

# 1 Peter and 2 Peter

Inductive Bible Study Guide



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## Bible Study Schedule for 1 Peter and 2 Peter

Write in your  
meeting dates:

_____	Week 1	Intro week
_____	Week 2	Discuss Overview of 1 & 2 Peter
_____	Week 3	Discuss 1 Peter 1
_____	Week 4	Discuss 1 Peter 2
_____	Week 5	Discuss 1 Peter 3
_____	Week 6	Discuss 1 Peter 4
_____	Week 7	Discuss 1 Peter 5
_____	Week 8	Discuss 2 Peter 1
_____	Week 9	Discuss 2 Peter 2
_____	Week 10	Discuss 2 Peter 3
_____	Week 11	Discuss Summaries

### IMPORTANT:

This is a PREPARATION study.

After your Week 1 meeting, do your preparation work for Week 2, which is an overview of both books. At the Week 2 meeting, you will discuss together what each of you discovered from the book/chapter.

Each week, you will **prep ahead of time** for your discussion when you get together.

**Get to know each other [20-30 minutes]**

Share the basic self-intro and maybe 2 fun facts.

What do you hope to get out of this Bible study?

When is the very first time you had an awareness of God?

What is something fun and social that you hope the group can do together sometime?

**Introduction to this Bible study. [20 minutes]**

(1) What has your experience been with Bible study?

(2) This is a “prep” study. Plan to do about an hour of prep on your own during the week before you meet for your Bible study discussion. You might like doing your whole hour prep at once, or you might like splitting it into 2 or 3 shorter times. Experiment and see what works.

The reason you should do prep is to produce the most growth in your life. This study is designed to set you on a path of life-long study and application of God’s Word. God promises growth and blessing as you apply His Word to your life! (Psalm 1, John 15:7)

(3) This is an “inductive” study. Here’s what that means. Sometimes we come to the Bible with a specific question about prayer or heaven or something. This sort of “asking” perspective is one great way to get into the Bible. On the other hand, in inductive Bible study, we approach the Bible with a “listening” perspective. Our goal is to hear and respond to what has been written by the human author and, therefore, by the divine author, God Himself. The inductive method is the most fundamental and irreplaceable approach we can take to God’s Word, since we come as listeners and observers to truly hear and see what God has been saying there. It can also be one of the most exciting ways to interact with the Bible, since we get to have those “aha” moments when we understand what God is saying in His Word, and therefore, saying to us.

The basic approach for inductive Bible study is Whole Book → Section-by-Section → Whole Book. This is the approach we will use in this study, and it is an approach you can use to understand any book of the Bible. Start with the big picture, looking at the whole book. Then, go section by section through the book in more detail. Finally, zoom back out to see how the book fits together.

### **Dip into 1 Peter [30 minutes]**

(1) Together, read out loud through 1 Peter 1-3. If you are good on time, you can read the whole book.

(2) Share initial observations.

Who did Peter write this letter to? What are some of the topics Peter addresses? Is he mostly giving “raw truth” or also application and commands? What is his tone? For example, does he seem matter of fact, joyful, angry, puzzled, etc.

(3) Did anything you just read jump out to you for some reason?

### **Pray for each other [20-30 minutes]**

Share 1 personal struggle where you'd like God's help this week. Leaders, be appropriately vulnerable in sharing one of your current struggles that you need God's help in. If the group is larger than 4 or 5, you might want to split into two groups, or pray in pairs.

Pray for each other.

### **Look ahead [5 min]**

Look ahead at next week's study to know what to prepare on your own during the week. You will be reading 1 and 2 Peter all the way through a few times, as well as writing out your thoughts on the questions given.

*\* This week's prep will probably take more than an hour.*

**(1) Read through 1 and 2 Peter, at least 2x each book.**

Ask God to help you hear what kinds of things He is talking about in these particular books. You may find it helpful to read from more than one translation. Make sure you read through each book in a sitting, at least 2x per book, if possible.

**(2) Note themes and key concepts:**

Notice themes and key concepts often repeated throughout these books. You'll come back to these themes throughout the study, so feel free not to try to make any conclusions at this point. Just begin to jot down key themes and words for now.

1 Peter

2 Peter

### **(3) What is each book about?**

What is your first pass at summarizing the message of each book? In other words, why did Peter write each of these letters? Try to write one to three sentences which capture the main thrust of each letter. Write it as if you are Peter himself, summarizing his own letters using some of his own words.

1 Peter

2 Peter

What I think God is saying to me so far:

A question I'd like to talk over with my study group:

*LEADERS: Encourage everyone to bring a question each week that they want to ask the group. Everyone has something to contribute to the discussion! Try to think of your questions ahead of time.*

Each week, you should **read through the chapter** of the week a few times. If you can, also read through the entire book.

In general, you want to first *observe* what is being said, then be sure you *understand* it, and finally seek to *respond* to what God has said in this passage. The basic pattern is:

Observe → Understand → Respond

Each week, we will also introduce a specific study technique which will enhance your observation and understanding when you read the Bible.

Study technique of the week: **Progression of Ideas**

What is the progression of thought in this chapter? Does the passage build toward a climax or seem to hover around the same points? How does the author make his point? **Break down the passage into several chunks, giving each a brief title phrase.** Ask God to help you see how these chunks are connected so that you can grasp the flow of thought in the passage.

Observations:

What I think God is saying to me at this point:

A question I'd like to talk over with my study group:

Study technique of the week: **Connecting/Transitional Words**

Mark words such as “therefore,” “but,” “and,” first,” “then,” etc. How do these words guide you as you follow the flow of thought through the chapter? Note how the content before the transitional word relate to what’s after it. Make notes on what you learn as you pay attention to these road markers.

Observations:

What I think God is saying to me at this point:

A question I’d like to talk over with my study group:

**Study technique of the week: Word Study**

Pick one key word from this chapter. Look up several cross-references and jot down the range of meanings you see to this word. Blueletterbible.com (or the BLB app) is a helpful tool to find where a particular word appears in the Bible. Pay attention to its immediate context in this week's chapter and try to narrow down its meaning in this particular passage. Does the nuance of meaning for this word seem the same throughout the chapter, or is it slightly different?

Observations:

What I think God is saying to me at this point:

A question I'd like to talk over with my study group:

Study technique of the week: **Mood, Tone and Intent**

Note words that indicate mood & tone, since these can help you grasp the intent of the passage. What does the chapter/ passage “feel” like? Is the “tone of voice” used by the author descriptive, excited, stern, rejoicing...? Is the author mainly instructing, praying, describing, commanding, rebuking, asking, encouraging...? Does the tone change throughout the chapter?

Observations:

What I think God is saying to me at this point:

A question I'd like to talk over with my study group:

Study technique of the week: **Cross-References & Allusions**

Some passages are clearly written to make us think of other passages. The beginning of John calls to mind Genesis 1. Hebrews refers many times to various Old Testament stories. Galatians brings up circumcision, the law and Abraham. Trace down the allusions/quotes to their original counterparts (often in the Old Testament), using a concordance or the cross-references in your Bible. How does reading those other passages help you understand this passage? Does it make you ask new questions about your passage?

Observations:

What I think God is saying to me at this point:

A question I'd like to talk over with my study group:

Study technique of the week: **In Your Own Words**

Pick one of the paragraphs in this chapter and rewrite each sentence in your own words. If you have time, do the same for a second paragraph.

Observations:

What I think God is saying to me at this point:

A question I'd like to talk over with my study group:

Study technique of the week: **Identify the Key Sentences**

This chapter is quite a long, running argument with multiple examples of what Peter is talking about. It is easy to get lost in passages like this. Take some time to identify the 2 or 3 sentences that you see as the backbone of this chapter. Some sentences truly make new statements, as opposed to others which illustrate or reiterate those main points.

Observations:

What I think God is saying to me at this point:

A question I'd like to talk over with my study group:

Study technique of the week: **Prayerful Meditation**

This chapter talks about the return of Christ. That can be something we don't think much about, or perhaps even don't want to think much about. For this week, spend some time honestly praying to God about His plan to send Christ back to earth to bring all things to consummation. Since Jesus will return, without a doubt, as the Scripture says, how should you live today?

Observations:

What I think God is saying to me at this point:

A question I'd like to talk over with my study group:

*Try to wrap up what God has shown you so far. The first 2 questions are optional, but extremely beneficial for your understanding and growth. Definitely make sure you do questions 3 and 4 to wrap up your understanding and your personal response to these books of the Bible.*

(1) OPTIONAL: Revisit a few of the themes and key concepts you have identified in each of these books. What do these books say *about* its key words? What are the messages that these books say about these themes? For example, if you were studying Romans, don't leave with a vague impression that, "this book is talking about faith." Keep wrestling with it until you see that Romans tells us that "faith in Jesus' death and resurrection for us is the means of salvation."

(2) OPTIONAL: Think about where these books fit in the Bible's whole story. Does it explain something that was less clear in another place in Scripture? Does it echo thoughts from somewhere else in the Bible? What key concepts would be less clear if we didn't have this book in the Bible? (For example, does it help explain Jesus' deity, the meaning of the cross, our understanding of the law, how to identify heresy, future issues...?)

(3) What is your understanding of each book in a nutshell? Try to turn your understanding of the book's message into a summary outline, picture, illustration or story.

1 Peter

2 Peter

(4) How is God using each book to impact your life?

1 Peter

2 Peter