

Joyful Life Bible Studies

I PETER 5:1-7

Lesson 16

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review I Peter 4:12-19. Share a way last week's study will help you to accept and persevere in a trial.
2. This week we will be blessed by Peter's loving concern for the Church and his reminder of the Lord's return. The instruction in I Peter 5 was borne out of the lessons Peter had learned through personal experience with Jesus. Read I Peter 5:1-7 and write a phrase or verse that particularly impresses you.
3. Begin your verse by verse study of I Peter 5:1-7 by writing a prayer. Express to the Lord your deepest desire and greatest need in relationship to your lesson. Thank Him for hearing and answering your prayer. Write your prayer here.

*Casting all your care upon Him;
for He careth for you.*
I Peter 5:7

SECOND DAY: Read I Peter 5:1-3

1. I Peter 5 reveals Peter had a genuine pastor's heart for believers. In verses 1-4 he gave key instructions concerning care of the Church. To whom is this instruction given? verse 1a
 - a. *Elder* refers to an *overseer* and is equivalent to today's *pastor*. How did Peter identify himself in verse 1?
 - (1.) Think about what it must have been like to be a *witness of the sufferings of Christ* in the Garden of Gethsemane, during His trial and crucifixion. Through this Peter became a *witness* for Christ. What did Peter declare in Acts 4:(19)20?
 - (2.) Peter caught a glimpse of *the glory that shall be revealed*. Read Mark 9:2-7 and II Peter 1:16,17. Describe this extraordinary event.
2. With Peter's credentials he could have ordered or commanded these elders. Rather than exerting authority over them, he exhorted (strongly encouraged) them. What did he *exhort* them to do according to I Peter 5:2a?
 - a. The word *feed* literally means *to tend as a shepherd*. Draw a few parallels from the *shepherd* tending his sheep and the *pastor* tending his congregation.
 - b. Read John 21:15-17 and trace the roots of Peter's exhortation to *feed the flock of God*.
3. Peter wrote to these *elders* (pastors): *Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers* (I Peter 5:2a NIV). How were they to do this? Answer from I Peter 5:2b,3. (Use other versions if you desire.)
 - a. What additional principles concerning leadership are given in Mark 10:42-45?

4. Notice believers are described in I Peter 5:2a,3 as *the flock of God* and *God's heritage*. In what way does this encourage you?

THIRD DAY: Read I Peter 5:4

1. The *Chief Shepherd* and His return is the focal point of I Peter 5:4. What reward will be given to pastors who faithfully tend God's flock?
 - a. Center your mind and heart on the phrase: *when the Chief Shepherd shall appear*. How does this bless you today?

Advanced Students: I Peter 5:4b mentions *a crown of glory* as a reward. Research the topic of *crowns* given as rewards and write a brief report on your findings.

2. The portrayal of Jesus as our Shepherd is one of the most meaningful images in the Bible. From the following verses choose a few statements about your Shepherd that minister to you:
 - a. Psalm 23:1-6
 - b. Isaiah 40:11
 - c. Matthew 18:11-14
 - d. John 10:11,14
3. The *Chief Shepherd* is coming soon! How does this motivate you to love and follow Him each day?

FOURTH DAY: Read I Peter 5:5,6

1. The instructions in I Peter 5:5,6 are essential for Christian living. After addressing the *elders* in verses 1-4, Peter directed verse 5a to the *younger*. Peter extended his instruction to include others. Observe this by writing verse 5 phrase by phrase.
 - a. *Yea, all of you be subject (submit) one to another.* No one is exempt from this. Why is *humility* linked to this exhortation?
 - (1.) What do you learn about *humility* from Philippians 2:3?
 - b. Peter was present when Jesus clothed Himself with humility. How should His example in John 13:3-17 press us to humble service?
2. Focus on the phrase from I Peter 5:5c: *God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.* *God resisteth* means *He opposes* or *sets Himself against* the proud. In contrast, what is promised to the *humble*:
 - a. Proverbs 3:34
 - b. Proverbs 29:23
 - c. Isaiah 57:15
 - d. Luke 18:(9-13)14
3. Think about the instruction and promise of I Peter 5:6 as you record this verse here.
 - a. With the promise of verse 6b in mind read James 4:10. What do these promises mean to you?
4. In light of today's study, why do you think a humble attitude is so important?

SIXTH DAY: Review I Peter 5:1-7

1. Recall what you learned from I Peter 5:1-4 that would help you identify a pastor with a true shepherd's heart.

2. Record something revealed about God in this week's lesson that especially ministers to you and share why.

3. In obedience to I Peter 5:5-7 think of a specific way you can apply the following exhortations:
 - a. *be subject one to another*

 - b. *be clothed with humility*

 - c. *humble yourselves . . . under the mighty hand of God*

 - d. *casting all your care upon Him*

 - e. Which of these particularly speaks to you today?

4. How were you blessed by Peter's love and concern for believers and his reminder of the Lord's return?

*Humble thyself in the sight of the Lord
and He shall lift you up.*
-selected 🎵