

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## *A Life Transformed* *(1<sup>st</sup> Peter)* Week 3

4G Series - 2021 - [www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html](http://www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html)  
Calvary Baptist Church  
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### Introduction to the series: *A Life Transformed (1<sup>st</sup> Peter)*

When we read about Peter in the Gospels, we find an entirely different “Peter” than the one who wrote 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. In the Gospels, Peter was anything but a rock. He wasn’t very dependable. He often spoke or acted in a way that would be misguided. His actions disguised an underlying insecurity despite his outward confidence.

As we read 1 Peter, we see a different person, a transformed man, and the faith which turned his thinking and lifestyle upside-down. It can do the same for all who read his words with an open heart and mind, searching for the truth of the Gospel of Jesus. Most of all, Peter changed because he came to know and trust Jesus. It is our hope that as we investigate these writings, Peter’s text will help us all know Him more as well.

*Phillip Cole*

Campus Pastor – CBC Smithville

#### Introduction To The 4G Guide

*GATHER – GOD – GROUP – GIVE*

It's important that we *GATHER* each week as a church family. Still, God has so much more for us! He wants us to take what He's teaching and apply it to our lives. This is the heart of the 4G Guides. These guides are written to encourage you in your personal *GOD TIME* and in your small *GROUPS*. They are designed to help you understand what God is teaching and apply it to your daily life. Understanding and application allows you to then take what God is teaching and *GIVE* it to others.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV Text Edition: 2016) Bible.



## How To Use The 4G Guide

Each week is divided into four sections:



### Gathering Time

God calls us to corporate worship. On Sunday mornings we gather (in person or online) to worship, hear God's message, and be challenged to apply His word. This booklet includes weekly sermon guides.



### God Time

Personal worship is vital to the Christian walk, so we have written five daily devotionals for each weekly topic. This is your time to meet with God one-on-one in a guided devotional format. Once the devotional time is finished, we encourage you to pray, seeking direction for the day.



### Group Time

We learn from one another! Each week, either on Sundays or at various other times, 4G Groups meet to dig deeper into the weekly material. This booklet features weekly lesson outlines in a "three-thirds" discipleship format. In addition, links to short video guides, sermon recaps, and other helpful resources are posted on our 4G web page. \*



### Family Time

Family worship glorifies God. To help, we have created simple, once-a-week devotionals just for families. In addition to the weekly outline, video or story guide links may be posted on our 4G web page\* to help get the conversations flowing.

\* 4G Groups, video links, resources, and 4G Guides are posted weekly on our 4G web page: [www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html](http://www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html).



## THE 4G GUIDE

### The 3-Step Encouragement Process

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Hebrews 10:23-25

1. Participants partner-up to ask five short and simple questions. Partners should be of the same gender. If there is an odd number, triplets are OK but need to work swiftly.
2. Partners ask each other these five questions:

	"Did you spend specific personal time in the <b>BIBLE</b> <u>each day</u> this past week?"	These are "Yes" or "No" questions.
	"Did you spend specific time in <b>PRAYER</b> <u>each day</u> this past week? – not just for meals"	Any hesitations or "Well..." responses are circled "No."
	"Did you do something specific to show Godly <b>LOVE</b> to someone this past week?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If so, the partner briefly shares the encounter(s) with their partner and, on the provided line, writes the name(s) of the person(s) they showed love to, shared the gospel with, or discipled.</li> <li>• If not, leave the line blank.</li> </ul>
	"Did you intentionally share the <b>GOSPEL</b> with anyone this past week?"	
	"Did you <b>DISCIPLE</b> anyone this past week?" (E.g.: Sharing any of the God, Group, or Family Times)	

3. To finish, each partner prays for the other. No matter how or what the partner has done over the past week, this is an intentional prayer of **encouragement** for the coming week!



## Gathering Notes

## A Life Transformed

**You Are In A \_\_\_\_\_**

- **Prepare For** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1 Peter 1:13*
- **Live** \_\_\_\_\_  
*1 Peter 1:14-16, Acts 28:30-31*

**Set Apart For The \_\_\_\_\_ Of \_\_\_\_\_**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

## WEEK 3: YOU ARE IN A BATTLE

### God Time: Day 1 – Prepare for Battle



The challenges we face are more than just surviving day-to-day; they are part of a spiritual battle for our eternal souls.



Read 1 Peter 1:13

*Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Underline where Peter says to set your hope.



Circle when this hope will be fulfilled (“brought to you”).

Grace is when God gives us something far better than what we deserve. We get to see this grace completed when Jesus returns from heaven. With that understanding, let’s examine the three things Peter tells us we can do to transform our lives:

#### 1. Prepare For Action

When we truly believe that God is at work in our world, it should not surprise us when He causes events to happen unexpectedly – not according to our plans. We need to be ready to follow God even when His plan is unexpected.

How will you prepare yourself now to be ready to follow God? (Bible study, prayer time, acts of service?)

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#### 2. Be Sober-Minded

This is making sure that we are not under the influence of anything that weakens our ability to make good choices.

What habits or distractions are causing you to make bad choices?

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#### 3. Set Your Hope On Grace

The enemy works hard to make us think we need to decide on everything “right now” and based on what we “deserve.” Yet when we slow down and are honest with ourselves, we realize how much we need grace.

Slow down, be honest with yourself, and pray, thanking God for the grace He has given you. And pray to give grace to others.

### God Time: Day 2 – Lives Set Apart



All three actions discussed yesterday have to do with a specific spiritual focus to life: the pursuit of holiness.



Read 1 Peter 1:14-16 (NLT)

*<sup>14</sup>So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then. <sup>15</sup>But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. <sup>16</sup>For the Scriptures say, “You must be holy because I am holy.”*



Circle the reason Peter gives for the way we used to live before we knew Jesus and became concerned with being holy.



How would you determine if a certain behavior is holy? (Hint: does it reflect God’s behavior toward us?) If you need some help, see Galatians 5:22-23.

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### God Time: Day 3 – Why Live This Way (Paul’s Example)



At the very end of Acts – a book about the spread of the gospel after Jesus went to heaven – we see Paul (another apostle like Peter) under house arrest for his faith.



Read Acts 28:30-31

*<sup>30</sup>He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, <sup>31</sup>proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*

Underline who covered Paul’s expenses in this passage.



Circle what Paul did to other people.

Do you wonder why Paul would go to this much effort to share the gospel with more people after he had already suffered so much for pursuing this way of life?



What sense of purpose drives your life pursuits? Where do you invest your time and money?

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### WEEK 3: YOU ARE IN A BATTLE

#### God Time: Day 4 – Prepare to Make a Difference



In the Old Testament book of Daniel, we read about some other people who pursued a godly life.



Read Daniel 1:6-8

*<sup>6</sup>Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. <sup>7</sup>And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. <sup>8</sup>But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.*

As young men taken from their homeland, Daniel and his friends would have no human reason for thinking that they might someday rise to powerful positions in the government of the country which took them captive. However, they were committed to pursuing holiness as a way of life. In response, God made a difference in many lives. (For further examples, see Daniel chapter 3 about the fiery furnace and chapter 6 about the lion's den.)

Everyone likes to hear about people who are famous for making a big difference in the world. But God most often chooses people who are faithful in small matters – people who make day-to-day choices that also don't align with the world's way of thinking. Consider these questions:

- Are you looking for opportunities?
- Is there anything distracting you?
- Are you focused on the Big Picture?



Write down at least one behavior change you can make this week based upon one of the three questions above. How will you implement this change?

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This will start preparing you to make an eternal difference in the lives of people around you.

#### God Time: Day 5 – Pursue A Godly Life



Read Hebrews 12:12-14

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*

Underline what is necessary if we wish to “see the Lord.”



In verses 12-13, a word picture is used to illustrate the power of exercising good habits versus bad ones. If needed, look in some other translations to help you understand what this imagery means and rewrite verse 13 in your own words:

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You may have heard the phrase “straighten up and fly right.” In this week's sermon, we were given two elements needed to pursue a godly life:

- Dealing With Sin – This means addressing the areas where we have been going wrong. Repentance involves a change of heart and a new way of thinking – turning and going the opposite direction.
- Living For A Purpose – Unless we are committed to God's way of looking at the challenges of life, we will not be able to live out our purpose as God intends (see verse 14). Otherwise, we'll be too occupied with just surviving and trying to make sense of the senseless chaos of our world.



Where is your current path, your purpose, taking you?

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What do you want to change about your current direction?

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### WEEK 3: YOU ARE IN A BATTLE



#### Group Time

ENCOURAGEMENT 1-on-1 (See page 47 for directions):



Y / N



Y / N



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#### LOOK BACK:

**Point:** *True faith will bring challenges. Move forward by keeping your eyes on Jesus.*

- Review last week's lesson. What difficulties have weakened or strengthened your faith? Did you move closer to Jesus?

**Question:** If you were warned, "At 6:00 p.m. the rioters are coming for your neighborhood," what would you do to prepare?

**LOOK UP:** Watch this week's Group Guide video on our 4G web page.

**Recap:** In 1 Peter 1:13, Peter begins speaking about the battle we must prepare for and need to fight because our freedom was bought with a heavy price. Sounds like a good 4<sup>th</sup> of July message.

But this battle is not of flesh and blood; it's a spiritual battle. And like a physical battle, Peter calls us to be prepared for action, to be sober-minded, and to set our hope on grace. This will require us to live a life set apart in obedience and holiness. We must look for opportunities, deal with distractions (sin), and keep focused on the big picture. It is a battle that will cause us to face many challenges. But fought intently and intentionally, it will lead to many victories and the expansion of God's kingdom.

#### LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

- Watch the Bible Project video *Heaven & Earth*. ([youtube.com/watch?v=Zy2AQIK6C5k](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Zy2AQIK6C5k))
- How does this week's sermon and the video change how we have traditionally viewed our purpose? (It's not to get to heaven.)
- If we truly live for God's purpose, what might we have to stop or start doing? Make a group list that everyone can see and comment about. Make this time useful.



#### LOOK FORWARD: Application

**Point:** *Our purpose is not to "be good" or even get to heaven; our purpose is to expand God's kingdom!*

#### You Are Set Apart

- **Prepare:**

- Are you actively looking for opportunities to expand God's kingdom? If yes, list the ways. If not, how can you start?

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- What is distracting you from looking for opportunities?

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- Are you focused on the BIG picture (expanding God's kingdom)? How will you improve your focus?

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- **Pursue:**

- What do you need to run away from so you can fully pursue the expansion of God's kingdom?

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- How can you recruit others to join you in this pursuit?

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## Family Time

**Main Idea:** God has a purpose for each of us.



### Key Verses: Acts 9:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” <sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

### Set it Up:

When we see things that are blurry, it can be difficult to figure out what an object is. But as it becomes clearer, it can be easier to figure out what it is. Have fun playing this game and seeing who can figure out each item the fastest.



### Watch: Week 3 Video

This week’s video is on the playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to [cbcfamily.net](http://cbcfamily.net) and click on 4G Guides for the video link under the Family Guide section.



### Discuss:

The eye is an incredible organ. Check this out:

- The human eye can detect the difference between over 10 million colors.
- Our eyes stay the same size our entire lives while our noses and ears keep growing.

- Pirates wore earrings because they thought it would improve their eyesight.

Okay, maybe that last fact is a little weird, but it’s true! The ability to see is a big deal. But our eyes can sometimes play tricks on us—make us see something that isn’t there or *not* see something that is there. When this happens, it’s called an *optical illusion*. Optical illusions make us believe the impossible is possible.

Paul was a man who went through a lot of pain, hurt, and hard times just to tell people about Jesus. He dedicated his entire life to starting churches and helping other people start churches. A lot of people say that Paul is the most famous Christian ever.

See, when Saul met Jesus, everything about Saul changed. He went from punishing Jesus-followers to being a Jesus-follower!



### Family Activity:

Grab a sheet of paper and something to write with. Think about someone important in your life—someone who has helped you see things differently. It could be a teacher, a coach, a small group leader, or a friend.

Write their name on the paper. (If you can’t remember their name, feel free to make one up!) Now, write 3 ways your life would be different if you’d never met them.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Knowing people can change the way we see things. But knowing *Jesus* changes the way we see everything.