

Book of 1 Peter

1. 1 Peter 1:1-21

1) Observation: Who does 1 Peter express as the recipients of the letter? (1:1, 2:11)

2) Interpretation: Peter describes the "identity of the saints and the church" as "those who are chosen exiles scattered abroad" (1:1). When summarizing the meaning behind "chosen, exiles, scattered," what does each term signify?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): God chose and called the small ethnic group of "Hebrews" on the outskirts and made them "God's people, Israel." When did you experience God's choosing and calling?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Peter affirms that the identity of the church and saints, expressed through "chosen, exiles, scattered," is made possible through the collective ministry of "God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus" (1:2). How is the collective ministry of "God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus" experienced in your life?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Peter emphasizes that the church and the saints' lives should not end with "chosen" in this world but continue with "exiles" and "scattered." This requests the church and the saints not to be confined within the church but to move towards the world. What efforts are you making to go beyond the faith confined within the church and become a faith that moves toward the world?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Peter explains "salvation" as being "born again" (1:3), the salvation and living hope to be received in the future (1:4, 7), and the present experience of protection, salvation, trials, and training (1:5-9). This reveals that the salvation experienced by the saints extends beyond "going to heaven after death" and connects to the "past, present, and future." As someone who has received salvation, how are you living the "present"?

4) Real Life Today: Peter uses the metaphor of the "exodus" to illustrate the entire process of salvation (1:13-21). While hoping to complete this entire journey well, he makes three requests: "set your hope fully on the grace" (1:13), "be holy" (1:14-16), and "conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile" (1:17-21). Are you following Peter's three requests well? What is the most challenging aspect for you?

2. 1 Peter 1:2-2:10

1) Observation: What does Peter present as the key for the church to become a community of love and for the saints to overcome the world? (1:22-24)

2) Interpretation: Peter refers to the church and the saints as "the word of God that was proclaimed to them" (1:25), and in The Message translation, it is rendered as "the Word that

implanted the life in you." Has the "Word" been implanted in you? Is that Word growing and bearing fruit within you?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Peter affirms that Jesus was "rejected by humans but chosen by God" (2:4), confirming that the reality faced by the church and the saints is the reality of the rejected Jesus. Do you reflect the reality of being chosen by God in the face of the realities you encounter? Why do you think so?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Peter describes the identity of the saints in four ways (a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's people) (2:9). Since encountering God, which aspect among these four have become more meaningful to you?

3.3(God Refinding Us): The Hebrew term "goy" used for "holy nation" refers to a "tribe sharing the same language, customs, culture, and traditions." It signifies the emergence of an entirely new tribe that shares a culture, values, and a way of life completely different from this world—the kingdom of God. To become a "holy nation," what values and way of life from the kingdom of God do you need?

3.4(God Inspiring US): In quoting Exodus 19:5 to explain the identity of the saints, Peter refers to God's people as "a treasured possession (Segular) of God." How do you experience God protecting and guiding you as His treasured possession in your daily life?

4) Real Life Today: Peter emphasizes that the saints are "a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices" (2:5) through Jesus Christ for the world, not solely for their benefit. This implies that being a saint and the church means existing on this earth for the sake of the world or others, not only for self-interest. To fulfill the mission of being a "(for the world) holy priesthood," what efforts are you and your church making?

3. 1 Peter 2:11-25

1) Observation: Whose example does Peter present as the model that saints living as strangers and exiles in this world should follow? (2:21-25)

2) Interpretation: Peter instructs, "Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles" (2:12). Even though facing criticism, discomfort, and loss from Rome and the world, the church and the saints are urged to "conduct themselves honorably." What does "honorable conduct" mean in this context?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Peter emphasizes the purpose for which God has called the saints and the church (2:9-10) and instructs them to "conduct themselves honorably among the Gentiles" (2:12). When did you become certain of God's calling for you as a saint and as part of the church?

3.2(God Meeting Us): In the phrase, "conduct yourselves honorably, so that when they malign you" (2:12) and "by doing good you should silence the ignorance of foolish people" (2:15), there is instruction on how those who have encountered God should live. The encounter with God motivates and empowers us to live a life of goodness, even in the face of loss and discomfort. When did you have such an encounter?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Peter states, "For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly" (2:20). He acknowledges that living a life of goodness often leads to suffering instead of praise and success. However, such a life is considered beautiful in the sight of God. What efforts are you making to live a life that is "beautiful in the sight of God"? What is the most challenging aspect for you?

3.4(God Inspiring US): As an answer to how saints should live in the world, Peter presents Jesus Christ as the "example" (2:21-25). The Greek word for "example" used here is "hypogrammos," which means "to copy diligently from below," referring to a primer that consists of dotted lines for beginners to practice tracing each letter. Have you encountered someone who lives a life diligently "copying" Jesus Christ as an example? How would you describe your own life?

4) Real Life Today: While we confess and give thanks for Jesus Christ's suffering and death as "the forgiveness of my sins and for salvation," acknowledging the "way of the cross" as a path we should follow seems unfamiliar. To follow the path of Jesus Christ, the "example," what do you need to commit to or let go of?

4. 1 Peter 3:1-22

1) Observation: In chapter 3, Peter provides spiritual exhortations to saints and the church living in the world. What expression can be considered the overall theme of 1 Peter? (3:16-17)

2) Interpretation: While explaining how saints and the church should live in the world, Peter uses the example of "wives and husbands" and repeatedly states, "likewise" (3:1, 7). What does the phrase "likewise" imply in referring back to what has already been mentioned? (Refer to 2:21-25).

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Baptism is an opportunity to be "born again" and commit to restoring a "good conscience" and walk the path of Jesus Christ's "way of the cross" (3:21). Translating "responding to God" as "seeking God" (Korean Revised Version) can also be understood in this context. When you were baptized, did you experience God seeking you? After being baptized, what spiritual practices do you engage in to draw near to God?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Peter advises husbands to "live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor" (3:7). Considering husbands and wives as partners rather than in a hierarchical

relationship would have been radical at that time. As someone who believes in Jesus, how do you make efforts to respect others and live as a presence that coexists with those around you?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Peter provides detailed explanations on "how to be united within the church" (3:8), "how to live in the world outside the church" (3:9), "the life that God expects" (3:10-11), and "why we should live that way" (3:12). How does God expect you to live in terms of "within the church" and "in the world outside the church"? List three items for each case.

3.4(God Inspiring US): Peter emphasizes the things that saints and the church should practice in their relationship with the world: "doing good" (3:13), "being prepared to make a defense" (3:15), "gentleness and respect" (3:16), "a good conscience and good conduct" (3:17). The "gentleness" in verse 16 refers to the attitude towards the world and neighbors, and "fearful heart" refers to the attitude towards God. In what ways are you and your church practicing Peter's exhortations?

4) Real Life Today: In contrasting "husbands who do not obey the word" and "wives who do not speak" (3:1), Peter emphasizes that leading faithless husbands to the path of salvation is through the "gospel seen with the eyes" rather than the "gospel heard with the ears." Following this, he speaks about "respectful and pure conduct, gentle and quiet spirit, adorning the hidden person" (3:2-4) for the same reason. Are you living a life that proclaims the "gospel seen with the eyes" rather than the "gospel heard with the ears"? Provide an example to illustrate.

5. 1 Peter 4:1-5:14

1) Observation: What situation does Peter describe that the saints and the church will encounter in the "world"? (Reference: 4:1, 4, 12-14, 19)

2) Interpretation: Peter explains the relationship between "suffering, sin, and the will of God" by connecting it to the event of Jesus Christ's crucifixion (4:1-3). He then exhorts, "arm yourselves with the same way of thinking" (4:1). What does Peter mean by "the same way of thinking"? (Reference: Hebrews 12:2)

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Peter states that the world will view the saints and the church as "strange and foreign" and eventually even subject them to "slander" (4:4). When you meet God and come to believe in Jesus, it implies that you become a "strange and foreign" presence in the eyes of the people in the world. Have you ever experienced such a situation?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Peter provides four instructions on how the church can overcome the world (4:7, 8, 9, 10-11). Summarize these four instructions in one word each. As someone who has encountered Jesus, how well do you practice these four aspects?

3.3(God Refinding Us): One of the exhortations for saints and the church to overcome the world is to "love one another deeply" (4:8). The Greek word "ektenes" translated as "deeply" carries

the meaning of going beyond what is considered possible or expected. It can be translated as "earnestly," "deeply," or "to the utmost." Are you living a life of "deep" love?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Peter mentions that saints and the church should consider it natural to experience suffering and persecution: "sharing Christ's sufferings" (4:13), "being insulted in the name of Christ" (4:14), "suffering as a Christian" (4:16), and "suffering according to God's will" (4:19). Even in such situations, he advises not to be surprised (4:12), to rejoice (4:13), to consider it a blessing (4:14), and to bring glory to God without shame (4:16). In your daily life, what kind of suffering and persecution do you experience as a "Christian"? How do you react in those situations?

4) Real Life Today: While exhorting the saints and the church on how to behave in the world, Peter provides three instructions: "humble yourselves," "cast all your anxieties on God," and "be sober-minded, be watchful" (4:6-8). How do you and your church practice these three aspects of "humility, casting anxieties on God, and standing firm"?