



Living Hope
1 Peter 2:11-3:7
Study Guide

Intro

We've spent the past few weeks listening to Peter's voice as he encourages the Church in a season of persecution. He uses the imagery of new family, new exodus, new covenant, new temple and new priesthood to place their suffering into the larger story of God. In the second half, the letter becomes practical. Peter explains how believers should practice holiness and trust in God in real-life situations. **Submission is obeying the correct voice.**

1. How do you think persecution helped the church to clarify its mission to the world? How can hardships deepen faith and make it more genuine?

Read 2:11-17

2. What is the purpose of calling them "foreigners and exiles?" (2:11)
3. Do you find it challenging to identify in this way on a daily basis? Explain.
4. What are the competing "voices of the world" that are most detrimental to human flourishing?
5. What were Peter's expectations when he told them to "live as free people?" Freedom from what? Freedom for what? Freedom to what?

Read 2:21-25

6. How does new life spring from Jesus' perfect obedience?
7. Because we have been healed from the great wound of sin through Jesus' wounds the curse of death has been eliminated and we can be in a restored relationship with God. Christians cannot imitate that part exactly, so what part can we imitate?

8. What is our obligation as followers of Jesus? What did Peter think it was?
9. Where is evidence in the Bible that disciples were learning to obey the correct voice?
10. How is your pyramid?

God.		Everybody Else.
Christians.	or	Christians.
Everybody Else.		God.

11. What are you currently wrestling with God over? Do you see it as preparation for something? Explain.
12. When have you heard the voice of God? Can you recall a time when the Holy Spirit gave you the resources to act counter to your instinct?

Pray the Lord's Prayer together as slowly as you feel comfortable.

Matthew 6:9-13

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Message Slides 1 Peter 1:22-2:10

Slide 1: Title

Slide 2: Peter encourages persecuted Gentile Christians

- New type of family (1:1-15)
- The people of the new Exodus (1: 17-21)
- Members of the new covenant (1:22-25)
- A new temple (2:1-8)
- The new kingdom of priests (2:9-10)

Slide 3: Big Idea: Submission is obeying the correct voice

Slide 4: Submission is challenging

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor (1 Peter 1:11-17).

Slide 5: 1 Peter 2:17

Show proper respect (*timaō*) to everyone, love (*agapaō*) the family of believers, fear (*phobeō*) God, honor (*timaō*) the emperor.

Slide 6: Peter's Pyramid of Priorities

Fear God.

Love the brotherhood.

Honor all people. Honor the emperor.

Slide 7: Big Idea: Submission is obeying the correct voice

Slide 8: Submission is Surprising

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls (1 Peter 1:21-25).

Slides 9-11

Submission is Surprising

1. New life springs from Jesus’ obedience
2. The church not only survived, it also flourished
3. God’s people learn to obey the correct voice

Slides 12-14

How To Hear The Voice

1. Check your pyramid

God.	Everybody Else.
Christians.	Christians.
Everybody Else.	God.

2. Expect to wrestle
3. Slow down and ask for the resources

Slide 15 (*keep poetic formatting if possible*)

Matthew 6:9-13

“This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one.

Slide 16: Title