

The
New
Testament
in a Year

Week 39

1st Peter 4 - 2nd Peter 3

This week's reflector is

Dave Jagger.

He is the pastor at

Trinity United Church in Elmira.

General Questions for Reflection

You might pick one part of each chapter and think about these questions.

- What does this tell me about God (including Jesus and the Holy Spirit)?
- What does this tell me about our world?
- What does it tell me about me?
- What does it say about following Jesus?
- Is there something here I'd like to learn more about?

Why not use these thoughts to shape your prayer today.

Monday

1st Peter 4

I've heard it said many times around funerals. "How do people without faith handle this? Aren't they lost?" Today's section of 1 Peter takes that idea seriously.

Those who have accepted the Christian faith are different from those who have not yet come to believe. Not only do we live differently and act differently because of what we believe, but we even understand the world differently. Suffering, discipline, serving, are viewed in a new light through the life and death and resurrection of Jesus.

How do you see the world differently than your non-Christian friends?

Tuesday

1st Peter 5

The idea of evil lurking, stalking and pouncing like a lion is provocative. Evil is real. Evil has power. But God has given us the ultimate example of how to defuse and overcome evil: Jesus.

1 Peter illustrates God's power at work in the church. "...all of you must clothe yourselves in humility..." (1 Pet. 5:5) Leaders, lead in humility. Followers, follow in humility. Congregations, work together in humility.

When have you seen people restored, strengthened and built up in Christ by the exercise of humility?

Wednesday

2nd Peter 1

As the writer of this letter works to remind his readers of the truth of their faith, he uses references to the life of Jesus. It's as if the writer is saying, "This isn't just a good story, but it really happened. I was there to see it!"

Our faith, too, is built upon the life, teachings, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

The author of this letter specifically refers to the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28-36). *Which story from Jesus' life helps support and encourage your faith?*

Thursday

2nd Peter 2

Harsh words. Much of what the author of this letter rails against was considered "normal" by the rest of the society the early Christians lived within.

It makes me wonder how the norms of our culture, which are contrary to Christian morals and values, seep into our churches, what we believe and consider to be permissible.

Where is the balance between fundamentalism (which seeks to keep us "pure" and separate from society) and tolerance (which risks accepting everything about society)?

Friday

2nd Peter 3

I recently watched the movie "Knowing" starring Nicolas Cage. Without giving too much away, it is possible the movie's writer was familiar with this chapter of 2 Peter. How the world will end; how to live when you know it is coming; the values that support you through those events; are all themes of the movie and this chapter. Why not rent it with a friend?

The chapter ends by saying to the reader "you have been warned!" *Do you believe the world will end and there will be judgement? How does this affect the way you live as you wait for it to happen?*