

I Peter



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A *Discover Together*
BIBLE STUDY

I Peter

*Discovering Encouragement
in Troubling Times*

Sue Edwards



 **Kregel**
Publications

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How to Get the Most Out of a Discover Together Bible Study

Women today need Bible study to keep balanced, focused, and Christ-centered in their busy worlds. The tiered questions in *1 Peter: Discovering Encouragement in Troubling Times* allow you to choose a depth of study that fits your lifestyle, which may even vary from week to week, depending on your schedule.

Just completing the basic questions will require about one and a half hours per lesson, and will provide a basic overview of the text. For busy women, this level offers in-depth Bible study with a minimum time commitment.

“Digging Deeper” questions are for those who want to, and make time to, probe the text even more deeply. Answering these questions may require outside resources such as an atlas, Bible dictionary, or concordance; you may be asked to look up parallel passages for additional insight; or you may be encouraged to investigate the passage using an interlinear Greek-English text or *Vine’s Expository Dictionary*. This deeper study will challenge you to learn more about the history, culture, and geography related to the Bible, and to grapple with complex theological issues and differing views. Some with teaching gifts and an interest in advanced academics will enjoy exploring the depths of a passage, and might even find themselves creating outlines and charts and writing essays worthy of seminarians!

This inductive Bible study is designed for both individual and group discovery. You will benefit most if you tackle each week’s lesson on your own, and then meet with other women to share insights, struggles, and aha moments. Bible study leaders will find free, downloadable leader’s guides for each study, along with general tips for leading small groups, at www.discovertogetherseries.com.

Through short video clips, Sue Edwards shares personal insights to enrich your Bible study experience. You can watch these as you work through each lesson on your own, or your Bible study leader may want your whole study group to view them when you meet together. For ease of individual



viewing, a QR code, which you can simply scan with your smartphone, is provided in each lesson. Or you can go to www.discovertogetherseries.com and easily navigate until you find the corresponding video title. Woman-to-woman, these clips are meant to bless, encourage, and challenge you in your daily walk.

Choose a realistic level of Bible study that fits your schedule. You may want to finish the basic questions first, and then “dig deeper” as time permits. Take time to savor the questions, and don’t rush through the application. Watch the videos. Read the sidebars for additional insight to enrich the experience. Note the optional passage to memorize and determine if this discipline would be helpful for you. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated by women who have more time or who are gifted differently.

Make your Bible study—whatever level you choose—top priority. Consider spacing your study throughout the week so that you can take time to ponder and meditate on what the Holy Spirit is teaching you. Do not make other appointments during the group Bible study. Ask God to enable you to attend faithfully. Come with an excitement to learn from others and a desire to share yourself and your journey. Give it your best, and God promises to join you on this adventure that can change your life.



Why Study 1 Peter?

Do you ever wonder if you would deny Christ if faced with prison, poverty, or pain? I have, and that question led me to write this study on 1 Peter. Peter's purpose was to strengthen our first-century sisters and brothers as they faced hostility and hatred for their faith. Our world is looking more like theirs every day. The *New Fox's Book of Martyrs* reveals that more Christians were martyred in the twentieth century than in all past centuries combined. Certainly you have noticed that many entertainers, educators, and media commentators respect Christians less and less. Where will it lead?

Will our children and grandchildren be persecuted for their faith? Only the Lord knows. But it's wise for all of us to get ready. Best case, we will be spared the kinds of persecution we have heard about in Sudan, Indonesia, or Iran. But we can never count on a life without challenges from illness, heartache, and disappointment. Preparing for opposition, whether all-out persecution or more common challenges, can only strengthen us for whatever lies ahead. That's the purpose of this study—to teach us how to persevere in hard times. Each lesson focuses on a particular action needed to stand strong in our battles, and includes the stories of real people, past and present, who found God faithful in adversity. Some of them are my friends. Others are sisters and brothers whom I have never met but admire for their courage.

Now that I've completed writing the study, I'm not saying I'm ready for any calamity. That would be brazen and foolish. But Peter's counsel has inspired me and given me hope that God will be enough for whatever lies ahead. My prayer is that this study will do the same for you. Journey with me through the pages of Peter's letter where we find hope for the heaven-bound.



Introduction to Studying 1 Peter (8:31 minutes).

