



November 15 — Stewards of Grace

Weekly Reading: 1 Peter 1–5

Life Group Passage: 1 Peter 4:7–11

Main Point

Because God has entrusted His grace to us, we love deeply, welcome gladly, and use what He has given us to serve others for His glory.

Key Verse

“Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.”

1 Peter 4:10

Life Group — The Flow

- 15 minutes — Conversation and relationship-building
- 5 minutes — Looking Back
- 5 minutes — Introduction, Background, and Christ Connection
- 30 minutes — Study and Apply
- 5–7 minutes — Application Exercise
- 10 minutes — Pray Through the Passage and Prayer Requests
- 5 minutes — Conclusion

If Time Is Limited...

Focus on:

- Main Point and Key Verse
- Background and Christ Connection
- Read 1 Peter 4:7–9
- Passage 1 questions 1 and 3
- Read 1 Peter 4:10–11

- Passage 2 questions 1 and 4
- Application Exercise
- Pray Through the Passage
- Final Takeaway

Looking Back — 5 Minutes

Last week, James showed us that genuine faith does not remain invisible. Saving faith becomes visible through obedient action and practical love.

Discuss one or more:

- Where did your faith move you toward a concrete act of obedience this week?
- Did you notice a need that would have been easy to acknowledge but harder to actually meet?
- Where did God expose a gap between what you say you believe and the way you were living?

Transition to Introduction

“James challenged us to let faith become visible through action. Peter now shows us several ordinary ways God’s grace becomes visible through the life of His church.”

Introduction — 5 Minutes

Ask

- If you knew you had only one week before a major deadline or transition, what would suddenly move to the top of your priority list?

Follow-Up

- Why do deadlines often clarify what really matters?

Say

“A sense of urgency has a way of exposing our priorities. Things we thought were important can suddenly seem minor, while relationships and responsibilities we have neglected become much clearer.”

“Peter tells believers that ‘the end of all things is near.’ He does not use that truth to fuel speculation or panic. Instead, he turns immediately to prayer, love, hospitality, and service. In other words, the reality that Christ will return should make Christians more faithful in the ordinary responsibilities God has placed in front of them.”

Transition to Background

“To understand Peter’s urgency, we need to remember that he is writing to Christians who were learning how to live faithfully in a world that often treated them as outsiders.”

Background

First Peter was written to believers scattered throughout Asia Minor who were experiencing social pressure, misunderstanding, and suffering because of their allegiance to Christ.

Throughout the letter, Peter reminds them that they possess a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus. Because their future with Christ is secure, they can live holy, faithful lives even when the present is difficult.

Immediately before today’s passage, Peter contrasts their former way of life with the new life God has given them. He reminds them that every person will ultimately give an account to God. Verse 7 then announces, “The end of all things is near,” and turns that future reality into a call for present faithfulness.

Transition to Christ Connection

“Peter’s instructions are not a checklist for earning God’s favor. They describe the kind of life that flows from the grace believers have already received in Christ.”

Christ Connection

Jesus did not merely tell us what sacrificial love looks like; He demonstrated it. He suffered for our sins, brought us to God, rose from the dead, and secured a living hope for everyone who trusts Him.

The grace Christians now extend to one another is grace they first received from Christ. We forgive because we have been forgiven. We welcome because God welcomed us. We serve because God has graciously entrusted gifts and opportunities to us.

Verse 11 makes the goal unmistakable: believers serve “through the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything.” Christian service begins with grace, depends upon God’s strength, and ends with God’s glory.

Transition to Study and Apply

“With Christ’s grace behind us and His return before us, Peter calls us to steward the time, relationships, and gifts God has placed in our hands.”

Study and Apply — 30 Minutes

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and how we can apply it in our lives this week.

Passage 1 — 1 Peter 4:7–9

Love with Urgency

Read the Passage – Have a volunteer read 1 Peter 4:7–9.

Read aloud from your preferred Bible translation.

Commentary

Use the following commentary to prepare ahead of time. As you lead, summarize the key insights rather than reading everything word-for-word.

Verse 7. Peter writes that “the end of all things is near.” The New Testament describes believers as living in the last days—the period between Christ’s first coming and His promised return. Peter is not giving his readers a date to calculate. He is giving them a reality that should shape how they live today.

Because history is moving toward Christ’s return, believers should be “alert and sober-minded for prayer.” Biblical hope should produce spiritual clarity, not frenzy. Prayerful people recognize that their lives belong to God and that they need His wisdom and strength.

Verse 8. Peter says, “Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins.” The phrase “above all” shows how central love is to life together in the church.

Love covering sins does not mean hiding abuse, ignoring serious wrongdoing, or pretending repentance is unnecessary. Peter describes the patient, forgiving love that refuses to keep a record of every irritation and offense. In a pressured community, such love keeps ordinary failures from becoming permanent fractures.

Verse 9. Peter then makes love concrete: “Be hospitable to one another without complaining.” Hospitality involved opening one’s home, table, time, and resources to others—an especially important ministry when believers and traveling servants of Christ depended heavily upon one another.

The phrase “without complaining” matters. It is possible to serve outwardly while resenting the inconvenience inwardly. Gospel-shaped hospitality is not merely making room for someone; it is doing so with a willing heart.

Guide Discussion

You do not need to cover every question. Use those that best help your group engage with the passage.

- 1. Good for Students.** What priorities does Peter connect to the reality that “the end of all things is near”?
- 2. Discuss.** Why do you think Peter places deep love for one another near the center of faithful Christian living in difficult times?
- 3. Deeper Dive.** What is the difference between love that “covers a multitude of sins” and a response that simply ignores harmful or serious sin?
- 4. Reflective — Index Card.** Where are inconvenience or repeated irritation most likely to turn your service of others into complaining?

Teaching Insight

Say

“Biblical urgency does not make Christians frantic; it makes us faithful. Peter points believers toward prayerful clarity, durable love, and willing hospitality. The return of Christ should make us more attentive to the people God has placed around us, not less.”

Transition to Passage 2

“Peter now moves from the way believers love one another to the gifts and resources God has specifically entrusted to each of them.”

Passage 2 — 1 Peter 4:10–11

Steward What You Have Received

Read the Passage – Have a volunteer read 1 Peter 4:10–11.

Read aloud from your preferred Bible translation.

Commentary

Use the following commentary to prepare ahead of time. As you lead, summarize the key insights rather than reading everything word-for-word.

Verse 10. Peter assumes that “each one has received a gift.” Spiritual gifts are not badges of status; they are expressions of God’s grace entrusted to believers for the good of others.

That is why Peter calls Christians “good stewards of the varied grace of God.” A steward manages something that belongs to another. Our abilities, opportunities, time, influence, and spiritual gifts ultimately belong to God and are meant to be used according to His purposes.

The word “varied” points to the many-sided richness of God’s grace. God does not make every Christian identical. He distributes grace through different people in different ways so that the body receives what it needs.

Verse 11. Peter broadly describes speaking gifts and serving gifts. Those who speak should do so as people entrusted with God’s words, not merely personal opinions. Those who serve should do so “from the strength God provides.”

That final phrase protects Christian service from both pride and burnout. We do not serve to prove our worth, and we do not have to manufacture endless strength from ourselves. God supplies what His people need to faithfully use what He has entrusted to them.

The purpose is “so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything.” The goal of spiritual gifts is never to make the gifted person impressive. Grace is stewarded well when others are served and God receives the glory.

Consider This — The Walk-In Freezer

On April 27, 2011, a devastating tornado outbreak struck Alabama. As one tornado approached, the manager of a local barbecue restaurant moved his employees into the

walk-in freezer for protection. The building was destroyed, but the people sheltered inside survived.

In a moment of urgency, the manager used what was already available to him to protect and serve the people in his care. Peter calls believers to a similar readiness: recognize what God has placed in your hands, and use it faithfully for the good of others.

Good stewardship begins by asking not, “What do I wish I had?” but, “What has God already entrusted to me, and who can I serve with it?”

Guide Discussion

You do not need to cover every question. Use those that best help your group engage with the passage.

1. **Good for Students.** According to verses 10–11, what is true of every believer and the gifts God gives?
2. **Discuss.** How does thinking of yourself as a “steward” change the way you view your abilities, time, resources, or influence?
3. **Deeper Dive.** Why is it important that Peter tells us to serve with the strength God provides rather than simply telling us to serve more?
4. **Reflective — Index Card.** What is one grace, ability, opportunity, or resource God has entrusted to you that could more intentionally benefit someone else?

Teaching Insight

Say

“God’s grace does not stop with the person who receives it. He entrusts grace to us so that it can move through us toward others. The question is not whether you have something to contribute; Peter says each believer has received something to steward.”

Transition to Application Exercise

“Let’s identify one piece of God’s grace that has been entrusted to us and one concrete way we can put it to work for someone else this week.”

Application Exercise — 5–7 Minutes

Receive • Steward • Serve

Supplies: Index cards and pens

Ask members to privately work through three prompts.

1. Receive

- What has God graciously placed in your hands that could benefit someone else?
 - a spiritual gift or ability
 - time or availability
 - a home or table
 - financial or practical resources
 - experience from a difficult season
 - a relationship or sphere of influence

2. Steward

- Who has God placed near you who could be strengthened, welcomed, encouraged, or served by what you have received?

3. Serve

- What specific action will you take this week to use what God has entrusted to you for that person's good and God's glory?

Say

“You do not need someone else's gift in order to be useful to God. Faithfulness begins with receiving His grace gratefully, recognizing what He has entrusted to you, and putting it to work for others.”

Transition to Pray Through the Passage

“Peter tells us that the strength for faithful service ultimately comes from God. Let's ask Him to make us willing and faithful stewards of His grace.”

Pray Through the Passage — 10 Minutes

Led by the Prayer Champion

Read each verse and prayer prompt aloud. Allow a few moments between prompts for personal reflection and prayer.

If time is limited, use one or two prompts rather than all four. The goal is meaningful prayer through the passage, not completing every prompt.

Prompt 1 — Adoration (have people pray this prompt out loud)

Who God Is

1 Peter 4:11 — Peter says believers serve “from the strength God provides.”

- Praise God because He is gracious and sufficient. He not only gives gifts to His people; He supplies the strength needed to use them for His purposes.

Prompt 2 — Confession (can be silent)

Where We Need Him

1 Peter 4:9 — “Be hospitable to one another without complaining.”

- Confess where inconvenience, resentment, self-focus, or complaining has kept you from gladly making room for others.

Prompt 3 — Gratitude (have people pray this prompt out loud)

What He Has Done

1 Peter 4:10 — “Just as each one has received a gift...”

- Thank God for the specific ways His varied grace has been given to you through Christ and through the people in His church.

Prompt 4 — Response / Obedience (have people pray this prompt out loud)

How We Will Obey

1 Peter 4:10 — “Use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.”

- Ask God to show you how to use what He has entrusted to you this week, and commit to the specific act of service you identified.

Prayer Requests, Praises, and Follow-Up

- Ask the group for updates from the previous week's prayer requests and celebrate answered prayers.
- Invite members to share honestly at whatever level they are comfortable so the group can support one another through prayer and practical care.
- Ask whether anyone especially needs prayer for strength to love, welcome, or serve faithfully in a demanding season.
- Record requests and praises, share them with the group during the week, and follow up at the next gathering.

Transition to Conclusion

"The grace God gives us is never meant to terminate on us. As we leave, remember that ordinary love, hospitality, and service become ways the varied grace of God reaches His people."

Conclusion — 5 Minutes

Final Takeaway

God has entrusted every believer with grace to steward. As we love deeply and serve with the strength He provides, ordinary acts of faithfulness can display His grace and bring glory to Jesus.

This Week's Challenge

Respond — What Will I Do?

Return to your "Receive • Steward • Serve" card and put your chosen act of service on your calendar or task list before the week gets away from you.

- Pray for the person you identified.
- Take the specific step you wrote down.

- Serve willingly rather than waiting to be noticed or thanked.

Reflect — What Is God Showing Me?

Consider:

- Where am I most likely to treat something God entrusted to me as if it exists only for me?
- Who is easy for me to welcome? Who is harder?
- Do I tend to compare my gifts with others or faithfully steward what I have?
- Where am I trying to serve from my own strength instead of depending on God?

Review — How Will I Keep God's Word Before Me?

Review 1 Peter 4:10 throughout the week:

“Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God.”

Ask yourself each day: What has God entrusted to me, and how can I use it for someone else's good?

Read — How Will I Prepare for Next Week?

Continue with the church's Year of Prayer New Testament Reading Plan.

Next Week's Reading: **2 Peter 1–1 John 2**

As you read, notice how Peter and John describe growth, truth, fellowship, and the kind of life that flows from knowing Christ.

Closing Prayer

“Father, thank You for the varied grace You have poured into Your church. Thank You that every believer has something to receive and something to give. Forgive us when we complain about serving, compare ourselves with others, or hold tightly to what You intended us to steward. Teach us to love deeply, welcome gladly, and use our gifts with the strength You provide. May the way we serve one another bring glory to Jesus Christ. In His name, amen.”