

**Forward to study in I & II Peter called:
“Enjoy the Journey”**

Begin with a time of getting to know each other and reconnecting after the summer. Use the first session to introduce the course and encourage women to bring someone new. Hand out the outline and have extra's for those who wish to invite others. Challenge the women to do the scripture reading assignments and the next weeks worksheet and come prepared to share.

In order to encourage shared leadership I divided the session into (1) teaching of biblical background and lessons taught by an experienced leader to the whole group and then (2) small groups of 4-6 for discussion of the worksheets and prayer time together.

The leader should use study guides and helps in her preparation but be well prepared so as to basically use the Bible in the actual teaching session. She should fill out the worksheet and be prepared for questions that might arise.

Here are a few facts about Peter that may be helpful in your study: Jesus called Peter to be his spokesperson for the disciples. John 1:40-44, Mark 3:16-19. Luke 6:12-19, Acts 1:13. He was renamed by Jesus, Simon(Aramaic) and Peter(Greek). Peter had a wife – Matt. 8:14, Mk.1:30, Luke 4:38, 1 Cor 9:5. Native of Bethsaida(Jn. 1:44). He had a home in Capernaum (Mk.1:29). His fishing partners were, James and John. Peter was brave and impulsive. Walked on water at Jesus' invite. He witnessed the transfiguration. Spoke most bravely for Jesus yet betrayed him at the crucifixion. He was one of the first to have an encounter with Jesus following the resurrection. He witnessed many miracles and was later used of God to perform miracles. He spoke boldly and fearlessly after the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Ladies Study in the I & II Peter

Outline for 10 week Bible Study

“ENJOY THE JOURNEY”

A Study of the Life and Writings of the Apostle Peter to challenge us to a Godly lifestyle in the midst of our daily experiences.

Study # 1- Introductions & Greetings

Outline: Read through I & II Peter and then re-read:

I Peter 1: 1-3

Do a self study from the Gospels and the Book of Acts to discover what kind of a man Peter was. What do we know about the Apostle Peter? Peter's personality and Peter's writing?

Study # 2 - Beginning the Journey - A Living Hope

Mark 1: 16-18, John 1: 40, 42, Acts 2, 1 Peter 1: 3-17

How did the beginning of Peter's spiritual journey enable him to challenge his readers to begin their journey?

Study # 3 – Equipped for the Journey - Recall and Rejoice

Acts 4:1-12, 1 Peter 1: 17-2:9 – As Peter recalls his experience with John and the crippled man at the temple how might it cause him to challenge his readers in I Peter to rejoice in their times of trouble?

**Study # 4 - Keeping a Clear Focus –
Who we Are & What we Do**

Mark 14:66-72, 1 Peter 9 – 25 – What did Peter learn about himself when he denied his Lord and how did this learning experience help him in his writings?

Study # 5 – Traveling Companions - Family & Friends

Mark 6:7-13, 1 Peter 3:1- 12 – How important are family and friends in our life’s journey? Peter’s challenge to believers to guard and renew strong relationships.

**Study # 6 - Follow Closely, Get Clear Directions and
Expect Hazards**

Acts 12:5-17, 1 Peter 3: 13- 4:6 – Peter’s knowledge of imprisonment and suffering gives him credibility in how he encourages his readers.

Study #7 - Chin Up! Remember Your Destination

Matt. 28:16-20, Acts 1:6-11, 1 Peter 4: 7-19
Peter remembers the promises at Christ’s ascension and reminds his readers that the best is yet to come.

Study # 8 – Keep Alert – Trust Your Pilot

John 21:1-19, Acts 11:15-18, 1 Peter 5: 1-11
Peter’s beach experience and his challenge to the scattered believers to trust God in every new situation.

Study # 9 – Rest and Revisit Your Goals

Mark 9: 2-8, II Peter I
The Transfiguration and challenge to evaluate our faith.

**Study # 10– Recognize the Enemy,
Reach Your Destination!**

Mark 13:3-13, 26-37, I Thess. 4:13-5:11, II Peter 2 & 3
Peter recalls Jesus’ teaching about the last days and he in turn challenges his readers to recognize the signs of the enemy at work and carry on to the glorious end.

Closure: If possible close this study with another session for evaluation and sharing in a large group. Affirming and blessing one another in a semi-organized way is powerful. A fall study ends around Remembrance Day and a winter study close to Easter when a Communion Service together is very fitting.

We have a, “**Remember Me**” luncheon on the Thursday before Easter. (I would be happy to provide details of this service upon request.)

Thank-you for considering this study. It was a blessing for me as well as for all the women who participated.

Marleen Bahr

The Life & Writings of Peter

Study #1

Greetings and Introductions **The Life of the Apostle Peter**

Introduction:

What do we know about Peter?

The first mention of Peter is in the gospels right after the baptism of John. (See John 1:40-42). When Jesus first met him it seemed his mind was made up to make him his Apostle.

A. Peter's Personality

1. Jesus chose Simon Peter as one of his disciples. To what did he change his name? _____

Why do you think Jesus changed his name?

2 What was his business and who were his partners ?

3. What do you know about Peter's strengths and weaknesses?

B. Peter's Writings

4. What do you think is the theme of Peter's writing?

5. The writing of II Peter seems to be a different style than that of I Peter. Why might this be?

C. Peter's Relationship with Jesus

6. What are some lessons we can learn as we observe the relationship between Peter and Jesus. What about his relationship with the other disciples.

In preparation for next week re-read the book of I Peter. Now read also: I Peter 1:3-17. Read also Mark 1:16-18, John 1:40-42 and Acts 2.

The Life & Writings of Peter

ENJOY THE JOURNEY

Beginning the Journey – A Living Hope

Welcome words and Opening Prayer

Read: 1 Peter 1:3-17, Mark 1:16-18, John 1:40&42

A. Peter's Calling

1. When Jesus first called Peter what do you think Jesus saw in him and how did Peter respond to the call?

2. How might Peter's humble beginning tie in with his writings to new Christians who were facing difficult times?

3. Re-read 1 Peter 1:3-17. To whom did Peter write? Why did he call them "strangers" and why were they scattered?

B. Peter's Filling

4. In Acts 2 we read how the Holy Spirit fell on the believers at Pentecost. What facts show us that Peter was truly filled with the Spirit?

5. Read I Peter 1:3-16 and make a list of things the Holy Spirit does and is in the life of the believer. How do you think Peter's experience at Pentecost affected his writing?

6. What difference does the Holy Spirit make in your life?

In preparation for next week: Read Acts 4:1-12 and I Peter 1:17-2:9

The Life & Writings of Peter

ENJOY THE JOURNEY

Equipped for the Journey – Recall, Rejoice & Rebuild

Welcome words and Opening Prayer

Read: 1 Peter 1:17-2:9, Acts 4:1-12

A. Peter Recalls

1. Early on in Peter's public ministry he and John were used by God to bring healing to a crippled beggar. Peter gives the very basis for a new believers journey. What question did the leaders ask and how did Peter respond?

2. How might Peter's humble beginning tie in with his writings to new Christians who were facing difficult times? How might his experience in Acts 4 have influenced him in what he wrote in I Peter 1:17-21?

B. Rejoice – Joy for the Journey

3. It is good to have joy when we travel. See if you can list at least six reasons for a new believer to rejoice as he or she begins his or her walk with God. See what Peter suggests to the Christians who have relocated to different area's.

4. Peter uses the analogy of milk for babies. How does this refer to new believers? Why is it so important?

What building material does he describe and to which building does he compare his description?

5. What lessons from the writings of Peter can we apply to our daily lives and how could these encourage our spiritual growth?

In closing encourage one another in prayer.
Read Mark 14:66-72 and I Peter 2:9-25

ENJOY THE JOURNEY
The Life & Writings of Peter

Study #4 Keeping a Clear Focus
Who We Are & What We Do

Welcome words and Opening Prayer

Who we are and what we do with our lives plays a vital role in our life's journey. I think Peter thought he knew himself pretty well but in Mark 14:66-72 he must have surprised himself. A few verses before this story he boldly responds to Jesus' challenge, "Even if I have to die with you I will never disown you."

A. Read Mark 14:66-72 (In large group)

Let's place ourselves in Peter's shoes. What are you feeling? What do you see? Visualize the scene. What do you hear? Now Jesus looks at you. What does he say to you?

B. Read: I Peter 2: 9-25 (Discuss in small groups)

1. How does Peter affirm his readers and build up their sense of worth? (2:9)

2. How does our affirmation of each other help us to keep a clear focus?

Share with each other by affirming each other's giftedness. Eg: "_____ I appreciate your willingness to _____ (use name and be specific)

3. What instructions does Peter give as far as their responsibility towards people who have authority over them?

How should this be done and why?

What does he instruct them to do with their freedom?

How could this apply to us today?

4. How would you explain verse 19?

How was Christ an example in his suffering?

5. Discuss how Peter's experience in Mark 14 might have had an impact on what he wrote in I Peter 2:24&25.

If time permits share how past experiences have enhanced or hindered your spiritual journey.

Close with a time of prayer .

For next week read Mark 6:7-13, 30& 31, I Peter 3:1-12.

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The Life & Writings of Peter

Study #5

Traveling Companions – Family & Friends

Welcome words and Opening Prayer

What do we know about Peter’s family & friends?

We know that family and friends play a vital part in extended trips. Most of us have gone on long family trips and some of us have gone on special holidays or adventures with friends. Share a few experiences.

A. Read Mark 6:7-13 (In large group)

1. What do we know about Peter’s family and friends?

2. List some important lessons Peter would have learned when Jesus sent the disciples out in two’s. Who do you think might have been his partner?

B. Read: I Peter 3:1-12 (Discuss in small groups)

3. What is Peter’s description of a beautiful woman?

According to Peter why should a husband treat his wife with respect and gentleness?

Discuss the relationship you think Peter had with his wife? (see also 1 Cor. 9:5)

4. According to I Peter 3:8&9 what should our relationship be like with others we encounter along life’s journey?

How does this apply to our daily lives?



Pray for your “traveling companions”.
For next week read: Acts 12:5-17

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The Life & Writings of Peter

Study #6

Follow Closely, Get Clear Directions & Expect Hazards

Welcome words and Opening Prayer

A. Read Acts 12:5-17 (large group)

Being imprisoned was not a new experience for Peter but being in prison by himself without his companions may have been.

1. What facts may have made this an extra fearful experience for him?

2. Visualize the scene. Before the angel showed up what do you see? What is Peter's response when the angel awakens him?

B. Read: I Peter 3:13-4:6 (Discuss in small groups)

3. How might Peter's prison experience have influenced his letter to the scattered believers?

4. What does Peter share about the Holy Spirit and Jesus at the crucifixion?

5. What is the importance of the word, "therefore" when it comes to encouraging the believer in their suffering?

6. How do you think these words helped the scattered believers in their spiritual journey?

How might Peter's instructions apply to our journey?
Who do we follow? Where do we get our directions and how do we deal with hazards along the way?

Close by sharing in two's one area of struggle you experience in your journey. Now encourage each other in prayer.

For next week read: Matt. 28:16-20, I Peter 4:7-19

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The Life & Writings of Peter

Study #7

Chin Up – Remember Your Destination

Welcome words and Opening Prayer

A. Read Matthew 28:16-20 (large group)

Forty days after the resurrection Jesus is on the hillside outside of Jerusalem with His disciples.

1. What did Jesus say His disciples were to teach those who would believe?

2. What was the promise Jesus made to them and why would this have been especially meaningful to the disciples? What does it mean to you?

B. Read: Acts 1:6-11 (large group)

3. What was the promise Jesus made and when was it fulfilled in Peter's life?

Small Groups: Read 1 Peter 4:7-19

4. How do you think suffering would help the scattered believers live godly lives?

5. Why did Peter tell the believers to be clear minded and self-controlled? How would this help our spiritual growth?

6. How would love cover a multitude of sins?

7. After re-reading versus 10 & 11 share with each other how the presence of Jesus helps you use your spiritual gifts. Be specific about your giftedness.

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In closing pray together.

For next week: John 21:1-19, Acts 11:15-18,
I Peter 5:1-11

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The Life & Writings of Peter

Study #8

Keep Alert – Trust Your Pilot

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer

A. Read John 21:1-19 (large group)

After spending some extra time on this portion of scripture it should not be difficult for us to travel back in time and place ourselves into the scene.

1. Relive the beach experience. Where do you see yourself in the picture?

2. If Jesus looked at you, what did he say?

What was your response?

B. Read: Acts 11:15-18 (large group)

3. What might Peter have recalled from his beach experience when he spoke to believers in Jerusalem about his new relationship with Gentiles?

4. What did Peter learn?

Small Groups: Read 1 Peter 5:1-11

5. What instructions did Peter give to the elders of the scattered church? What hope did he give them for the future?

6. What instructions did he give to the young men?

Could this also apply to young women today?

7. In verse 7 & 8 Peter gives instructions in order to have victory over satan. What are these instructions?

How does this apply to us today?

8. Share what might be the most difficult places for you in your journey. Remember Christ is our Pilot and He will guide us through the rough places.

In closing pray together.

For next week: Mark 9:2-8 and II Peter chapter 1.

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The Life & Writings of Peter

Study #9

Rest and Revisit your Goals

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer

A. Read Mark 9:2-8 (large group)

The Transfiguration according to the gospel of Mark
(For comparative stories see also: Luke 9:28-36 and
Matt. 17:1-8)

1. What were some of Peter's experiences in the weeks prior to this major event?

2. How might Peter have been feeling about himself and his relationship with Jesus?

3. Why do you think Jesus took his three close friends to the mountain for this transfiguration experience?

Small Groups: Read II Peter 2

4. What instructions does Peter give the scattered believers in order to encourage them to re-evaluate their faith?

5. How are we, like these believers, able to participate in a divine nature?

6. Why does he tell his readers to pay attention to the prophetic words of the Old Testament?

7. We also desire to be effective and productive in our faith. What encouragement can we give to each other in order to be and to feel secure in our faith?

In closing pray together.

For our final session read: Mark 13:3-13, 26-37 & I Thess. 4:13-5:11 as well as II Peter 2 & 3.

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The Life & Writings of Peter

Study #10

Recognize the Enemy – Look to Your Destination

Welcome, Announcements and Opening Prayer

A. Read Mark 13:3-13,26-37 & I Thess. 4:13-5:11 (large group)

Peter, James, John and Andrew get a lesson on what to expect before the end of the age. Jesus paints a very descriptive and clear picture of what to expect in the future. Read the above portions before re-reading II Peter 2 & 3.

1. How does Jesus' lecture on the Mt. of Olives impact Peter's writing to the recipients of his letter in II Peter?

2. These scriptures often create more questions than answers. What questions might the early believers have asked?

3. What questions came to your mind?

B. Small Groups: Read II Peter 2 & 3

At the end of chapter 1 Peter mentions the Old Testament prophets and how the Holy Spirit spoke to them. Now he warns them about false prophets.

4. What dangers does Peter list to watch for?

Share examples of how this has or might happen today?

5. What reminder does Peter give to those who might say, "That was written thousands of years ago and Christ is still waiting, I don't suppose he'll come in my life time?"

6. How does Peter say this knowledge should affect the life style of his readers?

7. What affect, if any, should Peter's letter have on our life style?

In closing pray towards the soon return of our Lord and for each other as we continue our daily journey.