

# JOY FOR THE JOURNEY

## THE LESSON: 1 PETER 1

Human beings need repetition. Small infants have to learn through repeated experience that when a favourite toy disappears from view, it has not stopped existing. It's still there, just out of sight.

In many ways, grown-ups aren't that different. We can come to trust only what our senses tell us in the moment, forgetting all that God has done for us in the past. This is why it's so important for us to draw near to God, spending daily time with him in private devotion. For the days when everything is going our way and for the days when *nothing* is going our way – we need to root ourselves in the spiritual reality beyond what we see and feel. We must be a people who “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Remember Daniel? Even though he was living in exile, scripture tells us that “he got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God” (Daniel 6:10). If you are on the road of faith and do not yet have a daily practice of prayer and scripture reading, resolve today to start. Nothing can keep you closer to the heart of God than this, as you navigate the many seasons of life.

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St. Peter understood that the believers he was writing to were not having an easy time. Faced with persecution and the hardships of daily life, they needed the joy-infused reminders of all that God had done for them already, his presence with them in this life, and their glorious future.

## AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

*Psalm 119:11 says, “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” This week's At-Home Challenge is to commit a passage of scripture to memory. You may choose to memorize the verse suggested below, or select one from today's lesson that stood out to you. You will be amazed at how the words of scripture, stored in the heart, will return to you in the moments when you most need them.*

**1 Peter 5:10: “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”**

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this prayer.

*O Lord God, who hast bidden light to shine out of darkness, and who hast again wakened us to praise thee for thy goodness and to ask for thy grace: Accept now the offering of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant unto us all such requests as may be acceptable to thy holy will. Make us to live as children of the light, and heirs of thy everlasting kingdom. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy mercies, thy whole Church, all who join with us in prayer, and all our brethren, wherever they may be, who stand in need of thine aid. Pour down upon us all the riches of thy grace, so that, redeemed in soul and body, and steadfast in faith, we may ever praise thy wonderful and holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(PRAYER AND INTERCESSION FROM FAMILY PRAYERS, BCP PAGE 729)

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## 1 PETER 1: **BORN AGAIN TO A LIVING HOPE**

<sup>1</sup>Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, <sup>2</sup>according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup>Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and enquired carefully, <sup>11</sup>enquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. <sup>12</sup>It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.