



TERM 3, 2026

1 PETER



DNA BOOKLET

HOW TO BE GROWING DISCIPLES OF JESUS AS YOU STUDY GOD'S WORD...

IN COMMUNITY



It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: "word to life" and "life to word".

WORD TO LIFE



When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!

LIFE TO WORD



The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from "word to life", the better we'll get at moving from "life to word" and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

Are we as Christians more likely to live like our home is in heaven or on the earth?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



READ 1 PETER 1:1-12

1. What is the significance of Peter describing these believers as 'elect' and as 'exiles'?
2. In vv3-5 there are a host of reasons for praising God. What is at the heart of this section?
3. What appear to be the circumstances of these believers?
4. Why are they rejoicing (v6) and filled with inexpressible and glorious joy (v9)?

5. How do vv10-12 help show the wonder of our salvation?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

6. Are there ways you could grow in your rejoicing in God and his salvation?

7. What strengthens your faith and joy more - looking back to what God has done or looking forward to what he will do?

Please pray for our vision to be a church for the city, so that every generation and every street of our city has an opportunity to see the magnificence of Christ. Pray also for our 'refuel your vision' half year encouragement, that around tax return time, we might consider generously giving to refuel our vision at SCPC.

Our average giving (over the 4 weeks to 21.06.2026) was \$7,978, which is \$1,972 per week below our weekly budget of \$9,950 (so, \$42,895 behind budget YTD).

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What are the main things people today put their hope in when life feels uncertain?

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READ 1 PETER 1:13-21

1. What does it look like in practice to do what v13 says? Can you give some specific examples from daily life?
2. Why does Peter say 'do not conform' to evil desires? What might this help us understand about the way sin and repentance work in our lives?
3. What does v17 mean?

4. What reasons do vv18-19 give for why we should live our lives in reverent fear (v18-19)? How is this surprising?

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5. How alert and sober is your 'mind' at the moment?

6. Where are you most tempted to place only some of your hope in Christ, while keeping some 'backup' hopes elsewhere? Why don't we need to do that?

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Over the last 50 years what has Western culture thought of 'born again' Christians?

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READ 1 PETER 1:22-25

1. How was the believer reborn? (Reflect even on the creation narrative see Gen 1:3 & 2:7)
2. How powerful is the word that was preached to you?
3. In what way could their purification in v21 be connected to the wider call to 'be holy' across 1 Peter?



READ 1 PETER 2:1-3

4. Biblical scholars will exhort the reader to consider a 'therefore' and suggest you work hard to understand 'what is the therefore, there for?' Hence, what could the 'therefore' in 2:1 be alluding to (i.e. what has come before this)?

5. What ought our new birth crave? Further, what do we need to grow up into?

6. Could you imagine the apostle Peter may have had Psalm 34:8-14 in mind in 2:3? Why/Why not?

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7. When do you doubt the word at work in you? How can 1:23-24 be an encouragement to you?

8. Do you crave growing up in your salvation? Why/Why not?

9. Dane Ortlund, in his book *Deeper*, says:

Some believers think the way we grow, the way we change happens is through outward improvement - behaving more in accord with some moral norm. Others think through intellectual addition - understanding doctrine with greater breadth and precision. Others think through felt experience - sensory increase as we worship God. All these elements are included in healthy development, but real growth transcends them all. Growing in Christ is not centrally improving or adding or experiencing but deepening. Implicit in the notion of deepening is that you already have what you need. Christian growth is bringing what you do and say and even feel in line with what, in fact, you already are.

Discuss. Now, celebrate, give thanks and pray as you praise God for your union with Christ and the assurance that brings.

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What are some things people use to build their identity or sense of belonging?

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READ 1 PETER 2:4-10

1. In vv4–5, Peter describes Jesus as the “living Stone” and Christians as “living stones”. What do these images teach us about Jesus and about believers?
2. Why do you think Peter emphasises that Jesus was “rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him”?
3. In vv6-8, how is Jesus both the cornerstone for some and a stone that causes others to stumble?

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 20
2026

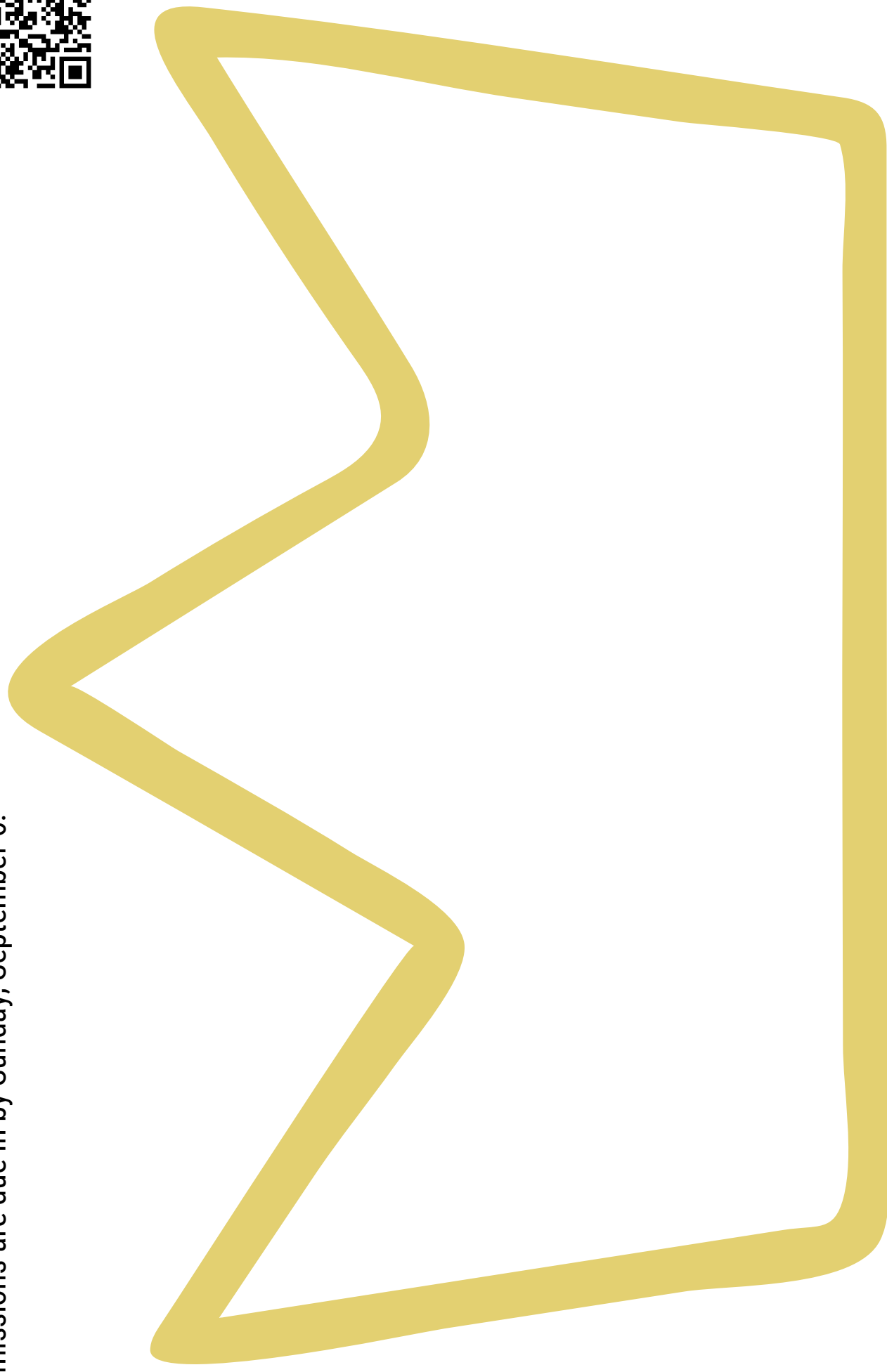
OUR JOY

"FOR WHAT IS OUR JOY,
OUR CROWN... IS IT NOT YOU?"

Take a moment to reflect and respond... ***What brings you joy in the life of God's people at Southern Cross?***

Write it in the crown, tear out this double page, put the flyer on your fridge and this page in the box on the info table at Lismore High. Or, you may like to submit your response electronically via the QR code.

Submissions are due in by Sunday, September 6.



4. In v9, Peter gives four descriptions of God's people: "chosen people," "royal priesthood," "holy nation," and "God's special possession." What do each of these descriptions tell us about his people?

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5. We have been called "out of darkness into his wonderful light (v9)".
Where do you most need to remember that this is your story and identity?

6. How can we grow together in 'declaring his praises'?

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Is submission always a negative thing in our society? Why/why not?

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READ 1 PETER 2:11-3:7

1. Verse 11 starts with "I urge you as foreigners and exiles" ... Why is recognising this aspect of our identity important for what follows in vv11-12?
2. According to v12, what is the reason for living such good lives?
3. There are three calls to submission across this passage (2:13, 2:18, 3:1).
 - a) In each case who is called to submit and why?
 - b) For each of these contexts, what does (and doesn't) submission mean?

c) How does the description of what Christ did in vv22-25 shape and inform this whole section?

d) How does 2:13-3:7 flow out from and expand upon 2:11-12? Why is this vital to see?

e) What does it look like for us to genuinely live out the core principles of 2:13-3:7, but to do so in our own very different culture?

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4. What will it look for us as a community to live such good lives, in order that unbelievers may come to love and glorify God? Where can we grow in this and what part can you play in that?

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Have you ever been insulted or mistreated when you did the right thing? How did it feel and how did you respond?

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1 PETER 3:8-22

1. What stands out from the passage?

2. What questions do you have?

3. What is the core message of the passage?

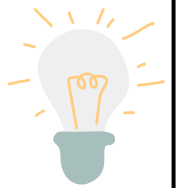
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4. What will it look like for you to apply this passage in your:

- thoughts?
- attitudes?
- actions?

What shines out from this passage? What insight did it provide?

What is an “old truth” that hit you in a new way?



What questions came to mind? Is there anything you didn't understand?

Is there a question you want to ask the writer or the Lord?



What is the central idea, or heart, of the passage?

Can you write it in one sentence?



How does the truth and message in the passage point to Jesus?
How does it fuel your worship?



What can be transformed in your thinking, desires and actions from this passage?



With whom could you share what you've learned?
What do you feel led to share and how can you share it?



Pray for the people named in the speech bubble box and for help with your points of application from the arrow box.



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READ 1 PETER 5:1-14

1. What is the message to:

a) Elders?

b) Those younger?

c) Everyone?

2. Do you think we find it hard to be alert and resistant like vv8-9 describe?
If so, why?

3. 5:10-12 are often described as Peter summarising his purpose for writing the letter. What do these verses teach us about suffering, about glory and about how the true nature of God's grace relates to that?

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4. What is the thing from this chapter you'd most like to remember or put into practice in your life?

5. What is the thing from this letter you'd most like to remember or put into practice in your life?



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PRINTED JULY 2026