



Group Guide

Set Apart for a Purpose

January 25, 2026

Main Passage: 1 Peter 1:13–2:3

Theological Theme

As believers, we are called to live an obedient and holy life, set apart from sin for God.

Introduction

- ❓ When you think of “home,” what place comes to mind?
- ❓ What do you think the Bible means when it calls us temporary residents?

1. Point #1 (Scripture Reference)

In this section of the text, Peter encourages the reader to live a holy life. We are only temporary residents here on earth and should live accordingly. We belong to God, and our lives should look different than those of nonbelievers around us.

Notice our passage here opens with the word “Therefore” (v.13), tying this thought to the ones that came before it. Since, in His great mercy, God gives us the gift of salvation (and with it, a living hope that cannot be taken away from us), our hope should be on the grace that is coming our way at Jesus’s second coming (“at the revelation of Jesus Christ,” v.13). (See the idea of “living hope” make an appearance again? No one can take this away from us!)

- ❓ What do you think it means for us to “be holy” in all of our conduct (v.15)?
- ❓ What do you think it means for us not to be “conformed to the desires of your former ignorance” (v.14)?

2. Point #2 (Scripture Reference)

As we think of what it means to be holy, we should remember that we are “living as strangers” (v. 17) here. We are “temporary residents” (v. 17, NLT). The way we live our lives shouldn’t look like any nonbelievers around us. Our choices and actions should look more like Jesus’s (or at least how He would live if He were in our shoes!).

God judges us impartially (what a concept for our flawed human minds!). One day we will stand before Him and give an account of how we lived our lives (“each one’s work” v. 17), and that thought should produce a healthy dose of fear (reverence, respect) of the Lord. That makes you stop and think, doesn’t it?

- ❓ Why is it important for us to keep in mind that we are “temporary residents” during our time on earth (v. 17, NLT)?

- ❓ What does it mean to “conduct yourselves in reverence” (v. 17)?
- ❓ In what ways were our old ways of life “empty” (v. 18)?

3. Point #3 (Scripture Reference)

Therefore. As God’s children, called to a holy and obedient life, people who will one day be judged by our fair and impartial God, believers who were redeemed thanks to Jesus’s sacrifice on the cross, we should therefore ... (do what Peter will tell us next!).

Peter’s words implore us to take this seriously (like Jesus’s commands about sin that we read earlier). None of these things have a place in a life that is set apart for God, and we should earnestly work to remove them from our lives.

- ❓ What does Peter tell us to do in this passage?
- ❓ How does God’s goodness factor into what Peter is telling his readers?

Conclusion

With the living hope that comes from the gift of salvation believers enjoy, we should look to Jesus’ second coming with hope, and in the meantime, seek to live a holy life here on earth. Peter issues a call to that holy living in the passage we studied today.

As God’s children, we are called to be obedient to the ways God wants us to live, and that means living a holy life. When we live a holy life, we are by no means perfect, but we are actively seeking to live a life without sin and live a life that looks more like Jesus than it did when we were living out the “the desires of [our] former ignorance” (v. 14) before we knew Jesus.

- ❓ How does a holy life look different than the way the average person lives in America today?
- ❓ Why do you think it is a struggle to leave “the desires of [our] former ignorance” (v. 14) behind when we become a Christian? How can we overcome them?
- ❓ How have you seen that the Lord is good in your life?
- ❓ What is something you could begin doing over the next couple of weeks to start prioritizing your own spiritual development?