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 Hope through Jesus Christ
1 Peter 1:1-12 (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 1:1-12 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 1:1-12 ESV (provided Scripture handout)
Scripture Audio: 1 Peter 1:1-12 ESV
Use the handout for verse assignments and read-along pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

Theme: Peter writes to believers living as exiles. God has given them a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and an inheritance kept in heaven. Though trials bring grief, their faith is precious. They love and trust Jesus without seeing Him, and they receive the salvation about which the prophets searched carefully.

English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, identifying main ideas, expressing contrast with the word “though,” explaining reasons, discussion, speaking practice, and writing.

Outcome: Students can explain the source of living hope, describe how grief and joy appear together in the passage, and summarize what Peter says about faith and salvation.

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

This passage contains long sentences and unfamiliar religious words. Read it in short sections: verses 1-2, 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. Explain exiles as people living away from their homeland and Dispersion as people scattered among different places. Explain born again as receiving new spiritual life from God through faith in Jesus Christ. Students may have experienced grief or displacement; allow them to discuss the text without sharing personal experiences.

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.

- What does it mean to have hope?
- How is a lasting gift different from something that wears out?
- What can help people when they face difficulties?
- Can a person feel sadness and joy at the same time? Explain.

4) Vocabulary

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

Word or Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
mercy	Kindness and compassion toward someone in need.	What has God done according to His great mercy? (v. 3)
living hope	A sure hope grounded in Jesus being alive.	Through what event has God given believers a living hope? (v. 3)
resurrection	Rising from death to life.	Whose resurrection does Peter mention? (v. 3)
inheritance	Something received from another; here, what God keeps for His people.	Where is this inheritance kept? (v. 4)
imperishable	Unable to decay or be destroyed.	What does Peter describe as imperishable? (v. 4)
trials	Difficult experiences that test a person.	How have various trials affected the believers? (v. 6)
faith	Trust in God and in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.	What is more precious than gold? (v. 7)
salvation	God rescuing people from sin and bringing them into life with Him.	What is the outcome of their faith? (v. 9)

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- Who wrote this letter, and to whom did he write? (vv. 1-2)
- What blessing does Peter ask to be multiplied to his readers? (v. 2)
- Through what event has God caused believers to be born again to a living hope? (v. 3)
- What three words describe their inheritance, and where is it kept? (v. 4)
- By whose power and through what are believers being guarded? (v. 5)
- What has caused the believers to grieve for a little while? (v. 6)
- What is more precious than gold, and what may its testing result in? (v. 7)
- How do believers respond to Jesus even though they have not seen Him? (v. 8)
- What is the outcome of their faith? (v. 9)
- What did the prophets investigate, and whom were they serving? (vv. 10-12)

6) Scripture Discussion

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

- Why does Peter connect living hope with the resurrection of Jesus?
- How do the words imperishable, undefiled, and unfading describe the value of the inheritance?
- How can grief over trials and joy in salvation exist together?
- Why does Peter compare tested faith with gold?
- What does verse 8 teach about loving and believing in someone you have not seen?
- What do the prophets and angels show about the importance of this salvation?

Language Coaching Tip

Invite fuller responses: 'Can you tell me more?' 'Why do you think that?' or 'Can you say that in a complete sentence?' Model contrast with though: 'Though the believers face trials, they rejoice.' Let students make a second sentence using though from verse 8. Correct gently.

7) Speaking Practice

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

- Summarize 1 Peter 1:1-12 in your own words.
- Describe the inheritance in verse 4 in three sentences.
- Explain the connection between living hope and the resurrection.
- With a partner, ask and answer: What do believers experience now, and what do they look forward to?
- Give one main idea for each section: verses 1-2, 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12.
- Speak for 30-60 seconds: How can hope help someone through difficulties? You may use an imagined example.

8) Writing Task

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

- Option A: Summarize 1 Peter 1:1-12 in 6-8 sentences.
- Option B: Write a paragraph explaining why Peter calls the believers' hope a living hope.
- Option C: Write four sentences about the passage. Use the word "though" in two sentences and "because" in two sentences.
- Option D: Write five sentences using these words: mercy, resurrection, inheritance, faith, and salvation.

9) Wrap-Up

Wrap Up

Peter praises God for giving believers new life and a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Their inheritance is kept in heaven, and God guards them through faith. Trials bring grief, but their faith is precious. They love and believe in Jesus without seeing Him and rejoice in salvation. The prophets searched carefully concerning this grace, and even angels long to look into these things.

Remember

God gives His people living hope through the risen Jesus Christ, even while they face trials.

Final Question

How does the hope Peter describes help believers face present difficulties?