

Study 2

1 Peter 1v13-2v3 In the world, but not of it

The aim of **impact** is to make sure that as a whole CU and as groups of believers in every college, we are united in the gospel and in a desire to see people reached with that gospel. We do that by spending time in God's word.



Just because Main Event week has finished, our focus doesn't change. We exist to make Jesus known to every student in Durham!

Your role as an impact leader is vital, as the CU spend time together, to be reminded of the gospel, to support each other in gospel partnership, and be equipped by the gospel to go back out into college and university life, to live distinctively, and speak boldly for Jesus.

We're studying 1 Peter with those aims in mind: to be reminded of the gospel (Peter calls it 'the true grace of God' in 5v12), to support each other as we live 'as aliens and strangers in the world' (2v11), and to be equipped to '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' (2v12), and 'always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have' (3v15). In particular, looking at 1 Peter will encourage us to expect suffering for following Jesus, and will spur us on to count it a blessing to be insulted for the name of Jesus.



Impact Group Time

We're aiming for Impact studies to fit into 1 hour. That should give time to spend together being encouraged and challenged by God's word, and opportunity for the group to support each other in their evangelism, sharing and praying with each other about personal and college group evangelism. So here's how the timings might work:

- 40 mins Bible study *including* time to chat through implications
- 20 mins Pray in light of the passage. Chat & pray about how living & speaking for Jesus is going

Those timings within the hour will have to be a bit flexible – but the plan is that God's word will fuel discussion and prayer in the 2nd half of the impact group time. In the notes we're aiming to help you with that, making the opening discussion, and the applications evangelism focussed.

Leading your impact study

Remember the big context and theme of the letter. Peter is writing to young Christians who are facing hard times for following Jesus. He wants them to stand fast in the true grace of God (5v12). On page 2 are a few big questions to help your groups unpack some of the riches of God's word in this passage. Don't worry if you don't get into all the detail, our aim is to be encouraged and challenged by God's word to want to live for God more, so that we'll be more up for making Him known to people. Use the **BigQ** questions to get people pulling ideas out of the passage, use the **Live** questions to help draw out the implications. You may need some follow up questions to help people see how things fit together. The notes below should help.

Some Notes

v13. The *'Therefore'* makes us look back to v1-12. In light of who God's people are, and their amazing certain future, a major shift in mindset is required. Peter is calling us to put our brains in gear; be ready and prepared for life now in the world, while we wait for our glorious future. And as we'll see, we'll need to be ready for action and self-controlled, because we're called to live a holy life.

v14-16 set out a contrast for us: Don't live like this anymore (v14), *'but...'* live like this (v15-16). The standard is High - Be holy! This is a big challenge to the comfortable Christian. How is your holiness? As *'exiles'* or *'strangers'* facing a hard time from the watching world for being Christian, you can imagine the temptation to i) fear the world and ii) to want to blend in and not stand out so much. In the rest of the verses there are reasons why we should stand fast with hope set on the future, fear God not the world, and be holy rather than blend in:

v17-22 We will face God in judgment! We have been ransomed, *'not with perishable things... but...'*. Jesus precious blood was shed to guarantee our certain hope and future out of this world. We belong to God at a high cost!

v23-2v3 We have been re-born, *'not of perishable seed, but...'*. The Living enduring word of God purifies us and gives us new birth. Sincere love and an end to the things of 2v1 should mark this new imperishable life. We should crave this word that teaches us to be holy and grows us up in our salvation for our imperishable future.

THE STUDY (40MINS)

- **The Big Idea:** We need a major shift in mindset In light of who we are as God's people, and where we are heading, life in this world will never be the same again.
- **Ponder (*discussion question to kick off with*):** When you get up, how do you prepare yourself for the day? What are the big influences that impact your attitude as you head out into the world?
- **Dig:** Look back at 5v12 and 1v1-12. What's the bib theme of the letter and what did Peter tell us about the Christian life last week?

1v13

- **Think:** In v13, what impact does Peter think v1-12 should have? What do you think this looks like in practice?
- **Live:** Practically, how could you prepare your mind day by day to go out into the world with a Christian mindset?

Big Questions for 1v14-2v3

BigQ1: What does Peter tell them that will encourage and help them to stand fast? (v13, 15, 18-21, 23, 25, 2v2)

- **Live:** Practically, how would these things encourage a suffering Christian to stand fast?

BigQ2: What should challenge the comfortable Christian? (v13-2v3!)

- **Live:** What are the big challenges for you in terms of living a holy life?

BigQ3: How does Peter challenge how we view non-Christians? What is true reality for them? (v14, 17, 18, 24)

- **Live:** How would it motivate our evangelism if we thought like that?

IMPACT: try and sum up the big impact of this passage for you as an individual, and for us as a group of Christians in your college, trying to be holy and seeking to witness to our friends.

- **Share and pray:** What do you find hardest to grasp or believe from this passage? What challenges you the most? How do you need to change your thinking, or your behavior in light of this passage?

Pray about some of those things in your groups.

REMAINING IMPACT GROUP TIME (20MINS)

Your remaining time in impact groups is a great opportunity to support each other as Christians from your college. Lots of the challenges you face will be similar, and we all find evangelism hard. Here are a few suggestions to make this time productive as you seek to support and encourage each other.

- Share the names of people you are seeking to follow up after Main Event, or keep using the FREE bookmarks to pray for friends. What is the best next thing for them? How can your impact group pray for them?
- Share any encouragements from the last week. How is evangelism going? What's been hard?
- Pray for the Easter Service in the Cathedral on Monday March 16th. Mark O'Donoghue is speaking.
- Pray for other college events that your reps may have planned before the end of term.

Why not commit to going to your college bar after impact, to spend time with mates and spread the great news about Jesus!