

Be a Better Bible Student – 4Q 2020
Class 4: Tell the Story of the Book

Pre-Class

- Read through the entire letter of 1 Peter again.
- In your own words, summarize each chapter in one sentence:
 - Chapter 1:
 - Chapter 2:
 - Chapter 3:
 - Chapter 4:
 - Chapter 5:

Tell the Story of the Book

- Before digging into the details of a biblical text, we should be able to know where it fits into the broader story of the book.
- Since our goal is firsthand discovery, we want to be able to put the message of the book into our own words. This exercise will help us take ownership of our reading and study.
- Before we begin in-depth study of a book, we should be able to see the general direction of the argumentation. The more personal we are in understanding it, the better we will remember it and explain it.
- Telling the story of the book also helps us avoid proof-texting. For example, if I know where Peter is headed, then I know that his point in 3:15 is not just about having book, chapter, and verse for all church practices. I know that 5:8 is not just a general verse about Satan.

Try these exercises:

- Have you ever experienced a situation similar to what Peter is experiencing? Have you ever had the opportunity to talk to someone who was about to go through a hard time? What was that like?

- What sticks out to you as particularly noteworthy or unique about 1 Peter?

- Should Peter have been more direct? Should he have said more about the problems? Should the letter have been shorter or longer? Would you have approached this differently?
- Does anything in this letter surprise you? Explain.
- Does anything in this letter resonate with you? Explain.
- If you had to explain 1 Peter to someone but only had one minute, what would you say?