



# CROSSROADS

# GROUPS

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER



Week 1

Week 2

Week 3

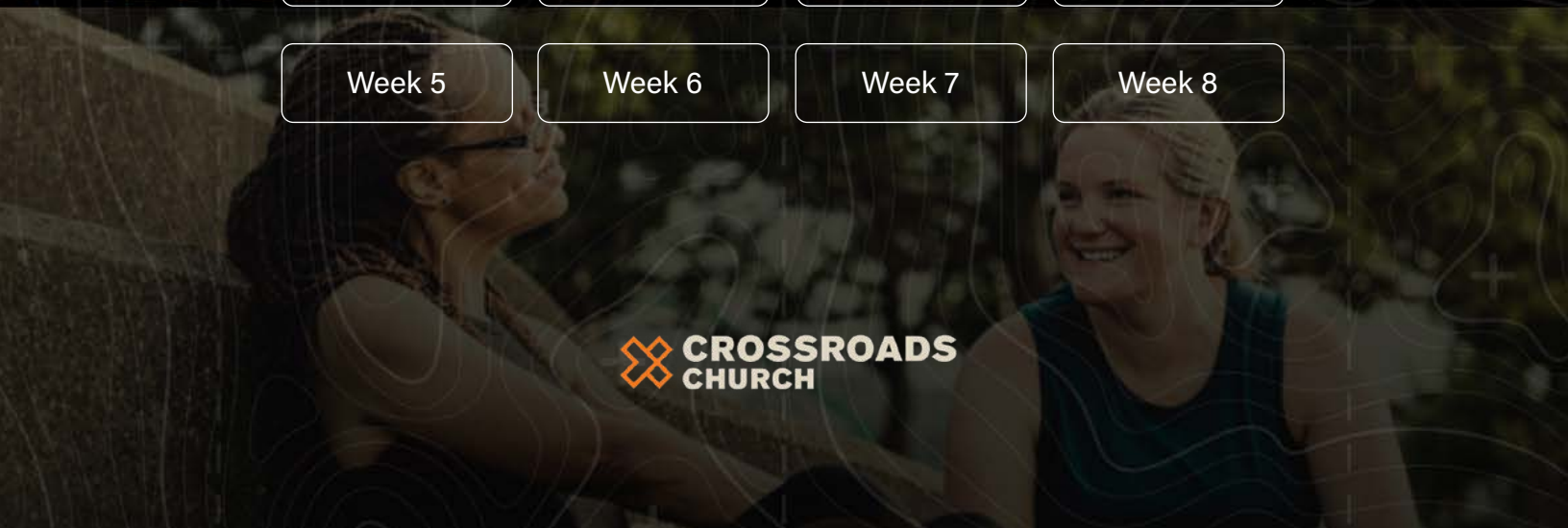
Week 4

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

Week 8



# LEADERS

*Start here*

Hey, leader. Ever feel like things are out of control, like the world is changing faster than you can keep up with? Yeah, us too. You're not alone—in fact, that feeling is what we'd call normal. Almost everybody—and certainly most followers of Jesus throughout history—have felt this way from time to time. But good news—God actually has something to say to us in moments just like this. So for the next eight weeks, we're going to take a look at 1 Peter, a letter written to followers of Jesus experiencing a crisis of their own. So pull up a chair and grab a drink; this guide, some friends, and [access to a Bible](#) is all you'll need for a great group experience.

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## BACKGROUND & TERMS

**Leader:** Good news: you don't have to have all the answers. (Go ahead and relax. It's allowed.) Your job is just to point people to Jesus, and this guide is designed to help you do that. Keep the conversation going, make sure everyone gets to engage, and pray for your people.

**Season:** Just like your favorite TV show, seasons help you organize your group around a particular story or idea for a short sprint. Each season is eight weeks of group content that everyone does together.

**IN:** IN is shorthand for the ways we connect with people and build friendships (hopefully leading to a fully-fledged community of people caring for each other). It comes with being authentic, open, and doing things together. So as you lead, keep that a priority.

So, your goal as the Group **LEADER** this **SEASON** is to facilitate **IN** with your group by leveraging this guide.

1 Peter has some great guidance for following Jesus. (Spoiler alert: there's a lot of meat in there, so we won't cover it all.) If you have people in your group who aren't sure about Jesus, that's great! This is designed so that they can still get a lot out of it, maybe even stepping into a relationship with him for the first time. Just keep in mind they may have some questions they're not saying out loud, so be intentional about checking in with them. Give them space to ask and process.

# CRDS MODEL

Everything is so much easier when you (and your group) know what to expect. So we put together a model you'll follow at each group meeting. It's easy to remember too—we named it after Crossroads. It's the CRDS model, and it stands for Connect, Receive, Do Something, and Say a Prayer.

**Connect:** You'll start by just hanging out. Maybe with dinner, ice breaker questions, or something to help you get the party started.

*\*Protip: Any time you can start the group and conversation over a meal, do it. Food is magic, trust us. Even though we shouldn't share it right now, everyone can BYOF (bring your own food).*

**Receive:** This is the meat & potatoes of group time. You'll dig into a topic with some guided support to keep the conversation flowing.

**Do Something:** The Bible says it's important not just to learn something, but to [do something about it](#). That's where we get to see life change. Each week, you'll leave with something to do.

**Say a Prayer:** Prayer connects all of what we're doing back to God. We find encouragement, strength, and peace as we pursue a next step.

# PREPARE YOUR GROUP

You've got one big to-do before your first group meeting, and that's setting up expectations for your group. We'll make it easy though. Here's a template for an email, text, or face-to-face conversation (gasp!) that you should have before you get started.

*Hey crew!*

*Welcome to the group. For the next eight weeks we're doing a deep dive into the book of 1 Peter. But this isn't a "sit and just talk" Bible study. We're gonna DO stuff to live out what we learn. It's going to be good. Here's some background so we're ready for the first meeting.*

*First, you don't need to be a Bible scholar (or have even read the Bible) to get a ton out of this group. No matter where you are, you have something to offer the group and ways that you can grow.*

*Second, a little about 1 Peter. It's a letter that a guy named Peter wrote to the people scattered throughout Rome. While we cannot be certain on the date, it is a good guess to say that Peter wrote his first letter near the year A.D. 65. Here's a quick (and super good) overview from [The Bible Project](#) to give you some context.*

*That's it. Before our first meeting, [watch this video](#) about Peter. It's less than five minutes.*

*See you soon.*

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# GET STARTED

Alright, Leader, you're pretty much ready to go. Look ahead at the first week of content. Invite your people, respond to those messages of people joining your group. And let's start this thing. Remember, all you gotta do is Connect, Receive, Do Something and Say a Prayer. You've got this.

# WEEK 1

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER

# CONNECT

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Welcome to the group! I'm glad you're all here. Let's start off by getting to know each other better. Everyone take turns answering these questions—I'll start.

- What is your favorite memory from the last year?
- Why did you pick this group for this season?
- What are you hoping to get out of the next eight weeks?
- Think about your best group experience (teams you've been on, other groups like this, your friends you ate lunch with in high school, anything where other people were involved). What's one thing that made that group great?

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# RECEIVE

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

We're going to dive into 1 Peter, a letter written by Peter to a bunch of small church communities—groups that probably wouldn't have been too much bigger than ours. For some of us, this could be intimidating. Others may have read it 100 times. No matter where we're coming from, there's something here for everybody. First, let's get to know Peter.

[We watched a video](#) that introduced us to him. He was one of Jesus' disciples, the guys who hung out with Jesus the most. They had a front row seat to his teaching and miracles, and he taught them how to live and love like he did. Even more, Jesus chose Peter to be a key leader in building the Church.

**LEADER:**

*Pick people to read these stories to get to know Peter a little more.*

Matthew 4:18-20

Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew 16:18-19

Matthew 26: 30-35; 47-56; 69-75

Acts 4:1-22

**LEADER:**

*Read each question and give your group time to respond.*

Put yourself in Peter's shoes. What do you think it would have been like to be that close to Jesus, living with him and learning from him?

Based on what we've read, how would you describe Peter?

Why do you think Jesus chose Peter as a leader in the Church?

# DO SOMETHING

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

Peter gives us a great example of someone who is faithful in following Jesus, even if he doesn't do it perfectly. Maybe each of us can relate? But God still used him in really big ways, which we'll talk about more next week.

One thing that will make our group great is connecting outside of our weekly group time. Before we leave, let's make sure we have each other's contact information and I'll connect us (a group text, WhatsApp, Group Me, Marco Polo, however we want to stay connected).

## Before next week:

[Watch this video](#) that sets up 1 Peter.

Bonus: Take some time to consider what Jesus would see in you, if you were in Peter's shoes. Think of gifts, skills, personality traits people have called out in you. What is something God might have made you for? Write down anything that comes to mind. If you know an action you can take in that direction, be bold like Peter and go for it.

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# SAY A PRAYER

## LEADER:

*Pray this over your group to close. Or choose your own.*

*“God, thank you for this group of people. Thank you for bringing us together for these next eight weeks. I pray that we grow as friends, and grow in our relationship with you. Show us how to live and love more like Jesus. Amen.”*

# WEEK 2

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER



# CONNECT

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

Welcome to Week 2. Before we jump in, let's have some fun. We're going to play a little "Would you Rather". I'm going to list two options and everyone will share their choice. Don't overthink it.

- Would you rather be covered in fur or scales?
- Would you rather have all green traffic lights or never have to stand in line again?
- Would you rather be the first person to explore a planet or be the inventor of a drug that cures cancer?
- Would you rather have unlimited international first-class airline tickets or never have to pay for food at restaurants?
- Would you rather be forced to dance every time you heard music or be forced to sing along to any song you heard?

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# RECEIVE

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

Last week, we got to know Peter, our author. This week, we're going to talk about the audience of 1 Peter and the state of the world they were living in. (And for you planners, we'll spend the remaining weeks on specific topics Peter calls out in this letter. It's gonna be great.)

Peter wrote this letter to encourage a group of churches that were in trying times, trying to follow Jesus when that was opposite of the culture around them. (Of course, this wasn't the first time God's people were like aliens in a strange land. It's kinda their m.o.). Maybe you

can relate. Maybe you've felt like an outsider or maybe the world around you is knocking you to your knees. Peter is encouraging them that in a strange way, the hostility they were facing can be a gift. And just like them, our challenges can be gifts. Whoa.

**LEADER:**

*Pick people to read these verses.*

- Then they will know that I am the Lord their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. Ezekiel 39:28
- In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world. John 16:33
- God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Psalm 46:1-3

**LEADER:**

*Read these questions aloud.*

- When have you felt like an outsider or alien?
- How do you normally respond when something doesn't go as planned or you feel misunderstood?
- Is there a trying time you're facing right now? If not now, what's a challenge you've faced in the past?

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## DO SOMETHING

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

One of the craziest things about Jesus is that he experienced every emotion we did. He wasn't popular with the rulers at the time. He was betrayed, rejected, and often misunderstood. Of course, we can all agree that a brutal death would be a "trying time." But He was victorious, which means that we can be too. This week, read these verses about Jesus' suffering and victory. He can relate to any challenge we face.

- Phillipians 2:6-11
- Hebrews 4:15
- Isaiah 53:1-12

Now, overcoming those challenges requires some specific attitudes and skills, and that's exactly what we're going to learn from Peter's letter in the coming weeks. To get us started, read Chapter 1.

## SAY A PRAYER

### **LEADER:**

*Say this prayer, or one of your own.*

*“God, thank you that we have letters like this book that can still apply to our lives today. Thank you for Jesus, an example we have to relate to and follow. Help us to be overcomers in our trying times. Thank you for being with us through them. Amen.”*

# WEEK 3

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER

## SOME DEFINITIONS

There are a lot of “bible” words in this book. To help us not get hung up on language, here are some definitions.

**Holy**

Set apart

**Sanctification**

The process of making someone holy

**Salvation**

Being saved from the brokenness that hurts us, often creating distance between us, God, and others

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## CONNECT

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Hey everyone! Welcome back. Grab your phone and find three pictures that show something you're thankful for. We'll have two minutes to pick 'em. Then we'll each get to share the pictures and why we're thankful for what they show. Keep it PG-13, people.

# RECEIVE

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

We're diving into two key themes this week: Hope and Holiness. Those words might seem heavy or "churchy". But we're going to spend the whole time making sense of what they mean for us.

**LEADER:**

*Pick someone to read 1 Peter 1 aloud. No need to sweat, it's only 26 verses.*

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

- What stands out to you?
- What's confusing in that passage?
- Re-read verses 3-9. What do you think Peter means by "living hope"?
- We can all agree to some extent, we're in trying times. Given what he says here, what do you think Peter would say to you about the hardships you're currently facing? Why could we still have hope?
- Now re-read verses 13-24. Peter says we are called to be holy. What does holiness mean to you? That word might bring up a range of thoughts and feelings. Let's talk about them.
- Based on Peter's instructions, what would pursuing holiness in your life look like?

# DO SOMETHING

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

Let's get practical. During this week we're going to take a step into hope and holiness. Grab your phone or your planner, wherever you make notes on a calendar or to-do lists. Pick the most stressful point of your coming week. Maybe it's a meeting you have to lead, the homework assignment you still need to write, a hard conversation you need to have, anything that could potentially bring on the stress sweats or a pit in your stomach. Now, right before that, pencil in "Hope and Holiness":

- Thank God that through difficult things, we can still have hope. [Check out this song we sing](#) to remind yourself of that hope.
- Notice how it affects your perspective on your challenge. You've got this.

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Come next week prepared to share how it went. Oh, and read Chapter 2.

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# SAY A PRAYER

## LEADER:

*Pray this aloud, or do your own.*

*“God, thank you for our struggles that help us to become holy. You don’t cause them, but we can grow through them. Help us to remember that the same power which resurrected Jesus also lives in us. Help our minds be fixed on the living hope of Jesus so that we can be comforted in our hardships.”*

# WEEK 4

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER



# CONNECT

## **LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Welcome back! Take a minute to think about the last week. What was the best part of last week? And what was the hardest part? Everyone gets to share.

Before we go any further, though, let's circle back to that thing you were stressed about from last week—we want to hear how it went. Did you get a chance to remind yourself of hope beforehand? If not, what kept you from it? If you did, did you notice a difference?

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# RECEIVE

## **LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

This week we read chapter two. We'll start by reading it again for a quick refresher.

SUPER. LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.

- What stood out to you in this chapter?
- Read Ephesians 2:19-21. When we come into a relationship with Jesus, we get to be part of a new family, not aliens like we talked about before. How does this encourage you?
- Now, let's come back to this week's chapter. As part of this family, we get to represent God and his ways. Peter gives some pretty specific instructions for how to do this. Call out the characteristics you see listed. Pick a note-taker to write them down so you can revisit them later.
- Some of these might seem weighty to embody, but it seems like God thinks pretty highly of his people. Maybe you haven't considered that before. Look at those verses again, and call out what jumps out to you. How would you want God to describe you?

# DO SOMETHING

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

Alright note-taker. It's your time to shine. Review the list you made earlier. These are ways we can actually be who God calls us to be. It seems like he really values how we interact with each other, like family.

- Why would being part of this family be appealing?
- How would your day-to-day life be different if you experienced this sort of family regularly?
- Let's try living it out. Pick one of the things you listed and tell the group how you're going to put it into action this week. (Not that you have to limit it to one, of course!)

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Come back ready to share how you demonstrated God's love this week. And we'll jump to Chapter 3, so come ready to talk about that too. And keep your notes from tonight—we'll add to them next week.

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# SAY A PRAYER

## LEADER:

*Here's a prayer you can use to close. Or choose your own.*

*“God, thank you for choosing us, and for calling us into your light. Thank you for your mercy. Help us to walk freely, representing your love wherever we go. Show us how to love others like you do. Amen.”*

# WEEK 5

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER

# CONNECT

## **LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Welcome back! First things first, did anyone notice anything different as we intentionally looked to represent God?

We've got another game today called "Two Truths and a Lie". It's exactly how it sounds. Each person picks two fun facts about themselves and one that's not exactly true. You'll share all three and the rest of us have to guess what the lie is. No cheating if you're married to the person, or it's your bestie!

### **Leader Note:**

We're talking about baptism tonight. If anyone in your group wants to get baptized, we want to help make that happen.

[Let us know if anyone is interested here.](#)

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# RECEIVE

## **LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

There's a lot in Chapter 3, some of which probably raises some questions. Before we jump in, let's set the stage. In Rome at this time, the patriarch was the final authority of the household. Peter is writing to a church that includes some women who believed in Jesus, but their husbands didn't. As you can imagine, that created some....tension. But Peter's encouragement here is to demonstrate freedom through love, not rebellion. And he's encouraging husbands who follow Jesus to treat their wives as equals, an equally scandalous statement in that culture. With that stuff as the backdrop, what stood out to you most in this chapter?

- Once again, Peter gives instructions on how to live. Grab your notes on the instructions from last week and add to them what you see in this chapter.
- God never promises that we'll live a life void of suffering, but Peter reminds us that we can choose how we respond to that suffering. Why do you think that was so important for him to include instructions to love those who hurt us?
- Peter mentions baptism, which is a public declaration that you want to follow Jesus. If you've been baptized, share the story of how you made that decision. If you haven't been, no pressure here. Just know that it is something that's available. Baptism is a public declaration that you want to follow Jesus. Talk to your group about where you are, and if you're interested in getting baptized, let your leader know.

**Leader:**

If you need more information to talk to anyone about baptisms, visit [crossroads.net/baptism](https://crossroads.net/baptism) or email [groups@crossroads.net](mailto:groups@crossroads.net). We're here to help.

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## DO SOMETHING

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Think of a relationship or situation that's challenging. What are some ways you can demonstrate God's grace and love to that person, or when you talk about that situation?

Identify one way that you can intentionally choose love in that situation this week and share it with the group. We'll check in on how it went next week. And move on to Chapter 4, so be sure to read it.

Oh, and Notetaker, keep that list handy. We're adding to it next week too.

## SAY A PRAYER

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Take a couple of minutes to write out your own prayer that's specific to the situation at hand. Ask God for his grace and love to be made known through you. Thank him for using this situation to grow you, even if it's hard. And anything else you want to talk to him about.

# WEEK 6

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER

# CONNECT

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

Welcome back! We got into some challenging stuff — it's not always easy to respond as Peter encourages us to. How did it go choosing love in the situation you chose?

Today we're going to talk about suffering for doing the right thing. But before we get to that, sometimes we end up suffering for doing a dumb thing. Everybody, tell a story of something embarrassing you've done—that poor fashion choice, that time you forgot half of your student council speech, etc.

**Leader Note:** If anyone was considering baptism last week, be sure to follow up with them outside of the group.

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# RECEIVE

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

Alright we're here for Chapter 4.

- What stood out to you in reading this chapter?
- Peter's got more instructions for us this week. Grab your list from the last two weeks and add what we see in Chapter 4.
- Peter encourages us to rejoice in our suffering. That's not the only place in the Bible it says that. Read 1 Peter 4:12-13, James 1:2-3 and Romans 5:3-5. Let's be honest—this isn't comfortable or popular instruction. If I'm suffering, the last thing I want to do is "rejoice." Why would God tell us this?
- A big theme in this chapter is perseverance. Why do you think perseverance is important as a Christ-follower?

# DO SOMETHING

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

In the midst of trying times, we can choose to grumble and have temper tantrums. Or, we can choose to lean in and let God do something in us through the suffering. Block off 30 minutes on your calendar this week. Take that time to thank God for anything that currently feels like suffering, maybe even shout for joy. Then ask Him what he wants you to learn through it, how it can help you grow. Write down anything that comes to mind.

Next week we wrap up 1 Peter with Chapter 5. It's 12 verses. You've got this. And Notetaker, we need you. Come ready to finish our list.

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# SAY A PRAYER

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

This week we're each going to pick a partner to pray for. We'll commit to praying for them every day this week. Sound good?

**LEADER:**

*After everyone picks a partner, read this.*

*“God, thank you for this group and what you’re doing in us right now. May we be men and women of perseverance and strength, no matter what life brings. Amen.”*



# WEEK 7

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER

# CONNECT

## **LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Good to see everyone again! Let's start with a recap from last week. Did anyone get new perspective on their situation?

Look around at each person in the group. Each of us had a significant role over the last several weeks to make this group what it is. Go around and tell each person why you're thankful you got to do this group with them.

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# RECEIVE

## **LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

It's our final chapter of 1 Peter. I bet you know what's coming.

- What jumps out to you in this chapter?
- Note-taker, it's all you. Grab those notes of instructions we've been compiling. Let's add the last set of instructions we find here.
- Peter is specifically talking to leaders within the Church, but all of this applies to each of us too. We're all made to "shepherd", which simply means to care for each other. Read these verses about shepherding:
  - Psalm 23
  - John 10:1-18
  - Proverbs 27:17
- We can learn a lot on how to care for each other, but it all comes from us knowing the Good Shepherd. (That's Jesus.) Discuss as a group ways you've been shepherded the last seven weeks.
- We're reminded here that our challenges aren't with other people, but that we have an enemy who wants to destroy us. Here's a couple more verses to read: Ephesians 6:12 and John 10:10 (should sound familiar). What are some ways that you face that enemy in your normal, day-to-day life?

The good news is that you were made to overcome any scheme of the enemy (Romans 8:37). And you've got tools to do that.

# DO SOMETHING

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

Peter says to humble ourselves before God, to give Him all of our anxieties and to be watchful of the enemy. That's a lot packed into a couple of sentences. Pick one of those to stick with this week.

- **Humble yourself:** do something that puts someone else first or ask God what you need to let go of, so you can have more of him.
- **Let go of anxiety:** find a way to track every anxious thought this week. At the end of every day, actively give them to God. Maybe it's burning a list on paper, whatever works for you.
- **Be watchful of the enemy:** notice when you have your guard down. Maybe it's distractions or behaviors that numb you, like scrolling through social media, binging Netflix, or alcohol. Identify ways you can be more alert.

Nothing to read for next week, but be sure to bring your favorite snack, beverage, or dessert. We're having a party!  
Hint: Note-taker bring your notes back next week.

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# SEAL WITH PRAYER

## LEADER:

*Read aloud*

We're each going to have a chance to pray tonight, if you'd like to. I'll pick a person to start, anyone can jump in next, and once we have enough awkward silence, I'll close us.

# WEEK 8

WINTER 2021 - 1 PETER

# CONNECT

## **LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Celebrate good times, come on! We are in our last week of this study, but don't worry. It doesn't have to end here. We'll talk more about that later. For now, let's eat.

Two things: everyone share the food they choose and why they picked it. Then as we're enjoying all of the goodness here, we're each going to share what being in this group has meant to us. Awww.

But for real, how have the last eight weeks impacted you? Celebrate any life change you got to see in each other through this group. Encourage bold steps that were taken, perseverance, friendships, everyone being here, anything that made this group time worth it.

# RECEIVE

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

Ok, Note-taker, this is the moment we've all been waiting for. Let's review the entire list of instructions we got from 1 Peter. Here are some big ideas to get you started if you need them.

- Pursue holiness (being set apart)
  - Overcome trials, rejections, and harsh circumstances through love
  - Submit to authority
  - See how suffering helps us grow
  - Take care of others
- 

**LEADER:**

*Read these questions aloud*

- Why are our actions so important to God? To the world around us?
  - What are some of your biggest takeaways from 1 Peter?
  - How can our group better embody these instructions and encouragements? How could that impact not just us, but the world around us?
- 

**LEADER:**

*Since you have your list in one place, be sure to send it out to the group so everyone can keep it, like a souvenir.*

# DO SOMETHING

**LEADER:**

*Read aloud*

We just spent eight weeks unpacking a very meaty book of the Bible, and spent nearly every week talking about everyone's favorite topic, suffering. Woo hoo! Well done, everyone.

- What makes this stick is that we don't just leave what we learned here. Share with the group how you will continue to live out some of the things you learned in this group.
- What's next for us as a group?

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**LEADER:**

*Here are some options. You can:*

- Take a break until the next Groups Season.
- Keep meeting and chart our own course. It could be a study. A project. Or just hanging out.
- Call it quits and try something else—that's totally okay too!

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# SAY A PRAYER

**LEADER:**

*You've got this, Leader. Take it from here. And thanks for leading!*