International Bible Study Commentary
Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible
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International Bible Lessons
Teaching English as a Foreign Language
Teacher Page: Living as the People of God
1 Peter 1:22-2:10 (English Standard Version)

Before You Teach

A Note to the Teacher: This lesson is a flexible resource bank and contains more material than you will need for one class. Before teaching, choose and mark the activities and questions that best fit your students' English level, interests, and available time. You are not expected to use everything.

Suggested 60-Minute Selection: Choose 2 warm-up questions, 4-6 vocabulary words, 4 comprehension questions, 2 discussion or speaking questions, and 1 writing activity. The writing activity may also be assigned as homework.

Purpose and Scripture Materials

Purpose: Teach English as a Foreign Language using 1 Peter 1:22-2:10 in the English Standard Version as the reading text.

New to TEFL? We recommend certification training through The TEFL Academy, which will teach you how to use and write TEFL lessons such as this Teacher-Led English Lesson.

Recommended Level: A2-B1 with teacher support | Lesson Length: 30-45 minutes; extend to 60 minutes with additional activities.

Pronunciation Practice: Students can read along with the Scripture audio. Pause after each verse or sentence so they can repeat difficult words and phrases with the teacher's help.

Lesson Resources

Scripture Text: 1 Peter 1:22-2:10 ESV (provided Scripture handout)
Scripture Audio: 1 Peter 1:22-2:10 ESV
Use the handout for verse assignments and read-along pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

Theme: Peter calls believers to love one another earnestly. They have been born again through God's enduring word. They must put away harmful attitudes and speech and long for spiritual nourishment. Christ is the living cornerstone, and believers are living stones in a spiritual house. They are God's people, called to proclaim His excellencies and remember His mercy.

English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, identifying commands, explaining comparisons with like, describing change with once and now, summarizing ideas, speaking practice, and writing.

Outcome: Students can describe the call to love, explain the contrast between human life and God's word, identify Christ as the cornerstone, and explain how God's people should respond to His mercy.

Teacher Tip

Help students read, write, listen to, and speak English while studying the ESV text. Encourage complete sentences, ask gentle follow-up questions, and give students time to think. Adjust activities to fit their ages, number, English proficiency, and available class time.

Teacher Awareness

Read in four sections: 1:22-25; 2:1-3; 2:4-8; and 2:9-10. Explain grass, milk, stones, and a spiritual house as images that teach spiritual truths. The house is a people, not a physical building. Explain priesthood as people serving God and chosen race as God's people, not a claim of ethnic superiority. Discuss rejection and disobedience in relation to Christ and the word, using the passage's own terms.

2) Suggested Lesson Flow

1. Begin with two warm-up questions.
2. Assign each student one or more verses to study and read aloud.
3. Ask what the assigned verses say and mean.
4. Identify the main idea in each of the four reading sections.
5. Play the Scripture audio while students read along.
6. Review vocabulary and practice difficult pronunciation.
7. Use selected comprehension, discussion, and speaking questions.
8. Finish with one writing activity and the final question.

3) Warm-Up Questions

Choose 2. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- How can people show sincere love through their actions?
- What does a young child need in order to grow?
- Why does a building need a strong foundation?
- How can belonging to a caring community affect a person?

4) Vocabulary

Choose 4-6. Mark the words and prompts you plan to use.

Word or Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
imperishable	Unable to decay or be destroyed.	What kind of seed does Peter contrast with perishable seed? (1:23)
abiding	Continuing or remaining.	What does Peter describe as living and abiding? (1:23)
malice	The desire to harm another person.	What should believers put away? (2:1)
slander	False statements that damage someone's reputation.	What kind of harmful speech must believers put away? (2:1)
cornerstone	A key foundation stone; here, a picture of Christ.	Who is the chosen and precious cornerstone? (2:4-6)
priesthood	A group appointed to serve God as priests.	What does the holy priesthood offer? (2:5)
proclaim	Announce or declare openly.	What are God's people called to proclaim? (2:9)
mercy	Kindness and compassion toward someone in need.	What have God's people now received? (2:10)

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- How should believers love one another? (1:22)
- Through what have they been born again? (1:23)
- What happens to grass and its flower, and what remains forever? (1:24-25)
- What attitudes and speech should believers put away? (2:1)
- For what should believers long, and why? (2:2-3)
- How do people and God view the living stone differently? (2:4)
- What are believers being built into, and what do they offer? (2:5)
- What promise is given to whoever believes in the cornerstone? (2:6)
- What are God's people called to proclaim? (2:9)
- How does Peter contrast their past and present in verse 10? (2:10)

6) Scripture Discussion

Choose a total of 2 from Scripture Discussion and/or Speaking Practice. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- How does God's enduring word give a foundation for loving one another?
- Why must harmful attitudes and speech be put away in a loving community?
- What does the picture of newborn infants teach about spiritual growth?
- What does the image of living stones teach about belonging and serving together?
- Why is Christ's place as the cornerstone important to the spiritual house?
- How should receiving mercy affect the way God's people treat others and speak about Him?

Language Coaching Tip

Invite complete sentences and correct gently. Model comparison: 'Human life is like grass.' Model change: 'Once they were not a people, but now they are God's people.' Ask students to make a second once and now sentence using mercy in 2:10.

7) Speaking Practice

Select 2 activities from Speaking Practice and/or Scripture Discussion.

- Summarize 1 Peter 1:22-2:10 in your own words.
- Describe three commands from 1:22 and 2:1-2.
- Explain one picture from the passage: grass, milk, or living stones.
- With a partner, ask and answer: Who is the cornerstone, and what are believers being built into?
- Describe the changes in 2:10 using once, but now, and mercy.
- Speak for 30-60 seconds: How can a community show love and mercy in everyday life?

8) Writing Task

Choose 1. Mark the writing activity you plan to use in class or assign as homework.

- Option A: Summarize 1 Peter 1:22-2:10 in 6-8 sentences.
- Option B: Write a paragraph explaining how believers are like living stones in a spiritual house.
- Option C: Write four sentences. Use like in two comparisons from the passage and once and now in two sentences about 2:10.
- Option D: Write five sentences using these words: abiding, cornerstone, priesthood, proclaim, and mercy.

9) Wrap-Up

Wrap Up

Peter calls believers to love one another from a pure heart. God's word remains forever and brings the good news. Believers must put away harmful attitudes and speech and seek spiritual growth. Christ is the chosen and precious cornerstone. Believers are living stones in a spiritual house, serving God through Jesus Christ. They belong to God, proclaim His excellencies, and remember that they have received mercy.

Remember

God's people are called to love one another, grow in faith, and proclaim the goodness of the One who has shown them mercy.

Final Question

How can receiving God's mercy change the way His people love and serve together?