

Adult Study Guide for February 21, 2021
Series: *I am an Alien*; Message: *Behind 1 Peter*

Goal: To learn from Peter how to survive and thrive in a world that is hostile to our faith.

Key Verses: *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, ² who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. – 1 Peter 1:1-2 (NIV)*

1. Have you ever traveled in a foreign country (or just out of state) and felt surprised by the realization that you did not belong there? Have you ever experienced the same feeling about living in this world? In what ways does your faith compel you to live a life different from the world around you?

2. When you think about Peter, the disciple of Jesus, what comes to your mind? How did Peter demonstrate both great faith and also doubt? (Matthew 16:15-19, 21-23; John 18:10-11) Read James 3:10. Why do we all struggle with this contradiction of blessing and cursing in our lives? Why is it important to remember that we are both flawed and forgiven?

3. The first letter of Peter was written during a time of great persecution of the church. Nero blamed the Christians for burning Rome. Peter is caught up in the persecution and arrested. Read Hebrews 11:13. How does accepting that we are foreigners and strangers on earth help us to survive when we face disappointments and loss?

4. Read John 15:19 and John 17:14-16. What did Jesus mean when he said that we are not of this world? Why is complete separation from the world both impossible and misguided? Why is the marriage of religion and politics destructive of our Christian witness? (John 18:36) What is the best way to witness to the power of the gospel?

5. Read Romans 12:2 and 1 Corinthians 5:9-10. What is the alternative to being conformed to this world? How should we relate to those who are not Christians?

6. Read John 3:16-17. What is God's attitude toward this world? What happens when we stop viewing the world as our enemy and view it as God's broken creation that he wants to redeem? Read 1 Peter 1:3. We say that Christ is the hope of the world. What does that mean?