




Wild Hope

Aliens in this World

➡ A Study of 1 Peter *



"Friends, this world is not your home,
so don't make yourselves cozy in it.
Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul."
1 Peter 2:11 - The Message



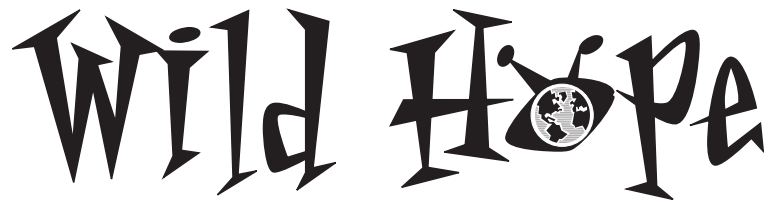
Wild Hope

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Acknowledgements

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Wild Hope

Aliens in this World

The apostle Peter wrote this letter to followers of Christ who were suffering trial because of their faith in Jesus. In this letter Peter exhorts believers to stand against the world empowered by a “Wild Hope”. What’s a “Wild Hope”? A “Wild Hope” is a confident expectation of good from God through the perspective of eternity. The believer lives in light of what is ultimately true regardless of the circumstances. Peter’s positive outlook in the face of personal suffering is a powerful challenge and motivating encouragement to live with “Wild Hope” as you follow Christ no matter the cost. As you study this book, consider and read the stories of faithful men and women of faith who stood against all odds to honor Christ. They were aliens in this world who possessed a “Wild Hope” in the God who lives forever.

*“...Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— **the world was not worthy of them.** They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.*

*These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.” **Hebrews 11:35-40***

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Survey - A Look at the Book's Intent



TELESCOPE - The Big Picture

1. Get out your Bible and read through I Peter 5 times. (Try to read I Peter as many times as you can in the next week.)
2. Look back at page 1. Choose a 1-4 word title for each section (weeks 2-9) and write a title for that section in the rectangular box.

EXAMPLE:

Week 2 Page 6 ➤ I Peter 1:1-12

Living Hope



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

1. Who are the people in I Peter? What names are given? What groups of people are addressed?
2. Who is the author? Look up Acts 4:13 and consider these events in the author's life, how do they connect with what he wrote in I Peter?

I Peter 1:3, 23	• John 3:3
I Peter 1:8	• John 20:29
I Peter 1:9	• Matthew 16:24
I Peter 1:10-12	• Luke 24:44,45
I Peter 1:15	• Matthew 5:48
I Peter 1:22	• John 13:34,35
I Peter 1:23	• Luke 8:11-15
I Peter 2:4-8	• Mark 12:10
I Peter 2:9	• Matthew 5:14
I Peter 2:13-17	• Luke 12:17
I Peter 2:19-25	• Matthew 5:10,11
I Peter 4:8	• John 15:12,13
I Peter 4:12-16	• Luke 6:22, 23
I Peter 5:2-4	• John 21:15-17
I Peter 5:7	• Matthew 6:25-34
I Peter 5:8,9	• Luke 22:31-34

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Survey - A Look at the Book's Intent

MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

3. Who are the recipients of this letter? What are the circumstances they are in?
What does Peter tell us about them?



Map taken from: <http://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CN266PETERONE.htm>

4. What events are mentioned in I Peter? (e.g. the resurrection - I Peter 1:3)

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Survey - A Look at the Book's Intent



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

5. What key words/phrases are in the book? (A key word/phrase is one which gives new or significant meaning to what is communicated or when it is removed leaves the passage without meaning.) An example in I Peter would be the word "stranger" or "alien" in I Peter 1:1; 1:17 and 2:11. List key words/phrases and their corresponding passages.

Key Word/Phrase	Passage(s)
Stranger or Alien	I Peter 1:1; 1:17; 2:11

6. What do you think is the main theme of the book of I Peter?



KALEIDOSCOPE - The Incredible Wonder

1. What the key images that Peter uses as metaphors? (A metaphor is an implied comparison between two things that are different.)

Examples:

Birth as a picture of new life in Christ (I Peter 1:3)

Gold as an illustration of our faith (I Peter 1:7)

Refining Fire as an image of trials or suffering (I Peter 1:7)

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Survey - A Look at the Book's Intent



KALEIDOSCOPE - The Incredible Wonder

2. (Optional) Look at these quotes from the Old Testament that are in I Peter. I Peter is unique in the New Testament in the number of references to Old Testament Scripture and the quotations are used to advance Peter's argument and give it authority.

I Peter 1:16	Leviticus 19:2; 11:44; 20:7,26
I Peter 1:24-25	Isaiah 40:6-8
I Peter 2:6	Isaiah 28:16
I Peter 2:7	Psalms 118:22
I Peter 2:8	Isaiah 8:14
I Peter 2:9	Isaiah 43:20; Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 43:21
I Peter 2:22	Isaiah 53:9
I Peter 3:10-12	Psalms 34:12-16
I Peter 3:14	Isaiah 8:12
I Peter 4:18	Proverbs 11:31
I Peter 5:5	Proverbs 3:34



STETHOSCOPE - The Beating Heart

1. **What if...** you were a leader of the church in the first century and God revealed to you that a great persecution was coming to the church? **What if...** the persecution would be so severe that many would die for their faith? (Peter was martyred for the faith a year after this letter was sent and Paul was martyred a year after that.) How would you prepare believers for the coming assault?
2. How does what Peter tells the church enable them to face the "fiery trials" ahead with courage and grace?
3. Have you ever experienced trial as a follower of Christ? How did you handle it? What did you learn from I Peter that will help you in the future?

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I Peter 1:1-12

TITLE

A VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

I Peter 1:6,7



TELESCOPE - The Big Picture

1. Read I Peter 1:1-12 five times.
2. What title did you give this section? (Look back at page 1.) Write the title you chose for this section (or a new one you prefer) in the rectangular box above.



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

1. From I Peter 1:1-12 what does Peter tell us is true about our new life in Christ?

Look at I Peter 1:3. It says that we have a new birth in Christ. A newborn infant is totally defenseless and is a bundle of needs. Read I Thessalonians 2:6-12. What does Paul do to help those just born into God's family?

2. Write down as many observations as you can make from this passage. Be alert for: commands, key words, reasons, contrasts, repetition, questions and word pictures.

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I Peter 1:1-12



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

3. What questions come to mind as you read this section? List at least one question for each verse. Use the 5 W's and the H to begin your questions (Who, What, When, Where Why and How)

- 1-
- 2-
- 3-
- 4-
- 5-
- 6-
- 7-
- 8-
- 9-
- 10-
- 11-
- 12-

4. Pick two or three of the questions above that most appeal to you and attempt to find answers for them. (This website may be helpful: <http://bible.crosswalk.com/>)

A Thought on I Peter 1:7

"The picture here is of an ancient goldsmith who puts his crude gold ore in a crucible, subjects it to intense heat, and thus liquifies the mass. The impurities rise to the surface and are skimmed off. When the metal-worker is able to see the reflection of his face clearly mirrored in the surface of the liquid, he takes it off the fire, for he knows that the contents are pure gold."

Wilmington's Guide to the Bible

Wild Hope

I Peter 1:1-12



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

5. Are there any key words/phrases in this passage? Where are they found and why are they significant?

6. Look at I Peter 1:1-12 and fill in the following chart. For each verse in I Peter 1:1-12 put an "X" in the box that corresponds to its place in biblical history (as experienced by the recipients of the letter)

	Eternity Past	the Past	the Present	the Future	Eternity Future
I Peter 1:1-			X		
I Peter 1:2-	X	X			
I Peter 1:3-					
I Peter 1:4-					
I Peter 1:5-					
I Peter 1:6-					
I Peter 1:7-					
I Peter 1:8-					
I Peter 1:9-					
I Peter 1:10-					
I Peter 1:11-					
I Peter 1:12-					

7. Peter is seeking to encourage his readers in the midst of their present suffering. How does reviewing your present pain in light of the whole scope of God's plan (from eternity past to eternity future) give us hope?

"...life today is a school in which God trains us for future ministry in eternity." **Warren W. Wiersbe**

Aliens in this World

"A Foolish Waste of Lives?" – Jim Elliot, Peter Fleming, Ed McCully, Nate Saint, and Roger Youderian – Ecuador – 1956

The missionaries looked from one face to another in the group around them, but in each they read the same quiet resolve. Everyone knew the danger was very real, and it seemed unlikely that all of them would come out unharmed. But no matter how deadly this tribe was considered, here was a group that had never heard the Gospel before. In the face of this, the risks were irrelevant – they had to do something to contact this people and tell them about Jesus.

"They aren't even called by their right name among the tribes we have already reached," Jim Elliot echoed again. "The Quichua call them 'Auca', which means simply 'savages' in the Quichua tongue. Everyone seems to echo that they are deathly afraid of outsiders and will 'shoot first and ask questions later.' They will kill anyone for simply setting foot in their part of the forest."

All of those present nodded soberly, but it was Nate Saint who spoke what they were all really thinking; "Yes, we know all of that. That is not the issue we are here to discuss. We know the risk, what we need to know now is how do we get them the Gospel?"

In the coming weeks, they worked out a plan and began to implement it with the utmost patience and caution.

In their planning, they met with an area farmer who directed them to Dayuma, a woman who worked for him. She had once lived among the Auca, but escaped. From her they learned some helpful words and phrases in the language of these people. They also learned that they called themselves the Huaorani (literally "people" in their own tongue). "But," she also warned, "do not trust them. To you they might seem friendly for a while, but they will not stop short of killing."

In September of 1955, Nate Saint and Ed McCully, two of the missionaries, had seen a cluster of Huaorani houses while flying scout for Huaorani villages from the air and figure out some way to use it to make their presence welcome in the area before they made face-to-face contact with them.

The others agreed. "But," Jim reminded them, "if outside groups or the newspapers find out we're trying to reach the Huaorani, curious people might hurry in. That would scare off the Huaorani or get people killed. We must move slowly and keep our plan a secret."

More flights over the area showed several more Huaorani clearings. The first time Nate flew his plane low over the main clearing – which the missionaries nicknamed "Terminal City" – the Huaorani scattered in fright. But then the missionaries began dropping gifts tied to a rope: T-shirts, machetes, cloth, even pictures of the five men. Later, they were excited to see a few Huaorani waving at the plane, and others wearing their gifts.

Nate flew as low as he dared, and the missionaries leaned out of the plane, calling out in the Huaorani language, "I like you! I am your friend!" Then something exciting happened. As Nate slowly circled the Huaorani clearing after dropping the rope, the Huaorani tied on some gifts of their own: headbands of colorful feathers and even a parrot!

Three months went by as the missionaries tried to get the Huaorani people used to the small, yellow airplane flying over their villages. Finally in December, as Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Pete Fleming, and Roger Youderian got together to plan the next steps in Operation Huaorani, they made an important decision. It was time to actually make the face-to-face meeting.

The plans for this meeting were made with even more care than the rest. First the five missionaries would land on a strip of beach on the river nearest "Terminal City". Then they would build a tree house for safety from jungle animals. They would wait for several days, letting the Huaorani get used to their presence, before attempting to make contact.

On Tuesday, January 3, 1956, it took pilot Nate Saint five trips to fly in all five men and their supplies. The landings and takeoffs on the beach were tricky, but their worst problem was the flying insects. The men got in touch with their wives each day, either by shortwave radio or with notes they sent with Nate in his plane. After a few days of camping on the beach, the men began calling out Huaorani phrases of welcome across the river. It was eerie, as they knew they must be under close surveillance, but they never saw a soul besides one another.

On Friday, however, they were finally rewarded. A Huaorani man and two women appeared on the opposite bank of the river. Jim Elliot waded out toward them, using all the Huaorani phrases he knew, to help lead them safely

the world was not worthy of them...

Aliens in this World

"A Foolish Waste of Lives?" – (continued)

On Friday, however, they were finally rewarded. A Huaorani man and two women appeared on the opposite bank of the river. Jim Elliot waded out toward them, using all the Huaorani phrases he knew, to help lead them safely across. It was an exciting day. The missionaries took pictures of the visit and even took the man, whom they nicknamed "George", up in the plane for a ride over his village.

Saturday, Nate and Pete flew back to base camp to pick up supplies and report their progress. They returned to the beach on Sunday morning, January 8. When they landed, Nate radioed back to his wife: "Pray for us! We're sure we'll have contact again today! Will radio you again at four-thirty."

Elisabeth Elliot and the other wives gathered eagerly around their radio later that afternoon. Nothing. When they still had not heard from the men by Monday morning, they knew something was wrong. A search party made its way to the river camp. Five bodies were found in the river. The men had been killed by Huaorani lances. *****

This tragic story soon appeared in newspapers around the world. Some people thought the five men were foolish to try to make friends with such a savage Indian tribe. "A waste of lives!" they said. But others responded differently. In universities and churches around the globe, over a thousand young people volunteered to become missionaries in the place of these five brave men. In Ecuador, attendance by natives at mission schools and church services reached record levels, and the number of conversions skyrocketed. A member of another tribe, the Jivaro, followed the example of these men and went with the Gospel to another Jivaro tribe that had been at war with his for years. His visit brought peace between the two groups. Eventually Rachel Saint – Nate's sister – and Elisabeth Elliot lived among the very Huaorani who had murdered their family members. These women learned the Huaorani language and translated the Bible for them.

The questions still remained: How did these men die? What went wrong? When the relationship between the Huaorani and the missionaries was more solidified some time later, these questions were posed to one of the men who had been involved in the killing of the five men. He explained that up until that time, all of their contact with outsiders had involved killing or trying to kill one side or the other, and for this reason their fear of outsiders often prompted them to attack before the others attacked them. In the case of these five white men, the villagers had greatly wondered why they wanted to make contact with them – what profit did they hope to extract from their tribe? They instinctively feared a trap.

After the panic that ended in the murder of the five men, the tribe realized their mistake. In the attack, one of the missionaries had fired two warning shots from a revolver that had accidentally grazed one of the Huaorani. Because of this, they realized that the men had had weapons but refused to use them to harm any of the villagers intentionally, even at the expense of their own lives. The Huaorani could not understand why anyone who could have killed them to save their own lives did not do so.

When others finally came in a similar way, they listened first before they attacked. When they heard the story of Jesus, how He had given His life to reconcile man to God, they immediately understood the actions of the first five missionaries.

It is very possible the Huaorani, and other subsequent tribes in their area, would never have been reached if these five "fools" had not acted just like Jesus. The Huaorani believed the Gospel preached, because they seen the Gospel lived.

**"He is no fool who
gives what he cannot
keep to gain what he
cannot lose."**

--Jim Elliot

Wild Hope

I Peter 1:1-12



KALEIDOSCOPE - The Incredible Wonder

1. Read I Peter 1:10-12. What are you experiencing today that the prophets longed to possess and heavenly angels long to see?
2. (Optional) Write out an imaginary dialogue between two angels. One angel is telling another angel about what Christ has done in your life. What would the angel say?



STETHOSCOPE - The Beating Heart

1. Why does Peter encourage his readers to rejoice? (I Peter 1:6,7)
2. Is your life characterized by the joy of your hope in Christ? Why or why not?
3. What can you do to be a more hope-filled Christian? (I Peter 1:3)

Wild Hope

I Peter 1:13-25

TITLE

A VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

I Peter 1:15,16



TELESCOPE - The Big Picture

1. Read I Peter 1:13-25 five times.
2. What title did you give this section? (Look back at page 1.) Write the title you chose for this section (or a new one you prefer) in the rectangular box above.



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

1. Look at I Peter 1:13. How do you prepare your mind for action? How would memorizing God's Word help you prepare your mind? Why should the incorruptibility of Scripture (I Peter 1:22-25) be a motivation to memorize the Word?

"Gird up the loins of your mind" (I Peter 1:13 KJV) simply means, "Pull your thoughts together! Have a disciplined mind!" The image is that of a robed man, tucking his skirts under the belt, so he can be free to run.

Warren W. Wiersbe • Be Hopeful

2. Write down as many observations as you can make from this passage. Be alert for: commands, key words, reasons, contrasts, repetition, questions and word pictures.

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I Peter 1:13-25



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

3. What questions come to mind as you read this section? List at least one question for each verse. Use the 5 W's and the H to begin your questions (Who, What, When, Where Why and How)

13-

14-

15-

16-

17-

18-

19-

20-

21-

22-

23-

24-

25-

Question-asking is one of the chief skills of a good Bible student. It is foundational for every new insight. Get used to asking questions. You will ask a question for all 105 verses in I Peter.

4. Pick two or three of the questions above that most appeal to you and attempt to find answers for them. (This website may be helpful: <http://bible.crosswalk.com/>)

Wild Hope

I Peter 1:13-25



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

5. Are there any key words/phrases in this passage? Where are they found and why are they significant?

6. Look at I Peter 1:22. The word “sincere” in Latin literally means “without wax”. There’s an interesting story attached to the origin of the word sincere.

In antiquity, many common liquids—from water to cooking oil to wine—were stored or transported in clay jars. Then as now, quality control could be a problem. Less scrupulous jar makers would cover up deficiencies in the quality of their products.

When a jar was cracked in the drying and firing process, the flaw was made invisible by puttying the crack with wax. However, after some time of use in a household or sitting in the hold of a Roman sailing ship, the waxed crack would begin to leak the jar’s contents.

Buyers of jars began to insist that jar makers identify themselves on their product as a guarantee against the practice of waxing cracks. As a result, jars were sold with the promise of being sin (Spanish for without) cere (Latin for wax).

Ed Grootenboer www.clac.ca

With this thought in mind describe what it means to have a sincere love for your brothers and sisters in Christ. How does honesty about your flaws with a few close brothers or sisters help you in your pursuit of holiness (I Peter 1:13-17) ?

Wild Hope

I Peter 1:13-25



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

7. Reasons- It is important as you are studying a passage to notice words like; therefore, for, since or because. These words introduce information that relies on what was previously discussed.

verse 13- This verse begins with “Therefore” and refers back to what we studied in I Peter 1:1-12. How do the truths in I Peter 1:1-12 motivate us to holiness?

verse 15- What is the reason given that we should be holy? Why is this a good reason for holiness?

verse 18- Why is the preciousness of Christ’s blood a motivation to walk in the fear of God (verse 17)?

verses 23-25- What reasons are given for us to love one another?

“I have more trouble with D.L. Moody than any man I know.”

D.L. Moody

Aliens in this World

"The Marriage of the Lamb is Come" – James Renwick – Edinburgh, Scotland – 1688

As James Renwick sat at dinner with his mother, sisters, and some Christian friends, a drumbeat sounded in the distance. This was the first warning to the city that the executioners were ready and it was time to gather in the Grassmarket.

At this sound, James leaped to his feet. "Let us be glad and rejoice! For the marriage of the lamb is come!" James then took the opportunity to give a short message on the marriage supper of the lamb, which he would partake of that day. Then he invited them all to come to his wedding, meaning his execution that was to take place in a short time.

The drum had continued to beat all the while and continued as James made his way up the scaffold to the hangman. When he reached the top, he turned and lifted his voice so that all within earshot could hear;

Spectators, I must tell you I am come here this day to lay down my life for adhering to the truths of Christ, for which I am neither afraid nor ashamed to suffer. No, I bless the Lord that ever He counted me worthy to suffer anything for Him; and I desire to praise His grace that He has not only kept me free from being polluted by sin in the time I have lived and in the time I was a child, and such that I was stained with, He washed me clean in His own blood. I think the truth is worth many lives, and if I had ten thousand I would think it little enough to lay them all down to preserve it... I join my testimony with all those that have been sealed by blood, shed either on the scaffolds, fields, or seas, for the cause of Christ.

One of the guards stepped forward to silence him, but James merely turned to him politely with a winning grin and said, "I am nearly done." Then he continued,

You that are the people of God, do not grow weary in maintaining the testimony of the day, in your stations and places; and whatever you do, make certain you have a part in Christ, for the storm is coming that will shake the very foundations of your faith. Scotland must be rid of Scotland before delivery will come. And you that are strangers to God, break off from your sins by repenting, or else even I will be a witness against you on the day of the Lord.

At this, they stopped him and stepped him back to put the noose around his neck; all the while he sang a song from Psalm 103 and quoted from Revelation 19. Then he prayed, *"God, I die in faith that you will not leave Scotland, but that you will make the blood of my witness the seed of your church here, and return again, and be glorious in our land. And now, Lord, I am ready – 'the bride, the lamb's wife, has made herself ready.'"*

The executioner stepped forward and placed the hood over his face, but still he would not stop trying to encourage those around him. Though he could not see him, he turned to the friend who had attended him and said,

Farewell. Be diligent in your duty. Make your peace with God, through Christ. There is a great trial coming. As to those remaining behind me, I have committed them to those remaining behind me, I have committed them to God. Tell them from me not to weary, nor to be discouraged in maintaining the testimony of the truth. Let them not quit nor forgo one of these despised truths. Keep your ground, and the Lord will provide teachers and ministers, and when He comes, He will make these despised truths glorious upon the earth.

Then, as they dropped the ladder to make the rope go taut, he died with these words on his lips: "Lord, into your hands I commit my spirit, for you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth."

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" Revelation 19:7-9 NASB

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I Peter 1:13-25



KALEIDOSCOPE - The Incredible Wonder

1. In I Peter 1:19, Peter talks about the precious blood of Christ. The word precious is also used in I Peter 2:4; 2:6,7" and in II Peter 1:1; 1:4. You know the purposes of a person's heart by what is "precious" to them. (see Matthew 6:19-21) Look at these verses from I and II Peter. What is valuable to Peter and should be to us? Consider each "precious" truth that Peter states, can any of these realities be taken away even under the most severe persecution?

"If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy the only explanation is that I was made for another world."

C.S. Lewis • Mere Christianity



STETHOSCOPE - The Beating Heart

1. Peter calls believers to holy living because of the holiness of God (I Peter 1:15,16), the holiness of Christ (I Peter 1:19) and the incorruptible Word of God (I Peter 1:22-25). What is your motivation for being holy?

2. In what part of your life do you struggle with holiness? Who can you get sincere (authentic) with to be accountable to in this area of your life?

When will you talk with them?

Wild Hope

I Peter 2:1-12

TITLE

A VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

I Peter 2:9



TELESCOPE - The Big Picture

1. Read I Peter 2:1-12 five times.
2. What title did you give this section? (Look back at page 1.) Write the title you chose for this section (or a new one you prefer) in the rectangular box above.



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

1. I Peter 2:1 begins with "Therefore" and refers back to the section we studied last week (I Peter 1:13-25). The call of holy living should result in what type of practical action (I Peter 2:1-3)?

2. What is the pure spiritual milk that Peter is speaking of in I Peter 2:2?

I Peter 2:2 in the NASB says "like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation," Why is it important for new believers to be fed from God's Word and to be taught to feed themselves from the Scriptures?

What does Matthew 7:24-27 say about the role of God's Word in preparing you for stormy trial?

1 Peter 2:1-12



- Question-asking is one of the chief skills of a good Bible student. It is foundational for every new insight. Get used to asking questions. You will ask a question for all 105 verses in 1 Peter.

Wild Hope

I Peter 2:1-12



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

5. Pick two or three of the questions from question 4 that most appeal to you and attempt to find answers for them. (This website may be helpful: <http://bible.crosswalk.com/>)

6. Read through I Peter 2:4-12. In this section, Peter describes the identity (roles) of each of us as followers of Christ. Our identity comes from Christ's identity. Look at verses 4-12. What titles or roles does Peter declare are Christ's? What are our titles and roles?

7. Consider each of these roles that are part of our calling as Christians. Who are you in Christ? In the space below, write your name and your spiritual resume' with an "I am" statement that describes your role.

_____ YOUR NAME

ROLE:

"I AM" STATEMENT

1. Living Stone

I am a key building block in God's spiritual house.

2. Spiritual House

I am...

3.

4.

5.

6.

Wild Hope

I Peter 2:1-12



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

8. A priest (I Peter 2:5,9) is described as a person who “speaks to God for people” and who “speaks to people for God”. What people are you speaking to God (praying) for?

What people are you speaking to for God (witnessing)?

9. In post offices a list is posted of the FBI’s 10 Most Wanted criminals. As a member of God’s priesthood of believers, who are the 10 Most Wanted for Christ in your area of influence? (List them below). Begin praying for them on a consistent basis and seek opportunities to share the gospel with them.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____

Aliens in this World

There is Freedom Everywhere” – Maria and Varia – 18 years old – USSR – 1960s

Maria asked through the iron bars, “Varia, don’t you regret what you did?”

“No,” she answered. “And if they would free me, I would do it again and would tell them about the great love of Jesus. Don’t think that I suffer. I am very glad that the Lord loves me so much and gives me the joy to endure the His name.”

This was the first time Maria had been able to visit Varia in prison. Her friend was thin, pale, and beaten, but her eyes shone with the peace of God and an unearthly joy. The two Russian teenagers had once been schoolmates in a Communist boarding school. Varia, a member of the Communist Youth Organization, had constantly teased and tormented Maria, a Christian. In response, Maria prayed for the young Communist with special concern.

One day Varia said, “I cannot understand what a being you are. Here so many insult and hurt you, and yet you love everyone.”

Maria said, “God has taught us to love everyone, not only friends, but also enemies.”

“Can you love me, too?” Varia asked.

Maria hugged her, and they both began to weep. Not long afterward, Varia received Jesus as her personal Lord and Savior and witnessed openly to everyone about it.

Maria wrote her parents, “We went together to the assembly of the godless (the school’s Communist Youth Club meeting). I warned her to be reserved, but it was useless. I went with her to see what would happen.

“After the Communist hymn, Varia came forward before the whole assembly. Courageously and with much feeling, she witnessed to those gathered about Jesus her Savior. She implored all to give up the way of sin and to come to Christ.

“All became silent and no one interrupted her. When she finished speaking, she sang with her splendid voice the whole Christian hymn; ‘I am not ashamed to proclaim the Christ who died to defend His commandments and the power of His cross.’

“Afterwards...afterwards they took Varia away. We know nothing about her. But God is powerful to save her. Pray!”

Months passed after their single visit in prison. Then Maria received a letter from her friend who was in a Siberian labor camp. Varia wrote:

My heart praises and thanks God that, through you, He showed me the way to salvation. Now, being on this way, my life has a purpose and I know where to go and for whom I suffer. I feel the desire to tell and to witness to everybody about the great joy of salvation that I have in my heart. Who can separate us from the love of God in Christ? Nobody and nothing. Neither prison nor suffering. The sufferings that God sends us only strengthen us more and more in the faith in Him. My heart is so full that the grace of God overflows.

At work, they curse and punish me, giving me extra work because I cannot be silent. I must tell everyone what the Lord has done for me. He has made me a new being, a new creation, of me who was on the way of perdition. Can I be silent after this? No, never! As long as my lips can speak, I will witness to every one about His great love.

Here there are many who believe in Christ as their personal Savior. More than half of the prisoners are believers. We have among us great singers and good preachers of the Gospel. In the evening, when we all gather after heavy work, how wonderful it is to pass at least some time together in prayer at the feet of our Savior. With Christ there is freedom everywhere. I learned here many beautiful hymns and every day God gives me more and more of His Word.

All our brethren greet you and are glad that your faith in God is so powerful and that you praise Him in your sufferings unceasingly. Yours, Varia

Varia just couldn’t keep quiet about what Jesus meant to her just like the apostles, Peter and John, who were also threatened for speaking out about Jesus. Here’s what they said:

“Whether it’s right in God’s eyes to listen to you rather than God, you decide. As for us, there’s no question – we can’t keep quiet about what we’ve seen and heard.” Acts 4:19-20 (The Message)

Wild Hope

I Peter 2:1-12



KALEIDOSCOPE - The Incredible Wonder

1. In I Peter 2:6-8, Christ is either a cornerstone or a stumbling block. Think back on your own life. What was your life like when Christ was a stumbling block? What difference has it made to have Him as your cornerstone?

Stumbling Block-

Cornerstone-

"If you live for heaven you get earth thrown in, if you live for earth you get neither."

C.S. Lewis



STETHOSCOPE - The Beating Heart

1. In I Peter 2:1-12, Peter draws word pictures of who we are in Christ. Which of the pictures he uses is the most difficult for you to identify as being the "new you" in Christ?
2. What can you do to live in light of your new identity?
3. Possible application: Type up the spiritual resume' you made in this study and print it off. Hang it up on your wall or carry it in your Bible to pray over.

Wild Hope

I Peter 2:13-25

TITLE

A VERSE TO MEMORIZE:

I Peter 2:21



TELESCOPE - The Big Picture

1. Read I Peter 2:13-25 five times.
2. What title did you give this section? (Look back at page 1.) Write the title you chose for this section (or a new one you prefer) in the rectangular box above.



MICROSCOPE - The Individual Details

1. In I Peter 2:13, Peter begins the section with the word "submit". In Greek the word submit is a military term meaning "to arrange in military fashion under the command of a leader." To submit then is to hold up the authority of someone else. Every authority over us is placed there by God (see Romans 13:1-8). What are the different sources of authority in your life? As a believer, how are you to respond to the governing authorities? How about the other authorities in your life?
2. Jesus, Peter and Paul were all killed because they resisted the Jewish and Roman authorities over them. Does their resistance contradict what Peter says in I Peter 2:13-17? Why or why not?

Is it ever permissible to resist a governing authority?

3. Write down as many observations as you can make from this passage. Be alert for: commands, key words, reasons, contrasts, repetition, questions and word pictures.