴ Carpenter, E. E., & Comfort, P. W. (2000). In [*Holman treasury of key Bible words: 200 Greek and 200 Hebrew words defined and explained*](#) (p. 362). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

- Peter and his brother Andrew came from Bethsaida (John 1:44) and were Galilean fishermen (Mark 1:16; Luke 5:2–3; John 21:3)
- Peter and Andrew were associated with John the Baptist prior to becoming disciples of Jesus (John 1:40).¹⁵
- Peter was married (Mark 1:30) In his missionary days, his wife accompanied him (1 Cor. 9:5).

➤ **Peter's Early Background**

- The fourth Gospel gives BETH-SAIDA, just inside Gaulanitis, and a largely Greek city, as his place of origin (Jn. 1:44), but he also had a home in Capernaum in Galilee (Mk. 1:21ff.). Both places were at the lakeside, where he worked as a fisherman, and in both there would be abundant contact with Gentiles.
- Peter lived in Capernaum (Mark 1:21–31), the village that Jesus chose to be his home after he was rejected at Nazareth (Matt 4:13).
- Since Capernaum was only about a day's journey from Nazareth, it is entirely possible that Jesus knew Zebedee, his sons James and John, and their friends Peter and Andrew for many years before Jesus called them to be his disciples. Jesus and Peter may have played together when they were boys.
- Simon spoke Aramaic with a strong N-country accent (Mk. 14:70)
- It is likely that he was affected by John the Baptist's movement (*cf.* Acts 1:22): his brother Andrew was a disciple of John (Jn. 1:39f.).¹⁶
- He was a fishing partner with Zebedee and his sons James and John (Luke 5:10). There is some evidence that Zebedee's wife Salome was Jesus' aunt.
- He had a very successful fishing business, as is witnessed by the fact that he owned his own boat (Luke 5:3). A fishing boat was an extremely expensive item, and few Galilean fishermen could afford to own one.

➤ **Peter's Call**

The Fourth Gospel describes a period of Christ's activity before the commencement of the Galilean ministry, and this may be Peter's first introduction to him, by Andrew (Jn. 1:41). This makes the response to the subsequent call by the lakeside (Mk. 1:16f.) more understandable. The call to the intimate band of the Twelve followed (Mk. 3:16ff.).

John 1:35–42 is not an institutional scene which connotes an official "call." Rather, it describes the first encounter with Jesus and realization regarding his significance.¹⁷

It seems most likely that the disciples left their businesses to follow Christ, but kept the tools of their trade and returned to them when necessary (Jn 21; Paul in Acts). They certainly did

¹⁵ Cox, S. L. (2003). [Peter](#). In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen, & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (p. 1281). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

¹⁶ Walls, A. F. (1996). [Peter](#). In D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman (Eds.), *New Bible dictionary* (3rd ed., p. 905). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

¹⁷ Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). [Peter, The Apostle](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 1661). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

not abandon their families, as evidenced by Peter, who returned to his home at the end of each tour.

➤ **Peter's Prominence**

It is apparent that from the beginning Peter was the foremost of the apostles.

- He often spoke for the group.
- He was the first mentioned in most passages that name disciples, and he was the first in the inner circle - Only Peter, James, and John were invited to witness the raising of Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:37), and only they were with Jesus at the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28) and in the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:33).
- Jesus goes to Peter's house in Capernaum.
- It was from Peter's boat that Jesus preached to the crowd on the shore.
- It was to Peter that Jesus entrusted "the keys of the kingdom."
- Peter was the first to come to Jesus' defense at his arrest.
- Peter gathered the disciples together again when they fled.
- Peter was one of the first witnesses of the Resurrection.
- It was Peter whom Jesus commanded "Feed my sheep."

➤ **Peter's Personality**

- Impulsive
- Rash
- Outspoken
- Enthusiastic
- Imperfect

? **Workbook #7 - Luke 5:1-11**

Introduce with Discussion/Question/Interaction: How do you picture Peter's calling? Do you imagine Jesus, a stranger, walking up to these fishermen and saying, "Leave everything. Follow me." — and they did? If we take a closer look at this passage, we'll see that's not exactly how it happened.

Calling: The incident recorded here is obviously not the first time Jesus had been in contact with the men whom He called to be His disciples. Luke already had stated that Jesus had healed Simon's mother-in-law, which denotes previous contact with Simon and Andrew.

This seems to be **at least the third time Jesus had contact with these men**. In John 1:41 Andrew told Peter that he had found the Messiah. Apparently, the men at first did not follow Jesus on a "full-time" basis, for in Mark 1:16–20 (also Matt. 4:18–22) Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Mark recorded that that call was before Jesus entered the synagogue in Capernaum and healed a man who was demon-possessed. It is no wonder Peter invited Jesus home after the synagogue incident.

Now, sometime later, Peter and the others were still fishermen. It was at this point, now that Jesus had established His authority (Luke 4:31–44), that He called these men to full-time discipleship.¹⁸

➡ *Key Takeaway: Being a Christian involves following Jesus and leaving everything (Luke 5:11).*¹⁹

? Workbook #9 - Miraculous catch:

- Bivin identifies the nets being used as “trammel nets”—made of linen, visible to fish during the day and so used at night.
- Jesus’ instructions to Peter seem absurd. Not only has a night’s work by people who fish by profession produced nothing, but the nets used are for night fishing only.
- So many fish were caught that the nets were about to break, two boats were required, and even they were about to sink.²⁰
- “From now on” – Jesus’ phrase emphasizes the disciples’ break with the past. Having returned to the shore, they leave the boats and follow Jesus.

➡ *Key Takeaways:*

- *God probably won’t lead you in the way you think He will.*
 - *His plans will always confound your understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6)*
 - *What Jesus asked the disciples to do made no sense from Peter’s human perspective*
 - *Do as He says even when His direction seems illogical, because when you do things His way, you’ll get His results.*
- (Charles Stanley – *In His Presence* – Sept 5 devotional)

? Workbook #16 – Jesus walks on the water: Jesus knowingly sends us into “bad weather” where we can learn things about Him that we can only learn in a storm. Our weakness is revealed and we experience growth in storms.

➡ *Key Takeaways:*

- *Keep your eyes on the Lord, not the storm.*
- *Jesus hears and answers cries for help.*
- *Trust God and worship Him for what He’s doing and will do.*

Jesus’ disciples were twice caught by night in bad weather on the Sea of Galilee, and both times they were there at the command of Jesus. (J.I. Packer)

¹⁸ Martin, J. A. (1985). [Luke](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 216). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹⁹ Stein, R. H. (1992). [Luke](#) (Vol. 24, p. 171). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

²⁰ Green, J. B. (1997). [The Gospel of Luke](#) (p. 232). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.