



## Bible Books Chapter by Chapter Series

# FIRST PETER

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.”

### Course Text: First Peter

The book of First Peter is about maintaining holiness in the face of sufferings whether from persecution, neglectful authority, or satanic trickery. It talks about the completeness of Christ's redeeming work on our behalf and the glory that will be ours in the end. I think the biggest lesson for me from this book is the idea that our circumstances never excuse our behavior. We are to always act like Christians, no matter what. I know that this is impossible, so I just hope and pray God will give me the grace to at least act like a Christian when it is most important that I do so.

This little book was written by Simon Peter the apostle of Jesus Christ. This is the one who walked on the water to Jesus and denied Jesus Christ three times and wept. This is the one who was miraculously freed from prison by an angel and who performed many miracles in the name of Jesus Christ.

### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst)
3. Pray (The idea is to leave our troubles with God so we can give Him our full attention.)
4. Read the lesson's chapter aloud from the Bible (or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the “fill in the blank” questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is Scripture based.)
6. On the final “Think & Pray” question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak .**
7. Discuss your Think & Pray answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is good to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission first.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called “For Further Thought”

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**1 Peter Chapter 1:** God is glorified for our generous salvation. Trouble in this life is acknowledged and explained. Jesus Christ is lifted up as our abiding hope. We are exhorted to put our sins in the past. We have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus. The certainty of God's promises and the eternity of God's word is extolled.

Please read First Peter Chapter 1 and answer these questions:

[1A] 1st Peter 1:1-2 Who are they to obey? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] 1st Peter 1:3-5 Who has caused us to be born again? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] 1st Peter 1:6-7 What is more precious than gold? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] 1st Peter 1:8 They love Him even though they have not what? \_\_\_\_\_

[1E] 1st Peter 1:9 What do we receive as an outcome of our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] 1st Peter 1:10-11 Where was the Spirit of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] 1st Peter 1:12 What do the angels long to look into? \_\_\_\_\_

[1H] 1st Peter 1:13 For what are we to prepare our minds? \_\_\_\_\_

[1I] 1st Peter 1:14-16 How much of our behavior is supposed to be Holy? \_\_\_\_\_

[1J] 1st Peter 1:17-19 By what were we redeemed or purchased? \_\_\_\_\_

[1K] 1st Peter 1:20-21 Where is our faith and hope? \_\_\_\_\_

[1L] 1st Peter 1:22-23 Who are we supposed to love? \_\_\_\_\_

[1M] 1st Peter 1:24-25 How long does the word of the Lord last? \_\_\_\_\_

[1N] 1st Peter 1:10-11 What does this passage mean? How does it apply to us?

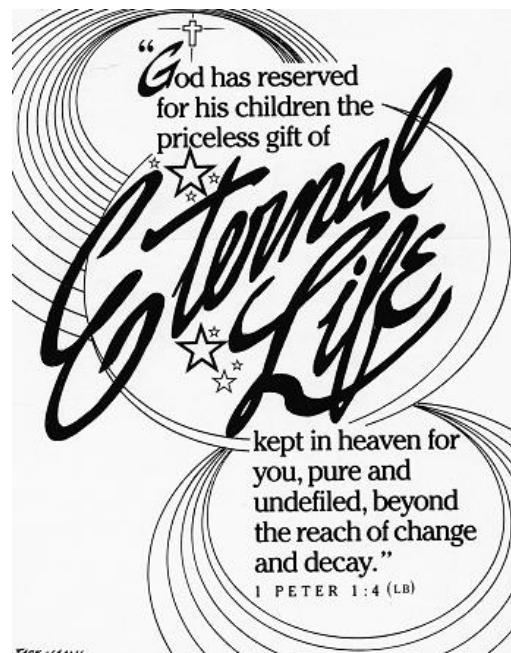
*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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----- ANSWERS -----

**First Peter Chapter 1**

- [1A] 1st Peter 1:1-2 Who are they to obey? Jesus Christ
- [1B] 1st Peter 1:3-5 Who has caused us to be born again? God the Father or Our Lord Jesus Christ depending on how you read it. Either way, we did not do it for ourselves.
- [1C] 1st Peter 1:6-7 What is more precious than gold? Faith
- [1D] 1st Peter 1:8 They love Him even though they have not what? Seen Him
- [1E] 1st Peter 1:9 What do we receive as an outcome of our faith? Salvation of our souls
- [1F] 1st Peter 1:10-11 Where was the Spirit of Christ? Within the prophets
- [1G] 1st Peter 1:12 What do the angels long to look into? The gospel
- [1H] 1st Peter 1:13 For what are we to prepare our minds? Action
- [1I] 1st Peter 1:14-16 How much of our behavior is supposed to be Holy? All of it
- [1J] 1st Peter 1:17-19 By what were we redeemed or purchased? The blood of Jesus Christ
- [1K] 1st Peter 1:20-21 Where is our faith and hope? In God
- [1L] 1st Peter 1:22-23 Who are we supposed to love? Each other
- [1M] 1st Peter 1:24-25 How long does the word of the Lord last? Forever

**[1N] 1st Peter 1:10-11** This is how I see it:

- "this salvation" - Salvation by the grace of Jesus Christ as described in verses 3 thru 9
- "prophets who prophesied" - The Old Testament (Luke 24:27)
- "of the grace that would come to you" - God's unearned and undeserved favor given to Peter's readers (i.e. you and I)
- "made careful searches and inquiries" - prayed, talked with other believers, and read previous inspired scriptures, diligently seeking answers.
- "seeking to know what person or time" - wanting to know who was going to be involved and when salvation by grace would be made known to the world
- "Spirit of Christ within them was indicating" - the Holy Spirit inspiring them
- "He predicted" - their prophecies were from God, not of them selves
- "sufferings of Christ" - torture and crucifixion of Jesus
- "the glories to follow" - the resurrection, ascension and return of Jesus Christ our Lord and King.

**For further thought:**

- (1o) Please read James 1:2-4 and 1st Peter 1:6-9. Are both these passages talking about the same thing? How do you know?
- (1p) Compare Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; and 20:7 with 1st Peter 1:16. What did you learn?
- (1q) What does 1st Peter 1:4-5 mean?
- (1r) Compare 1st Peter 1:24-25 with Isaiah 40:6-8. What is the same? What is different?
- (1s) Do you agree with my interpretation in question 1N above? Why or why not?
- (1t) If someone asked you what 1st Peter chapter 1 was about what would you tell them?
- (1u) What did you learn about 1st Peter chapter 1 that you would like to remember? What will it cause you to do differently in your life?
- (1v) What verse or passage from 1st Peter chapter 1 would be best to memorize? Why?

**1 Peter Chapter 2:** We are to seek to be holy and to grow in Christian maturity. Starting with Jesus, God is creating a new kind of thing, a church. We are the building blocks He is using. We are exhorted to maintain holiness. We are to submit to the rightful authority of others over us. We are to love others. Again he mentions that we are to expect suffering in this life. His suffering unjustly is part of Jesus' example for us. Please read First Peter Chapter 2 and answer these questions:

[2A] 1st Peter 2:1 What are we to stop doing or put aside?

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[2B] 1st Peter 2:2-3 What does Peter call "pure milk?" \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] 1st Peter 2:4-5 What kind of building material are we? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] 1st Peter 2:6-7 What kind of stone was laid? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] 1st Peter 2:7-8 What kind of stone did the rejected stone become?

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[2F] 1st Peter 2:9-10 Match these terms for descriptions of who Christians are:

A People	for God's Own Possession
Chosen	Nation
Holy	of God
Royal	Priesthood
The People	Race

[2G] 1st Peter 2:11 What makes war against our souls? \_\_\_\_\_

[2H] 1st Peter 2:12 When we are good who should get the glory for it? \_\_\_\_\_

[2I] 1st Peter 2:13-14 To whom are we to submit for the Lord's sake? \_\_\_\_\_

[2J] 1st Peter 2:15 How can we silence the ignorance of foolish men? \_\_\_\_\_

[2K] 1st Peter 2:16-17 How are we not to use our freedom? \_\_\_\_\_

[2L] 1st Peter 2:18-20 What finds favor with God? \_\_\_\_\_

[2M] 1st Peter 2:21-23 To Whom did Christ entrust Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

[2N] 1st Peter 2:24-25 Where did Christ bear our sins? \_\_\_\_\_

[2O] 1st Peter 2:21-24 What does this passage mean? How does it apply to us?

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

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**CONSTRUCTION SITE** A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 PETER 2:5 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

## First Peter Chapter 2

[2A] 1st Peter 2:1 What are we to stop doing or put aside?

Malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander

[2B] 1st Peter 2:2-3 What does Peter call "pure milk?" the word

[2C] 1st Peter 2:4-5 What kind of building material are we? Living stones

[2D] 1st Peter 2:6-7 What kind of stone was laid? Choice stone, corner stone

[2E] 1st Peter 2:7-8 What kind of stone did the rejected stone become?

Corner stone, stone of stumbling, rock of offense

[2F] 1st Peter 2:9-10 Match these terms for descriptions of who Christians are:

A People for God's Own Possession (1Pt 2:9)

Chosen Race (1Pt 2:9)

Holy Nation (1Pt 2:9)

Royal Priesthood (1Pt 2:9)

The People of God (1Pt 2:10)

[2G] 1st Peter 2:11 What makes war against our souls? Fleshly lusts

[2H] 1st Peter 2:12 When we are good who should get the glory for it? God

[2I] 1st Peter 2:13-14 To whom are we to submit for the Lord's sake? Human authority

[2J] 1st Peter 2:15 How can we silence the ignorance of foolish men? Doing right

[2K] 1st Peter 2:16-17 How are we not to use our freedom? As a covering for sin

[2L] 1st Peter 2:18-20 What finds favor with God? Patience when suffering unjustly

[2M] 1st Peter 2:21-23 To Whom did Christ entrust Himself? Him who judges righteously

[2N] 1st Peter 2:24-25 Where did Christ bear our sins? in His body, on the cross

**[2O] 1st Peter 2:21-24** In my opinion this passage in First Peter is an allusion to Isaiah chapter 53 which describes how the coming Messiah will suffer. (Verse 22 is even a quote from Is 53:9). Jesus did nothing wrong and yet He was called to suffer for our sake. How can we, who have done much wrong, complain about being called on to suffer from time to time? Sometimes we need to show our joy in the midst of suffering so that some poor lost soul can see the power of Jesus Christ and begin to understand the Gospel. Do you suffer or have you suffered for the cause of Christ?

### For further thought:

(2p) Compare 1st Corinthians 3:2, Hebrews 5:12-13 and 1st Peter 2:1-2. Are all these passages using the metaphor of milk in the same way? How do you know?

(2q) Compare 1st Peter 2:9 with Paul's defense in Acts 26:12-18. What did you learn?

(2r) In 1 Peter 1:4-10 Peter uses a number of quotes or allusions to the Old Testament.

1 Peter 2:5 - Isaiah 61:6;

1 Peter 2:6 - Isaiah 28:16

1 Peter 2:7 - Psalm 118:22

1 Peter 2:8 - Isaiah 8:14

1 Peter 2:9 - Isaiah 9:2, 42:16, 43:20-28; Exodus 19:6; Deuteronomy 4:20, 7:6

1 Peter 2:10 - Hosea 1:10; 2:23

What does this teach us about the proper way to incorporate the Scriptures in what we say or write?

(2s) In 1st Peter 2:1 what is the "therefore" there for? What is it referring back to before it?

(2t) If someone asked you what 1st Peter chapter 2 was about what would you tell them?

(2u) What did you learn about 1st Peter chapter 2 that you would like to remember?

(2v) What verse or passage from 1st Peter chapter 2 would be best to memorize? Why?

**1 Peter Chapter 3:** The theme of submitting to rightful authority is continued. Mutual respect, love and good behavior is encouraged. The sufficiency of the completed work of Jesus Christ is described. Please read First Peter Chapter 3 and answer these questions:

[3A] 1st Peter 3:1-2 What will win their husbands?

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[3B] 1st Peter 3:3-4 What is precious in the sight of God? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] 1st Peter 3:5-6 How do we become Sarah's children? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] 1st Peter 3:7 What can hinder (block) our prayers? \_\_\_\_\_

[3E] 1st Peter 3:8-9 What are we not to return? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] 1st Peter 3:10-12 What are we to keep our lips from speaking? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] 1st Peter 3:13-15 When are we supposed to be ready to defend our faith? \_\_\_\_\_

[3H] 1st Peter 3:16-17 If we do suffer we need to make sure of what? \_\_\_\_\_

[3I] 1st Peter 3:18-19 How many sins did Jesus die for? \_\_\_\_\_

[3J] 1st Peter 3:20-21 How many people were saved in the ark? \_\_\_\_\_

[3K] 1st Peter 3:22 What has been put under Jesus' authority? \_\_\_\_\_

[3L] 1st Peter 3:1-2. What does this passage mean? How does it apply to us?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### First Peter Chapter 3

[3A] 1st Peter 3:1-2 What will win their husbands?

Seeing the chaste and respectful behavior of the wives

[3B] 1st Peter 3:3-4 What is precious in the sight of God? A gentle and quiet spirit

[3C] 1st Peter 3:5-6 How do we become Sarah's children? Fearlessly doing what is right

[3D] 1st Peter 3:7 What can hinder (block) our prayers? Being disrespectful to our spouse

[3E] 1st Peter 3:8-9 What are we not to return? Evil for evil or insult for insult

[3F] 1st Peter 3:10-12 What are we to keep our lips from speaking? Deceit

[3G] 1st Peter 3:13-15 When are we supposed to be ready to defend our faith? Always

[3H] 1st Peter 3:16-17 If we do suffer we need to make sure of what? That it is undeserved

[3I] 1st Peter 3:18-19 How many sins did Jesus die for? All of them

[3J] 1st Peter 3:20-21 How many people were saved in the ark? Eight

[3K] 1st Peter 3:22 What has been put under Jesus' authority? Angels, authorities and powers

**[3L] 1st Peter 3:1-2** For me a key phrase is the first few words of verse 1, "In the same way,..." (or in KJV "likewise") Clearly the reader is expected to look at the context of what went right before this verse. I think the context meant by Peter starts with 1 Peter 2:21, "For you have been called for this purpose..." We are all supposed to follow Christ's example, not just wives. We are supposed to be noticeably different in the way we act, so that people will be attracted, not to us, but to Jesus Christ. As Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." Do you do this? Why or why not?

### For further thought:

(3m) Aren't the ideas in 1st Peter 3:1-6 old fashioned and completely out of step with modern understanding? A marriage like that would not work today, would it?

(3n) Compare 1 Peter 3:8-12 with Psalm 34:12-16. What did you learn?

(3o) What is the answer to the question asked in 1st Peter 3:13?

(3p) Thinking about 1 Peter 3:6 and 3:14 -- How do you handle fear?

(3q) If someone asked you what 1st Peter chapter 3 was about what would you tell them?

(3r) What did you learn about 1st Peter chapter 3 that you would like to remember?

(3s) What verse or passage from 1st Peter chapter 3 would be best to memorize? Why?



**1 Peter Chapter 4:** Our past sins are enough sins. We should not sin anymore. Judgment is coming for all. The end is near. Good behavior, doing what is right, is again commended. We should do all things as if we are doing them for God. The theme of suffering as Christ suffered is continued. God can be trusted to deliver justice in the end.

Please read First Peter Chapter 4 and answer these questions:

[4A] 1st Peter 4:1-2 What are we to live for? \_\_\_\_\_

[4B] 1st Peter 4:3 Where does our self-worship, sensuality, lust, drunkenness, and partying belong? \_\_\_\_\_

[4C] 1st Peter 4:4-5 What surprises our former friends when we begin to take our Christian walk seriously? \_\_\_\_\_

[4D] 1st Peter 4:6-7 What is near? \_\_\_\_\_

[4E] 1st Peter 4:8-9 What does love hide? \_\_\_\_\_

[4F] 1st Peter 4:10-11 What are we to do with our gifts? \_\_\_\_\_

[4G] 1st Peter 4:12-13 What is not supposed to surprise us? \_\_\_\_\_

[4H] 1st Peter 4:14-15 What happens if we are reviled for the name of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

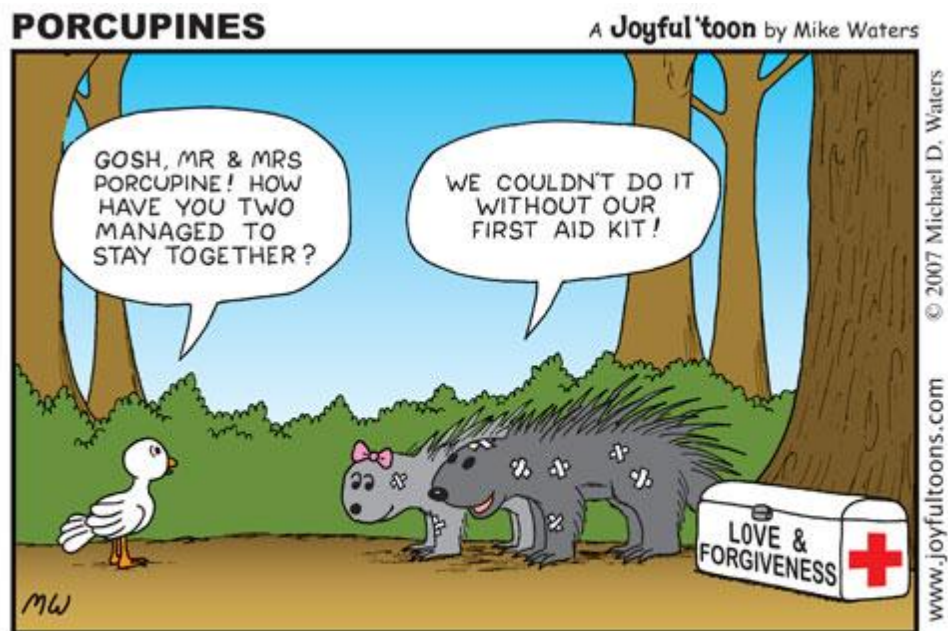
[4I] 1st Peter 4:16-17 What is not supposed to give us shame? \_\_\_\_\_

[4J] 1st Peter 4:18-19 To whom should we entrust our souls? \_\_\_\_\_

[4K] 1st Peter 4:7-8 What does this passage mean? How does it apply to us?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. - 1 PETER 4:8 NIV

## First Peter Chapter 4

[4A] 1st Peter 4:1-2 What are we to live for? The will of God

[4B] 1st Peter 4:3 Where does our self-worship, sensuality, lust, drunkenness, and partying belong? In the past

[4C] 1st Peter 4:4-5 What surprises our former friends when we begin to take our Christian walk seriously? That we are no longer interested in the things of the past

[4D] 1st Peter 4:6-7 What is near? The end of all things

[4E] 1st Peter 4:8-9 What does love hide? A multitude of sins

[4F] 1st Peter 4:10-11 What are we to do with our gifts? Use them to glorify God

[4G] 1st Peter 4:12-13 What is not supposed to surprise us? The fiery ordeal among us

[4H] 1st Peter 4:14-15 What happens if we are reviled for the name of Christ? We are blessed

[4I] 1st Peter 4:16-17 What is not supposed to give us shame? Suffering for our Christianity

[4J] 1st Peter 4:18-19 To whom should we entrust our souls? The faithful Creator

**[4K] 1st Peter 4:7-8** This is how I see it:

- "The end of all things is near" – Jesus will be returning soon
- "be of sound judgment and sober spirit" -- Do not indulge the flesh but obey the Spirit
- "the purpose of prayer" -- As the end approaches, we should devote ourselves to prayer
- "keep fervent in your love for one another" -- The worse things get the more we'll need each other
- "because love covers a multitude of sins -- not that our love covers sin, but we should imitate the love of Jesus Christ because He showed us how to love by covering our sins with His blood

### For further thought:

(4L) In 1st Peter 4:1 what is the "therefore" there for? It is referring back to what?

(4M) What does the phrase "preached even to those who are dead" mean in 1st Peter 4:6?

(4N) What is the answer to the question in 1st Peter 4:18?

(4O) Compare 1st Peter 4:18 with Proverbs 11:31. What did you learn?

(4P) If someone asked you what 1st Peter chapter 4 was about what would you tell them?

(4Q) What did you learn about 1st Peter chapter 4 that you would like to remember?

(4R) What verse or passage from 1st Peter chapter 4 would be best to memorize? Why?

**1 Peter Chapter 5:** Christian leaders are exhorted to be humble. None of us should worry but we are to be on guard against Satanic tricks and lies. Our hope is to be steadfast in Christ.

Please read First Peter Chapter 5 and answer these questions:

[5A] 1st Peter 5:1 What did Peter witness? \_\_\_\_\_

[5B] 1st Peter 5:2-3 Are the leaders of the church supposed to lead by force or example? \_\_\_\_\_

[5C] 1st Peter 5:4 When will the elders receive the crown of glory? \_\_\_\_\_

[5D] 1st Peter 5:5 Who is God opposed to? \_\_\_\_\_

[5E] 1st Peter 5:6 When can we expect to be exalted (lifted up for praise) by God? \_\_\_\_\_

[5F] 1st Peter 5:7 Why can we confidently cast our anxiety on Him? \_\_\_\_\_

[5G] 1st Peter 5:8 Who is our adversary? \_\_\_\_\_

[5H] 1st Peter 5:9 Are we alone in our struggle to resist and endure evil? \_\_\_\_\_

[5I] 1st Peter 5:10 How long will we suffer? \_\_\_\_\_

[5J] 1st Peter 5:11-14 How long is He to have dominion? \_\_\_\_\_

[5K] 1st Peter 5:1-4 Describe what it would look like for a pastor or preacher to act that way in the modern Christian church?

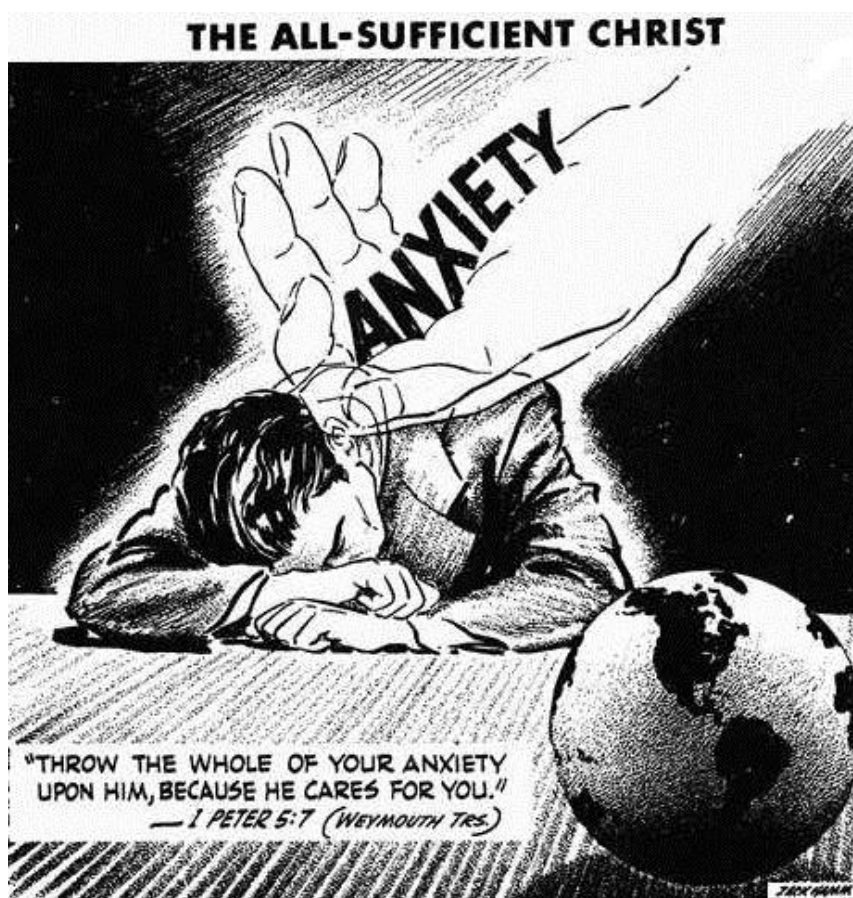
*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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----- ANSWERS -----

**First Peter Chapter 5**

[5A] 1st Peter 5:1 What did Peter witness? The sufferings of Christ

[5B] 1st Peter 5:2-3 Are the leaders of the church supposed to lead by force or example? Example

[5C] 1st Peter 5:4 When will the elders receive the crown of glory?

When the Chief Shepherd appears

[5D] 1st Peter 5:5 Who is God opposed to? The proud

[5E] 1st Peter 5:6 When can we expect to be exalted (lifted up for praise) by God?

at the proper time

[5F] 1st Peter 5:7 Why can we confidently cast our anxiety on Him? Because He cares for us

[5G] 1st Peter 5:8 Who is our adversary? The devil

[5H] 1st Peter 5:9 Are we alone in our struggle to resist and endure evil? No

[5I] 1st Peter 5:10 How long will we suffer? A little while

[5J] 1st Peter 5:11-14 How long is He to have dominion? Forever and ever

**[5K] 1st Peter 5:1-4** This is how I see it:

- "Shepherd the flock of God among you," – The pastor tends to the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- "exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily," – He does not give orders and commands, but takes the time to convince others to do what is best.
- "according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain," – He bases his decisions on what is best for God's kingdom, not what is best for himself, or even his church. His vision is always on the work of God in the whole world, not just his little corner of it.
- "but with eagerness," – He shows a positive attitude at all times.
- "nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge," – He never thinks of himself as better than those who he leads or helps.
- "but proving to be examples to the flock." – He practices what he preaches.

**For further thought:**

(5l) Peter's sermon in Acts 2 is about what Jesus Christ has accomplished for us. This letter from Peter has that same theme, but spends a lot of time talking about the real consequences in our lives as a result of becoming believers in Christ. You could say that Acts 2 is evangelical and 1st Peter is about discipleship, or that Acts 2 is theological and 1st Peter is practical. (Acts 2:23-24, 32 with 1 Peter 1:20-21 and Acts 2:41 with 1 Peter 3:20 are the most striking.) Compare Acts 2 with 1st Peter and see if you agree with me. Do you? Why or why not?

(5m) Compare 1st Peter 5:5 with Proverbs 3:34. What did you learn?

(5n) Thinking about 1st Peter 5:8 – What exactly should we be looking for? Alert about what?

(5o) If someone asked you what 1st Peter chapter 5 was about what would you tell them?

(5p) What did you learn about 1st Peter chapter 5 that you would like to remember?

(5q) What verse or passage from 1st Peter chapter 5 would be best to memorize? Why?

(5r) If someone asked you what 1st Peter was about what would you tell them?

(5s) What did you learn about 1st Peter that you would like to remember?

(5t) What verse or passage from 1st Peter would be best to memorize? Why?