

Name _____



A Life Transformed *(1st Peter)* Week 2

*4G Series - 2021 - www.cbcfamily.net/4g.html
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Introduction to the series: *A Life Transformed (1st Peter)*

When we read about Peter in the Gospels, we find an entirely different “Peter” than the one who wrote 1st and 2nd 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.

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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.



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 BIBLE <u>each day</u> this past week?"	These are "Yes" or "No" questions.
	"Did you spend specific time in PRAYER <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 LOVE to someone this past week?"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • If not, leave the line blank.
	"Did you intentionally share the GOSPEL with anyone this past week?"	
	"Did you DISCIPLE 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 Time (Sermon Notes)

Date: _____

A Life Transformed

Gathering Notes

When The _____ Are Not _____

- **Remember The** _____
1 Peter 1:3-5
- **Build Your** _____
1 Peter 1:6-7

There Is _____ In The _____

1 Peter 1:8-9

- We Know _____
- This Is Not The _____

How Will You _____?

[illegible]

WEEK 2: WHEN THE ANSWERS ARE NOT EASY

God Time: Day 1 – Peter’s Letters



Read 1 Peter 1:1 (NLT)

This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God’s chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

Peter started out as an uneducated fisherman, but God transformed his life and used him to fish for souls. Eventually, Peter wrote a letter to Christians in all the “provinces” (states) mentioned in the verse above. (These places are in modern-day Turkey.) These Christians suffered major hardships and persecution because of their faith.



Do you know of any Christians who are suffering from persecution because of their faith? Stop and pray for them now.

Do you know about the ministry **Voice of the Martyrs**? Check them out at persecution.com and begin praying for your “family.”

God Time: Day 2 – Remember the Gift



Read 1 Peter 1:3-5

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In verse 3, underline “according to his great mercy.”

We are “born again to a living _____ through the _____ of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an _____...”

In verse 5, underline the words “being guarded through faith.”



Look back just a few words (still verse 5) and circle what guards us.

Put a box around what we are being guarded for.

The words “salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” points back to the “inheritance in heaven” of verse 4. Connect them with arrows. (Salvation is the inheritance of heaven.)



Peter’s words encourage us as we face difficulties. When we question why suffering happens, it helps us to remember the gift of life through Christ – a gift that promises heaven! If you are currently suffering, talk to God about it. Ask Him to help you “remember the gift” of eternal life through Christ.

God Time: Day 3 – Build Your Faith



Not all of our hardships or problems are caused by God, but they can be used by God. Sometimes God will bring beautiful things from our biggest hurts or trials. And sometimes our suffering is used by God to build up our faith.



Read 1 Peter 1:6-7

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

In verse 6, what were the Christians to whom Peter was writing “grieved by?”

The reason why they could rejoice in trials (beginning of verse 6) is found in verse 7. What is it? (Rewrite verse 7 in your own words.)



Sometimes people think of faith in the same way they think of love— as simply a feeling. But love and faith are both more than feelings! Love is a decision to act genuinely in a loving way. Faith is the decision to believe and trust God. This means that when our faith is tested, our decision to believe and trust God is tested. We can allow trials to build our faith or destroy it. The decision is ours.

What trial have you experienced that built your faith? Was the experience painful? What was the outcome (the effect on your faith)?

Who can you share this experience with to encourage them?



If you’re facing a trial today, pray 1 Peter 1:7 to God. Make it your request and goal.



May your genuine faith result in praise, glory, and honor!

WEEK 2: WHEN THE ANSWERS ARE NOT EASY

God Time: Day 4 – There is Joy in the Darkness



We all know life has its ups and downs. And sometimes the downs are really, really hard. Job loss, financial ruin, broken relationships, illness, death... these are just a few of the many dark times we face as humans in this world. But there can be joy, even in the darkness.



Read 1 Peter 1:8-9

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.



In verse 8, we find the word “him” several times. Turn back to yesterday’s devotional and look at the last two words of the passage (1 Peter 1:6-7). What are they?

Verse 7 from yesterday’s passage (about the tested genuineness of our faith) tells us that at the revelation (i.e., return) of Jesus Christ we will experience praise, glory, and honor along with Him.

The second sentence of verse 8 (above) tells why...

“Though you do not now see him, you _____ in Him.”

Look in verse 9. What is the outcome of (genuine, tested) faith?



Read Jesus’ words in John 14:2

In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Do you see it? There is so much to rejoice in, even when it feels like we’ve been utterly defeated by trials. Though it may feel painful to rejoice, we have reason to. There is joy in the darkness! How?

1. We know Jesus!
2. This world is not the end!

List two trials you are currently facing:

1. _____
2. _____



At the top of the list write the words “Jesus” and “Heaven.” Pray over these trials and allow God to shift the way you think about them, so that it lines up with today’s passage.

God Time: Day 5 – How Will You Respond?



Not to bring bad news, but trials, suffering, hardships, and even persecution will come. While we may not have a choice about that, we do have a choice about how we respond.



Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

We’ve talked mostly about Peter, but Paul was another example of a life transformed. He wrote letters to churches, too. In the passage above, Paul is telling the Corinthian church that though he has experienced intense trials while sharing the “treasure” of the gospel, the trials have not destroyed him. The reason why is found in the last verse (verse 11), above. But it’s a little confusing, so let’s take a look at it.

The “life of Jesus” (His resurrection power) is “manifested in our mortal flesh.” The basic meaning is that no matter what happens to our bodies, Jesus’ life is (or should be) evident in us.

Another way to say this is that we can allow our trials to defeat us, or we can let them move us closer to Jesus, focusing on His power in us and our obedience to do His will!



Read Philippians 3:14-15

¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.

Pray that God will help you develop the maturity to press on, even when life is tough. God can transform you!



Have you learned something new this week? Who will you share it with and when?

WEEK 2: WHEN THE ANSWERS ARE NOT EASY



Group Time

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



Y / N



Y / N







LOOK BACK:

Point: *God's greatest victory in your life may be on the other side of failure!*

- Review last week's lesson. How did you jump out, speak up, and/or lift up? How were you blessed?

Question: What is the main difference in how we receive an earthly inheritance versus God's promised inheritance?

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

Recap: The Apostle Peter was ministering during an exceedingly difficult time for the fledgling Christian community. Persecution came from every direction, government, religion, and even from inside the church. It was easy to ask, "If making Jesus my Lord and Savior is the right thing to do, why is this happening to me?"

Peter writes that while we receive the gift of God's mercy in this life, our inheritance is in the next. Trials will come in this life – trials that test our faith. But faith is not based on how we feel about our situation; it is based upon our decision to follow Jesus. And when we act upon this faith, even though it brings difficulties, it also brings great joy as we move closer to Christlikeness.

(Answer to the question above: We receive an earthly inheritance when someone else dies. We receive God's inheritance when we die.)

LOOK IN: Discussion Questions

Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

- Discuss and break down each verse. Put them in your own words. Really determine as a group – what is Peter telling us?
 - How would you explain this to an unbeliever?

LOOK FORWARD: Application

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

Decision-based Faith

- Because of your faith, what difficulties or trials are you facing? Are you blaming God?

- Have these difficulties or trials weakened or strengthened your faith? In what way?

- How can you move closer to Jesus in these difficulties or trials?

(If you are uncertain how to do this, ask for help from those in your group or other trusted Believers. We are not designed to face these difficulties alone. We are a family.)

Pray for one another to find joy in the journey.



Family Time

Main Idea:

We move forward by keeping our eyes on Jesus



Key Verses: Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Set it Up:

You will need a needle and 12 inches of thread for each child. Have each child try to thread the needle with only having one eye open. After 30 seconds, have them switch which eye is open. After another 30 seconds, have them open both eyes and try to thread the needle. Ask: When you tried to thread your needle, when was it the easiest? Why were the first two times harder than the third time?

Reread the key verse for today. Do you think it is easier to follow Jesus if we keep our eyes on Him? What are ways we can practice keeping our eyes on Jesus? Let's check out this video and then we will come back to this question.



Watch: Week 2 Video

This week's video is on the playlist of the CBC YouTube channel or go to cbcfamily.net and click on 4G Guides for the video link under the Family Guide section.



Ask:

What does it mean to keep your eyes on Jesus?

A lot of work we do is not always easy, and often we are tempted to give up. But if we remember that our big goal is to please Jesus then we will keep trying and keep our eyes on Him.



Encourage:

When we find ourselves distracted by frustrations, business, sports, television, video games, etc., we need to catch ourselves, take a deep breath, and lift our thoughts toward Jesus. Although we might struggle with distractions and focusing on Jesus, we need to remember that we never go through life alone. Others can help us do better.



Pray this prayer as a family:

Dear Lord, help us to face this day with a spirit of focus on You. Let our thoughts be focused on you and your gifts that you give us each day. Amen.