

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I PETER 2:1-8

Lesson 7

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Consider the wonder of your salvation as you review I Peter 1:17-25. Choose a phrase or verse from this passage that increases your appreciation for what the Lord has done.
2. Each paragraph of this week's study in I Peter 2:1-8 will benefit and encourage us in our Christian walk. Read the following verses and write a title for:
 - a. I Peter 2:1-3
 - b. I Peter 2:4-8
3. Peter recognized the importance and power of the Word of God. Begin your lesson by writing a prayer asking the Lord to give you a greater understanding of the scriptures. In response to the verse printed below also ask Him to increase your desire for the Word.

*...desire the pure milk of the Word,
that you may grow thereby.*
I Peter 2:2b NKJV

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SECOND DAY: Read I Peter 2:1

1. The word *Wherefore* in I Peter 2:1 refers to the changed life spoken of in I Peter 1:13-25. What is this change and how is it accomplished? Answer from I Peter 1:23.

2. Think about what believers are commanded to do in I Peter 2:1. The phrase *laying aside* means *putting off*. There should be an absolute rejection of the old behavior for those who are *born again*. List and define the specific things from verse 1 that we are to lay aside:
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f. Notice the little word *all* in this verse. What does it say to you?

Challenge: From Ephesians 4:22-25,31(32) and Colossians 3:8-10,12-14 record other things Christians are to *put off* and *put on*.

3. Prayerfully look over the list in I Peter 2:1 asking the Lord to show you the seriousness of these attitudes and actions. These things rob us of our joy, dilute our power and diminish our influence. How is Ephesians 4:32 an antidote for this?

*But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and make not provision for the flesh,
to fulfil the lusts thereof.*
Romans 13:14

THIRD DAY: Read I Peter 2:2,3

1. I Peter 2:2 is one of the most important verses in this letter for the believer. Write it here phrase by phrase.

a. Describe the desire a newborn baby has for milk.

(1.) Compare the consequences of the lack of appetite in a newborn baby to the lack of desire for the Word in a Christian. Share your thoughts or insights.

b. The sins of I Peter 2:1 deaden our appetite for the Word. What other things diminish our desire for the Word of God?

c. Suggest one or two ways we can stimulate our appetite for the Word.

2. The word *sincere* in I Peter 2:2 means *guileless, pure* or *genuine*. *Milk* here refers to the Word of God in general. With this in mind why will we never outgrow our need for *milk*?

3. Read I Peter 2:3. This verse completes the sentence that began in verse 1. The phrase *if so be* could be translated *since*. Think about this as you print verse 3 here.

a. Focus on the phrase *the Lord is gracious*. *Gracious* means *good, kind, or excellent*. Share a way you have experienced this in your life.

b. How should verse 3 affect our commitment to the Lord and His Word?

O taste and see that the LORD is good.

Psalm 34:8a

FOURTH DAY: Read I Peter 2:4,5

1. In I Peter 2:4-6 Peter turns the believers' attention to their privileges. The phrase in verse 4, *to Whom coming* expresses the idea of drawing close to the Lord for salvation with the intention to stay and enjoy intimate fellowship. How does this speak to you today?

a. The description of Christ as a *living stone* is a metaphor. (A metaphor is a figure of speech that uses one kind of object or idea to illustrate another.) From verse 4 record what is revealed about Christ as a *living stone*.

(1.) The word *disallowed* refers to being *disapproved, refused, rejected*. Almost a thousand years before Christ was born this was prophesied about Him. Pause and think about this as you write Psalm 118:22 here.

(2.) What does *chosen of God, and precious* indicate about Jesus?

2. Print the glorious statements about believers in I Peter 2:5.

a. *Lively* here is the same Greek word as *living* in verse 4. As *living stones* we are part of a great spiritual structure. What is the purpose for this *spiritual house*? verse 5b

(1.) Who decides where each *living stone* (member) should be placed? See I Corinthians 12:18.

3. Consider this: Believers have the privilege as *an holy priesthood* of offering up *spiritual sacrifices*. Read the following verses and record the spiritual sacrifices that please the Lord:

a. Romans 12:1

b. Hebrews 13:15

c. Hebrews 13:16

d. Share a practical example of one of these *sacrifices*.

FIFTH DAY: Read I Peter 2:6-8

1. In I Peter 2:6-8 Peter quoted from the Old Testament. Confirm this by completing the following chart:

Old Testament Verses

I Peter 2:6-8

Isaiah 28:16

I Peter 2:6

Isaiah 8:14a

I Peter 2:7b

Isaiah 8:15

I Peter 2:8

- a. Why do you think Peter used these Old Testament scriptures?

Advanced Students: Research and record the meaning of *chief corner stone* (verse 6) and *head of the corner* (verse 7).

2. The word *disobedient* in I Peter 2:7,8 means *disbelieving*. Look at these verses once again. What is Christ to the disbelieving?

- a. Why do people today find Christ to be *a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense*?

3. What is Christ to those who believe? I Peter 2:7

- a. What does the promise given to believers in I Peter 2:6c mean to you?

SIXTH DAY: Review I Peter 2:1-8

1. What can you apply from this week's lesson that will help you grow spiritually?

2. Why are Christians commanded to *lay aside* the sins of I Peter 2:1?

3. Record one way believers are like *newborn babes*. I Peter 2:2
 - a. If someone were to ask you how they could increase their spiritual appetite for the Word, how would you answer?

4. Write one thing you learned through your study of I Peter 2:4-8 about:
 - a. Christ

 - b. believers

 - c. the disbelieving

5. What does it mean to you today that Christ is the *Living Stone*?

*Because He is the Cornerstone of the temple of my life
I stand within His presence to extol His sacrifice.
He was refused, rejected, disallowed and scorned by men,
but chosen by God, elected to take away my sin.
Because You are so precious I want my life to be
consecrated and devoted, Chief Cornerstone, to Thee.
-selected*