



# 1 Peter 1:13–25 Be holy, because the word endures

45–60  
MINUTES  
ANY SMALL  
GROUP  
ONLINE OR IN  
PERSON

**The big idea.** Peter's first "therefore" turns comfort into a calling. Scattered believers are told to set their hope fully on God's grace and to be holy, set apart, because God is holy. Holiness here is tied to loving one another deeply from a pure heart, under a word that outlasts everything that withers.

**Who this is for.** Anyone leading a small group through this passage: a Discord voice channel, a Zoom room, a home group, a youth group. You don't need to be a pastor. Your job is to keep the group in the text and make room for everyone to speak.

## Before you meet

- Read 1 Peter 1:13–25 twice this week, once out loud.
- Watch the two moments from this week's session linked below (about a minute and a half each), or the whole replay if you have time.
- Pray for each person by name. In an online group, check that everyone has the link and can unmute.

## HEAR in one line each

- **Highlight:** the phrase that stops you.
- **Explain:** what it meant to its first readers.
- **Apply:** not taught; answer what people notice from the text.
- **Respond:** one thing you'll do, and a prayer.

## • Open

5 MIN

Welcome everyone. Ask each person to name one thing they did last week in response to session one, if there was something. Open in prayer, or ask someone ahead of time to pray.

## • Read

5 MIN

Read the passage aloud twice, with two different voices. If your group uses different translations, let them; hearing two wordings helps. Ask people to listen for the word "therefore" at the start and for the grass and the flowers at the end.

## H Highlight

10 MIN

Go around: which verse or phrase stood out to you, and why? Don't explain anything yet. Just collect the highlights.

1. Which phrase caught you, and what did you feel when you heard it?
2. Did verse 13 sound to you like a scolding or a pep talk?

**Listen for:** In this week's session people picked verse 13 ("prepare your minds for action"), verses 15–16 ("be holy, because I am holy"), verse 22 ("love one another deeply") and verses 24–25 (the grass withers, the word stands forever). Any of these opens a good conversation.

**WATCH** Flatcap on verse 13 as a pep talk (30:11–31:02): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrV6eMf8PVA&t=1811s>

## E Explain

10 MIN

Now ask what it meant to the people who first read it. Use the background below only as much as the group needs; this isn't a lecture.

- "Therefore" (v. 13) looks back at verses 1–12: because these scattered believers are chosen and born again into a living hope, Peter now asks something of them. "Prepare your minds for action" translates an older picture, often rendered "gird up the loins of your mind": tucking up a long robe to move quickly.
- "Be holy, because I am holy" (v. 16) quotes Leviticus (11:44–45; 19:2). In the Old Testament, holy carries the sense of being set apart for God: distinct, not superior. Peter gives Israel's calling to scattered believers, many of them likely Gentiles.
- Verses 18–19 contrast perishable silver and gold with "the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or spot", the language of Passover and the temple sacrifices.
- Verses 24–25 quote Isaiah 40:6–8. Isaiah spoke it to exiles too: everything human withers, but the word of the Lord stands forever. Peter adds, "this is the word that was proclaimed to you."

1. Why might Peter tie holiness so closely to loving one another (v. 22)?
2. What would "the grass withers" have sounded like to people who had lost their place and their security?

**WATCH** Jeff Reed on verse 22: holiness tied to love (54:47–55:28): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrV6eMf8PVA&t=3287s>

## A Apply

15 MIN

Don't teach the application. People will start to say what they notice for their own lives. When they do, respond by taking it back to the passage: "Where do you see that in these verses?" Read that verse again together and let Scripture confirm, sharpen or gently correct it. The text does the work, not the leader.

## R Respond

10 MIN

Ask each person: what is God asking you to do with this? Keep it to one concrete thing for this week. Then pray for each other's responses, briefly and by name.

1. What is one thing you'll do this week because of this passage?
2. Who in the group will check in with you about it?

## The passage

BSB

<sup>13</sup> Therefore prepare your minds for action. Be sober-minded. Set your hope fully on the grace to be given you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the passions of your former ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, <sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." <sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each one's work impartially, conduct yourselves in reverent fear during your stay as foreigners. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life you inherited from your forefathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was known before the

foundation of the world, but was revealed in the last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him; and so your faith and hope are in God. <sup>22</sup> Since you have purified your souls by obedience to the truth so that you have a genuine love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. <sup>24</sup> For, "All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was proclaimed to you.

### Going deeper

"Speak to the whole congregation of Israel and tell them: Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.

Leviticus 19:2 (BSB)

The words Peter quotes in verse 16, first given to Israel in the wilderness.

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." Isaiah 40:8 (BSB)

The line Peter ends with: spoken first to exiles in Babylon.

### Notes for the leader

- Silence is fine. Count to ten before you fill it.
- In an online group, call on people by name, gently. Chat-only voices count: read their typed answers aloud.
- If someone shares something heavy, like grief, a crisis or thoughts of self-harm, pause the study and care for the person first. If anyone is in danger, contact local emergency services. In the US you can call or text 988. Outside the US, <https://findahelpline.com> lists local lines.
- Holiness can turn into judging each other. If the conversation drifts there, go back to verse 22: the passage ties being holy to loving one another deeply.

**Next week.** 1 Peter 2:1–10, living stones built into a spiritual house: the closest thing in Scripture to a church with no address. Live on Twitch, Tuesday at 5:00 PM ET.

Study: <https://thechurch.digital/scattered/1-peter-1-13-25/> · Daily devotional: <https://thechurch.digital/devo>

Scripture: Berean Standard Bible (BSB), public domain · [theChurch.digital](https://thechurch.digital)