

# Joyful Life Bible Studies

## I PETER 3:8-12

Lesson 11

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I Peter 3:1-7. In what specific way have these verses influenced your life this week?
2. How can we experience a *joyful life*? This week's study of I Peter 3:8-12 will help answer this question. These verses are as relevant to Christians today as they were when they were first written. Read I Peter 3:8-12 and record a word, phrase or verse that especially captures your attention.
3. Begin your study of I Peter 3:8-12 by writing a prayer. Ask the Lord to speak to you through His Word and enable you to apply what you learn to your life. In response to the verse below thank Him for hearing and answering your prayer.

*For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous,  
and His ears are open  
unto their prayers.  
I Peter 3:12a*

**SECOND DAY:** Read I Peter 3:8

1. Most Christians desire a positive relationship with others in the body of Christ. In our study this week of I Peter 3:8-12 we will discover what is necessary on our part to achieve this kind of fellowship. Think about this as you list the brief exhortations given to all believers in I Peter 3:8.

Verse 8	Definition
a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

- (1.) Next to each of these provide a brief definition. (You may want to use other versions of the Bible to help you with this.)
2. I Peter 3:8 is a picture of *love in action*. Throughout the New Testament godly attitudes and actions toward others is taught. Record from the following verses any additional instruction you receive concerning proper behavior toward others:
  - a. Romans 12:16
  - b. Romans 12:10
  - c. Ephesians 4:32
3. Look closely at the verses in today's lesson that portray *love in action*. What would hinder or prevent this from being evidenced in your life?
  - a. What would help you with this?
4. Someone has said: *Our fellowship with God can never be right when our fellowship with our fellowmen is wrong*. How does I John 4:20,21 verify this?

**THIRD DAY:** Read I Peter 3:9

1. In I Peter 3:9 Peter continued to give practical instructions to all believers. If we want to receive *a blessing* what are we *not* to do according to verse 9a?
  - a. The word *contrariwise* means *on the contrary* or *instead*. What are we to do instead? verse 9b
  - b. Give an example of not returning *evil for evil* or *insult with insult* (NIV) but giving *a blessing* instead.
2. Focus on I Peter 3:9c. Why should believers follow the instruction in verse 9?
  - a. How does this provide an incentive for you to obey this verse?
3. With I Peter 3:9 in mind write Matthew 5:44 here phrase by phrase. Selah.
  - a. How does Luke 6:29-35 illustrate the teachings of I Peter 3:9 and Matthew 5:44?
4. Recall Jesus' example from I Peter 2:23. How will this help you to obey the instructions in the lesson today?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read I Peter 3:10,11

1. Beginning with I Peter 3:10 through verse 12 Peter confirmed his instruction to believers by quoting from Psalm 34:12-16a. Compare Psalm 34:12a with I Peter 3:10a (KJV). Note the differences.
  
2. What does I Peter 3:10,11 instruct us to do in order *to love life and see good days*?
  - a.
  - b.
    - (1.) Define the word *guile*.
  - c.
    - (1.) The word *eschew* means to *shun* or *avoid*. How can we *shun* or *avoid evil*? Be specific.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
    - (1.) The word *ensue* means *pursue*. Think about the commitment, time and energy it often takes *to seek and pursue peace*. Share your thoughts and insights.

Challenge: Much instruction about the tongue is recorded in Proverbs and in James. Find and record one or two of these instructions.

3. Observe the *do's and don'ts* as you look once more at I Peter 3:10,11. Which of these particularly speaks to you today?
  - a. What action will you take in response to this?


**FIFTH DAY:** Read I Peter 3:12

1. Today we will focus on a verse that includes both a precious promise and a serious warning. Print the promise of I Peter 3:12a.
  - a. How does this encourage you?
  
2. Keep I Peter 3:12a in mind as you read II Chronicles 16:9a. What do you learn about the LORD from II Chronicles 16:9a?
  - a. How does this motivate you to obey the instructions of I Peter 3:8-11?
  
3. Print the warning of I Peter 3:12b here.
  - a. What additional warning does Psalm 66:18 give us?
  
4. In light of today's lesson, what connection do you see between obedience and prayer?

*If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you,  
ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*  
John 15:7

**SIXTH DAY:** Review I Peter 3:8-12

1. How would applying I Peter 3:8-12 contribute to a *joyful life*?
  
2. Share one thing you learned from your study this week about fellowship among believers.
  
3. In response to the exhortations in I Peter 3:11 think of something you will do to:
  - a. *eschew (avoid) evil*
  
  - b. *do good*
  
  - c. *seek and pursue peace*
  
4. What does it mean to you to know that the eyes of the Lord are upon you and His ears are open unto your prayers?

*O Lord, You're beautiful.  
Your face is all I seek.  
And when Your eyes are on this child,  
Your grace abounds to me.  
-selected *