



# GOSPEL

# groups

*Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

*Colossians 1:10*

Mount Cathedral Community Baptist Church  
Small Group Discipleship Program



# Introducing: Gospel Groups



Mount Cathedral Community Baptist Church takes the command to make and mature disciples very seriously. Gospel Groups is one of the ways that we can effectively minister to one another within our local church, and grow through the study of God's Word in small group settings.

Gospel Groups are small numbers of Christians who meet together regularly for prayer, reading and discussing the Scriptures, and to encourage one another. Although these groups are organised, and the discussion material is provided, the format, meeting times, and location is left to the participants.

Pastor Daniel Kriss is responsible for writing the materials which include: a specific theme, a Bible passage to study, a verse to memorise, and discussion questions to answer. Each group is given a new lesson fortnightly. Every study includes a place to write any difficult questions that cannot be answered during the lesson. These should then be forwarded to Pastor Daniel Kriss as soon as possible.

The hope is that each Gospel Group will meet at least once a fortnight for an hour to take part in this small group discipleship program. Generally a mature Christian is partnered with a more recent believer(s) so that general questions can be answered during the Bible study. The groups are divided into male and female, and usually consist of 2-3 individuals. One person is responsible to lead the study initially, but in time other participants should be encouraged to lead lessons. Group rotations will occur at some point so that there is opportunity for diversity and the building of new relationships.

Each Bible study is self-explanatory and does not require preparation on the part of the leader. The format is simple, organised, and concise. The material is written at a high school level, and teenagers are encouraged to take part in this program.

If you are new to Mount Cathedral Community Baptist Church and have not yet been allocated a partner or group, please notify the church leadership team.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Daniel Kriss on 0400 282 536 or via email: [daniel.kriss@mccbc.com.au](mailto:daniel.kriss@mccbc.com.au)

May these Gospel Groups be used of God to nurture, support, and encourage us in the pursuit of holiness.

Growing together,

**Daniel Kriss**

Pastor for Teaching & Vision

Mt. Cathedral Community Baptist Church  
37 Grant Street, Alexandra VIC 3714  
(m) 0400 282 536  
(e) [daniel.kriss@mccbc.com.au](mailto:daniel.kriss@mccbc.com.au)  
(w) [www.mccbc.com.au](http://www.mccbc.com.au)



# Lesson 1



## **LESSON OUTLINE:**

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

## **READING:**

1 PETER 1

## **STUDY TEXT:**

1 PETER 1:1-2

## **THEME:**

OUR GREAT SALVATION  
(PART 1)

## **STUDY METHOD:**

Attributes of God  
Promises of God  
Principles for Life  
Lessons to Learn  
Examples to Follow

## **FURTHER STUDY:**

EPHESIANS 1:1-14;  
TITUS 2:11-14;  
ROMANS 9:14-24

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

1 PETER 1:3

## **PRAYER & PRAISE:**

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## **INTRODUCTION TO 1 PETER**

Peter was one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. He was Jewish by birth, and a fisherman by trade. Throughout the gospel accounts he is known for having leadership qualities, and a tendency to be impulsive.

This letter was most likely written just after the Great Fire of Rome in A.D. 64. The primary recipients were Christians who, because of persecution, had been scattered throughout the Roman Empire.

The purpose of this epistle was to encourage the believers to live in a state of victory and joy despite being "*grieved by various trials*."<sup>1</sup>

Some of the rich themes included in this book include: a great salvation, our future hope, the call to be holy, submission to authority, family relationships, suffering for Christ's sake, the role and responsibilities of the spiritual shepherd, and the way to overcome our great adversary.

## **THE SALUTATION: 1 PETER 1:1-2**

The word "*apostle*" means "one who is sent". In this context, Peter is not only referring to his mission and calling, but also to his office. Jesus commissioned the apostles in the first century to establish the church.<sup>2</sup>

The term "*elect*" is very precious in the Bible. It speaks of God's unconditional selection of some to salvation- not on the basis of their talents, qualities, or merits- but according to His own good pleasure.<sup>3</sup>

The "*elect exiles*" refer to the believers who have been dispersed throughout the Roman Empire and the world on account of severe persecution.

According to verse two, God the Father operates with foreknowledge. As humans who are bound by time and space, we find this concept hard to understand. When the Bible speaks of God's foreknowledge it does not merely mean something known before-hand. Rather, it refers to God's pre-determined plan for the salvation of His elect which, in the realm of eternity, is already completed in every sense, though not realised in our time and space.

"*Sanctification*" comes from a root for "holy." It is the work of the Spirit to make those whom the Father has elected entirely holy. Furthermore, His presence within enables and encourages the believer to be obedient to Jesus Christ, since they have been "*sprinkled*" (purified through) His blood.

<sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 1:6

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 2:20

<sup>3</sup> Ephesians 1:3-6



The phrase *“grace and peace be multiplied to you”* was a common salutation in the early church. *“Grace”* from the Greek culture usually referred to joy or blessings conferred. *“Peace to you”* was a well-known Hebrew expression of affection. Peter, in combining these salutations, dismisses any notion that this epistle was only for one race of Christians. Furthermore, he is not satisfied that these attributes of grace and peace are merely present, but he prays that they might abound and increase in the lives of these believers.

### REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. In what ways are all Christians like apostles (“sent ones”)?

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2. According to Ephesians 1:4,6 why did God choose (elect) some for salvation?

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3. As humans we are bound by space and time. How does this reality hinder our understanding of the character of God, and in what ways?

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4. According to Romans 8:5-11, what role does the Holy Spirit play in our life as a Christian?

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5. In the Old Testament, *“sprinkling”* symbolised purification. In what ways does the blood (death) of Jesus bring cleansing to us? For help, turn to: 1 John 1:7-9

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6. How can *“grace and peace be multiplied”* in your personal life, and in the church?

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### QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR:

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