**Week 1**

***1 Peter Introduction***

**11–12 April 2022**

*Jen likes to do two things whenever she introduces a Bible book for group study: set an expectation and set the stage for what it is we are studying. One of the most important steps in studying any Bible text is to discover, “What does it say?” The purpose of the homework is to help you get as close to the text as possible.*

**Your Notes:**

**QUESTIONS from the Workbook, pages 14-15**

1. **Who Wrote 1 Peter?**

The apostle Peter is the author of this book. He was one of the three disciples closest to the Lord, “Peter, James and John”. He is also regarded as one of the two chief apostles, along with Paul. Peter ministered primarily to the Jews, while Paul focused mainly on ministry to the Gentiles.

1. **When Was It Written?**

This letter was written around 64 a.d. It appears to have been written from Rome. Nero was the emperor of Rome at the time, and he wanted a “new” Rome. The city was filled with wooden tenements where poor people lived, and at some point the city burned, with huge losses. Many people suspect that Nero himself started the fire, but he knew that he could pin the guilt on a new upstart sect—the Christians—who had come to live in Rome. His task was made easier because these Christians talked about the fact that one day the entire world would be consumed by fire. As a result of his accusations, a severe persecution broke out against the early Christian church. It was horrific, with Christians being tortured to death in many painful ways: fighting wild animals in a sports arena, being covered with tar and used as live torches, being crucified, etc. Because of this, many Christians fled Rome to escape the persecution.

1. **To Whom Was It Written?**

Peter’s letter was written to Christians in “Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia”, which were areas in Asia Minor, located in what is modern-day Turkey. These Christians were new converts, a mixture of both Jews and Gentiles. The letter was written toward the end of Peter’s life, and it gives us insight into how he had matured as a believer over the years since Christ’s earthly ministry.

1. **In What Style Was It Written?**

1 Peter is an epistle, i.e. a letter. It was specifically meant to be a letter of encouragement to these persecuted believers.

1. **What Are the Central Themes of the Letter?**
   1. Suffering—both of the believers and of Christ Himself and how those two things relate
   2. Our identity as believers
   3. A coming judgment
   4. Submission—submission to God and submission to others
   5. The importance of imitating Christ and what that looks like for us as believers