

119

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Bible Study: Life in Exile - Intro to 1 Peter (1 Peter 1:1-2)

TEACHING SUMMARY

The teaching introduces 1 Peter as a letter about identity, mission, and hope during suffering. Peter addresses believers as elect exiles. Through Messiah, Israel's story of redemption and expectation becomes their story, giving them a place in God's family even when society excludes them.

Peter was one of Yeshua's disciples and was commissioned to carry the Gospel to the nations. The teaching recalls his failures, restoration, and ministry to Gentiles. His vision taught him not to call people common or unclean, preparing him to welcome Gentiles whom God had accepted.

The teaching defends Peter's authorship through early Christian testimony, the reference to an earlier letter in 2 Peter, and similarities with Peter's speeches in Acts. It explains that polished Greek could reflect Peter's developing ability or assistance from a scribe such as Silvanus.

The persecution described in the letter is understood as largely local harassment and slander, rather than proof of a later empire-wide policy. The teaching considers Peter's audience predominantly Gentile, based on descriptions of their former lives. The named provinces were in Asia Minor, in modern-day Turkey.

Peter's greeting links the Father's choosing, the Spirit's sanctifying work, and obedience to Yeshua. Sanctification includes initial separation from sin and continued growth in holiness. Sprinkling with Messiah's blood recalls the covenant ceremony in Exodus 24 and identifies believers as an obedient covenant people.

The theme of exile helps believers understand life amid a culture hostile to their faith. They are called to engage with others and defend their hope while awaiting Yeshua's kingdom. Their acceptance by God, shared identity, and future home give them reason for joy and faithful conduct in present trials.

SUMMARY POINTS

- First Peter connects believers' identity with hope amid suffering.
- An apostle is sent on a mission as a representative.
- Peter's vision prepared him to welcome Gentiles accepted by God.
- Early Christian testimony supports the teaching's defense of Peter's authorship.
- The letter's themes resemble Peter's speeches in Acts.
- A scribe's assistance could help explain the letter's polished Greek.
- The teaching identifies the persecution as largely local and unofficial.
- Peter's audience is understood as predominantly Gentile believers in Asia Minor.
- The Spirit sanctifies believers for obedience within God's covenant.
- Exiles have a family, a mission, and hope in Messiah's coming kingdom.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The letter identifies its author as _____.
2. Peter's brother who introduced him to Yeshua was _____.
3. The name Peter means _____.
4. Peter addresses believers as elect _____.
5. The named provinces were in Asia Minor, or modern-day _____.
6. Peter wishes his readers grace and _____.

Challenging

1. An apostle is someone sent on a mission as a _____.
2. The teaching suggests that _____, mentioned in 1 Peter 5:12, could have helped Peter with his writing.
3. The teaching describes the readers' persecution as unofficial _____ rather than an empire-wide policy.
4. The descriptions of their former lives suggest a predominantly _____ audience.
5. The Spirit's work of separation from sin and growth in holiness is called _____.
6. The sprinkling of blood recalls Moses ratifying the _____ with Israel.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Peter's story help explain his ministry to Gentiles?
2. What evidence does the teaching offer for Peter's authorship of the letter?
3. How does the teaching answer objections based on polished Greek and persecution?
4. Why does the teaching identify the audience as predominantly Gentile while recognizing Israel's story in the letter?
5. What does the greeting reveal about believers' identity and their calling to obedience?
6. How can the exile theme encourage faithful engagement with others while believers await Yeshua's kingdom?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Peter
2. Andrew
3. rock
4. exiles
5. Turkey
6. peace

Challenging

1. representative
2. Silvanus
3. harassment
4. Gentile
5. sanctification
6. covenant