

Book 12

1 Peter: Am I Willing to Stand up for Jesus?

Read the following passages and answer the questions below.

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote two letters to Christians who were facing persecution for what they believed and for how they acted on their beliefs. Persecution is when people try to penalize a person for what he believes. Several events in Peter's life helped prepare him to help these people.

1. How did Peter respond to persecution? (Mark 14:66-72)
2. How did Jesus deal with Peter afterward? (John 21:15-19)

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3. How did Peter respond to persecution this time? (Acts 2:37-40; 4:18-20)
4. How can Peter's life be an encouragement to you? Write your answer below.

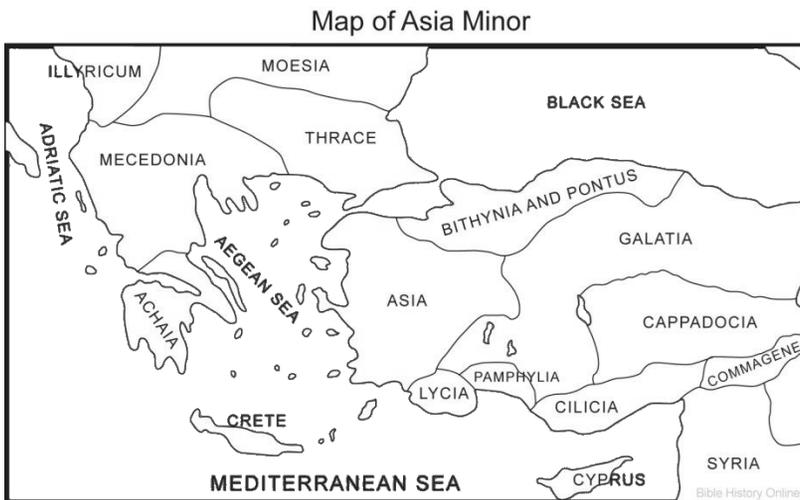
Section 12:1 _____ Date _____

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Read the following passages and answer the questions below.

In 1 Peter 1:1, Peter calls his readers “aliens” scattered throughout places in an area called Asia Minor.



1. Circle the places in the map that Peter mentions in v. 1.
2. What is an alien?

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3. In what way are all Christians “aliens”? (John 15:18-19)
4. What would it feel like to be an alien? How would it be hard?
5. What would an alien be tempted to do? Have you ever felt this way?
6. How can Philippians 3:20 encourage you when you feel rejected by the world?

Can you pray this prayer to God right now?

Dear Father, I admit that I am not always faithful to you. Thank you for always being faithful to me and for forgiving me when I fail. Strengthen me so that I can stand for you even when the world rejects me for being a Christian. Help me to remember that my home is in heaven and not in this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Read the following passages and answer the questions below.

In 1 Peter 1:1, Peter encourages his readers by calling them God's "chosen."

1. When did God choose Christians to be His people? (Ephesians 1:3-4).
2. How would "aliens" be encouraged to know that God had chosen them?

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3. 1 Peter 1:2 tells us how and why God chose His people. What two purposes does he mention? (Was it just so His people would feel better?)
4. At the end of 1 Peter 1:2, Peter asks God to give His people grace and peace. What are grace and peace, and how would they help an "alien"?

Can you pray this prayer to God right now?

Dear Father, living like a Christian is sometimes hard because it makes me act very different from other people. Help me remember that following you is the right step. I know You will accept me even when others do not. Please give me grace to obey you even when it is hard and when others may not like it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Read the following passages and answer the questions below.

In 1 Peter 1:3-5, Peter blesses (praises) God for some of the ways in which He has blessed Christians – even when they are persecuted. Discovering these blessings can be very encouraging.

1. Peter says that God gives these blessings to His people because of His mercy (1:3). What is God's mercy?
2. **First blessing:** God's people have been born again (1:3). What does "born again" mean?
3. **Second blessing:** God's people will live forever because Jesus _____ from the dead and conquered death (1:3).
4. The **third blessing** is that God's people have an inheritance waiting for them in heaven (1:4). Peter describes this inheritance in three ways. What do these words mean?

Imperishable:

Undefiled:

Will not fade away:

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5. How is our inheritance from God different from anything we could enjoy on earth?
6. How does the promise of a future inheritance help Christians to stand up for Jesus on earth? (Romans 8:18)
7. The **fourth blessing** is that God's power protects us until we get to heaven. What do we need to do in order to experience this power from God? (1:5)

Can you pray this prayer to God right now?

Dear Father, when people mock me for standing up for You, help me think about the blessings You give me. You have been so kind to give me a new life that will last forever and a home in heaven that no one can destroy. It won't matter to me then if I had to suffer a little here on earth. Help me to trust You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Recite the verses below from memory.

1 Peter 1:1-2

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, . . . who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Section 12:5 _____ Date _____

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Section 12:6 _____ Date _____

1 Peter 1:1-5 (see above)

Section 12:7 _____ Date _____

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Read 1 Peter 1:6-8 and answer the questions below.

When God's people get criticized or teased for standing up for Jesus, it may seem that persecution is "bad" for them. But from God's point of view, suffering is actually good.

1. How long does Peter say that trials last (1:6)? _____
How can Peter say this? (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
2. How does Peter describe gold (1:7)? _____
What is the difference between gold (1:7) and our inheritance in heaven (1:4)? _____
_____ How does it help to know this?
3. Why does God let His people have trials (1:7)?
4. Who is it that we are to love though we have never seen? _____ (1:7-8)? How can you love someone you have never seen?
5. What is the basic attitude God's people should have during trials (1:6a, 1:8b)?

Section 12:8 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verses below from memory.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Section 12:9 _____ Date _____

1 Peter 1:8-9

⁸and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

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1 Peter 1:6-9 (see above)

Section 12:11 _____ Date _____

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Write a summary of what you have learned in 1 Peter 1:1-9.

Section 12:12 _____ Date _____