

Small group questions – 1 Peter 4:1-11 (Suggested times for 30 minute total; adjust according to your timeslot. And you will likely have to skip some without extra time)

1) What has Peter talked about prior to this passage? (Choose your own adventure, **4 mins**)

The DIY way:	The “It’s not cheating, it’s learning” way:
<p>See the following verses and work out what you think is the intended audience, purpose, and key points in the flow of the argument so far in 1 Peter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1-2 • 1:3-9 • 1:13-15 • 1:23 • 2:1 • 2:9 • 2:12 • 2:13-15 • 2:18 • 2:21 • 2:24 • 3:1-2 • 3:7 • 3:9 <p>Intended Audience: _____</p> <p>Purpose: _____</p> <p>Key Points: (Write in the blank space above)</p> <p>Attempt to summarise 1 Peter (so far) as best you can in one sentence.</p>	<p>Daniel E’s list of the main points of 1 Peter from last week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience: Scattered Christians facing struggles and suffering. • Purpose: Encouraging these scattered Christians • Opening: Praising God for his gift of a new birth into a living hope. The old life has passed, and we now live a new life in a living hope based in the resurrection of Jesus. (1 Pet. 1:3) • Instructions: Rid selves of evil (2:1) • Why: You are a holy people (2:9) • Instead: Live good lives (2:12) • How: [Lives of submission] to authorities, masters and employers, in marriages. • And: Responding to unfair treatment with good. • Also: While living a holy life, submit even to suffering. Repay evil with blessing. It is better to suffer for doing good than evil. <p>Definitely also see the below handout.</p>

See also the handout ‘1 Peter Argument (Mark N)’ found in the life group notes section. (**1 min**)

2) 4:1 begins with a ‘therefore’, which is a logical signposting word. What is the previous section (3:8-22) about? (**3 mins** for all of question 2)

- a. What is the view of suffering for doing good (3:14)? Is it something to be avoided? Or a blessing?
- b. What is the example of Christ in suffering for doing good?
- c. According to 4:1 then, what mindset should we take up?

3) What does it mean that “whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin” (v1b)? (**4 mins**)

- a. Notice the logical signposting words at the start of verse 2. How does verse 2 interpret verse 1b?
 - i. Though we still live in the presence of sin, we no longer live under the power and punishment of sin. Or to put it in other words, it's a qualitative change.
 - b. According to verse 2, what are we no longer living for? And what are we living for?
 - i. Not living for the rest of the time in the flesh for human passions, but living the rest of that time for the will of God. i.e. Living this life not for our own pleasure but for the will of God.
- 4) What does it mean to live this life for human passions? **(3 mins)**
- a. How does verse 3 explain this?
 - b. What is the reaction of people when we do not live for such things? (v4)
 - i. Malign = do evil. Malevolent intent. "to speak ill of someone or something, often with the intention of causing harm or damage to their reputation. It involves making negative or harmful statements about a person, thing, or idea."¹⁰
 - c. Where does this lifestyle lead? (v5)
- 5) Verse 6 says that "this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead" (ESV). What does this mean? **(3 minutes)**
- i. The NIV and NLT use a level of interpretation and translate this as "those who are now dead", which isn't in the Greek as I understand it.
 - b. Is it that the gospel was preached to those who have since died?
 - c. Is it that the gospel was preached to those who at the time were dead?
 - i. See also 1 Peter 3:18-20
 - d. Is it that the gospel was preached to those who are spiritually dead?
 - e. Is it something else?
 - f. Why have you chosen the interpretation you have? How firmly do you hold to it?
- 6) Why was this gospel preached to the dead? Whoever they might be? (v6b) **(2 mins)**
- a. How might this motivate us to *Lead to Jesus*?
 - b. Check out William Booth's 'Vision of the Lost'; what impact does it have on you to 'Lead to Jesus'? What images, words or ideas stand out to you? Why?
- (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2PigSVODXk> or search for it) **(7 mins)**
- 7) Why does Peter say that we should "be self- controlled and sober-minded for the sake of [our] prayers" (v7)? What does our conduct have to do with our prayers? **(skip)**
- a. See 1 Peter 3:7, 12

¹⁰ ChatGPT 3.5

Prompt: How would you simply explain the word 'malign'?

Answer: To simply explain the word 'malign', it means to speak ill of someone or something, often with the intention of causing harm or damage to their reputation. It involves making negative or harmful statements about a person, thing, or idea.

- b. See also Isaiah 1:15-17, James 5:16-18
 - c. But also, consider a wider view of prayer. Is it not about the faithfulness of the one we are praying to?
- 8) What does it mean to live for the will of God? (v8-11) **(3 mins)**
- i. Not living for human passions (v2)
 - b. What are the ways in which we should love one another?
 - c. Which of these could you grow in most? How?
- 9) Attempt to summarise the passage into one 'summary sentence' which captures as much as you can, as concisely as you can. What is the key idea in this text? **(skip)**