

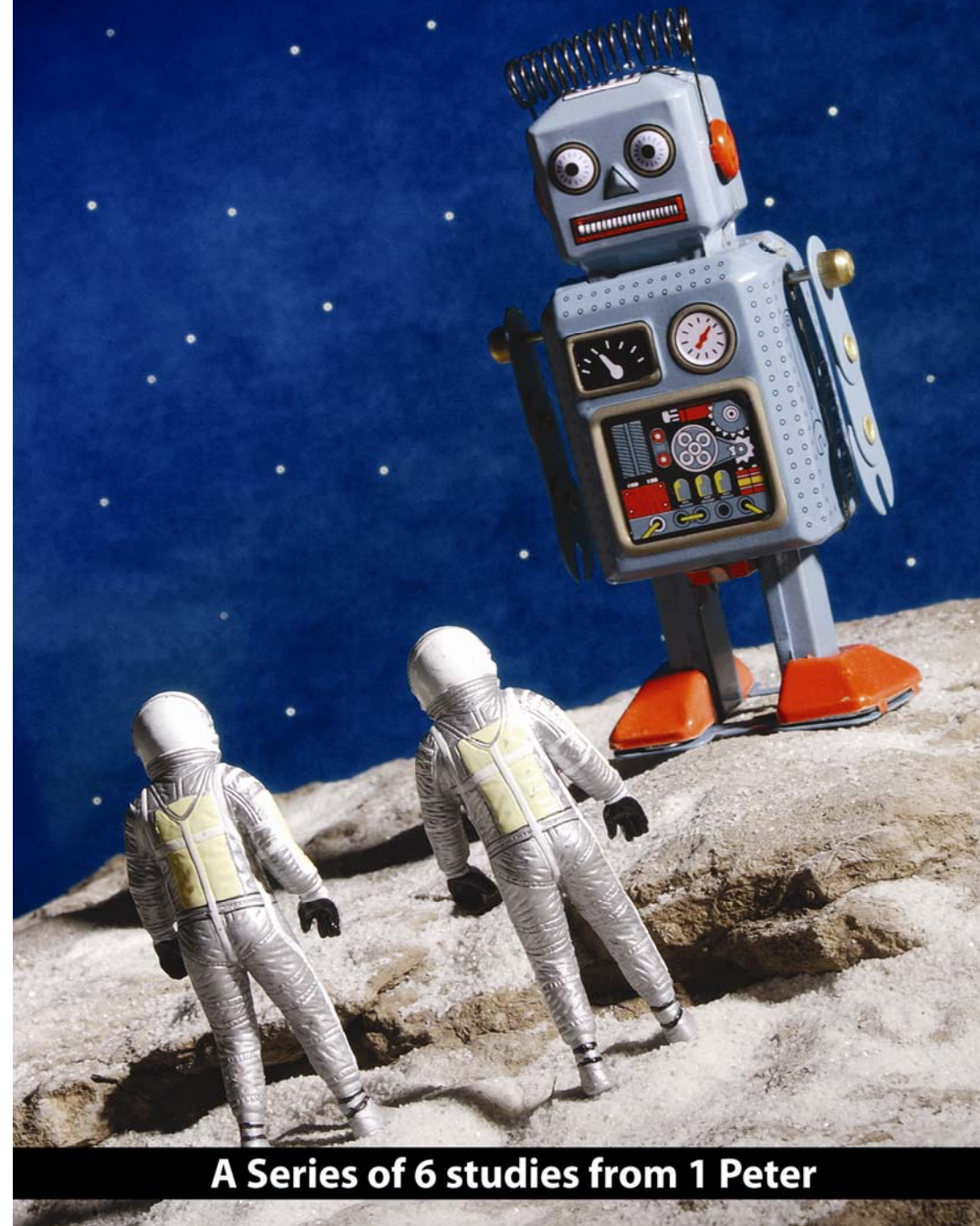
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Presbyterian Youth

Aliens In This World



A Series of 6 studies from 1 Peter

What are some of the reasons or 'excuses' that we come up with not to have to submit to our parents (Eph 6:1)?

What specific situations do you find it hard to obey and submit to your parents?

What should we do in those situations?

How does our hope of heaven help us in tough situations?

Pray for each other that you would live outstanding lives among your families and friends.

Pray that you would live as aliens in this world.

Pray that you would be like Jesus.

Pray that people would notice you are different as you come home from PY Summer camp.

Why did Jesus submit to evil people? Who was he trusting?

Read the following 3 situations: Who is submitting to whom? What reason is given?

1 Peter 2:13 -17		...submitting to ...	
1 Peter 2:18 -20		...submitting to ...	
1 Peter 3:1 – 6		...submitting to ...	

Are these easy or hard situations to submit in? Why?

Try to sum up the reason for submitting in one sentence: (v15,v19, 3v1).

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Aliens Behind Enemy Lines

Intro

If you could be any sports person or movie hero for one day, who would it be? Why?

In this passage we look at Jesus as an example of what we should be like.

Read 1 Peter 2:v21-25

How is Jesus an example of submission?

Define "submission".

Tick the boxes that best describe how Jesus submitted:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> lovingly | <input type="checkbox"/> it was easy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> selfishly | <input type="checkbox"/> it was tough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> perfectly | <input type="checkbox"/> resentfully |
| <input type="checkbox"/> obediently | <input type="checkbox"/> in anger and hatred |

Share some areas that you would like prayer for in living a life that is different from the people around you.
Share 1 or 2 friends who you would like to pray for that your life and speech might impact them so they might be saved.

Pray!

Alienation

Intro

What is your favourite movie with an alien in it?

Can you think of a time when you felt 'left out' or like you 'didn't quite belong'? Tell the group about it. What made you feel like an outsider?

Have you ever had that feeling that you don't belong on earth?...that this world has too much trouble ... it's too hard ... you wish you were some place better where being a Christian was easier and Christians didn't stick out like a sore thumb? If you are a Christian, then that is exactly how you should feel! You are an alien in this world - you belong some place else!

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2

In what ways are Christians strangers in the world? (You might like to also look up **1 Peter 2:11-12**)

This letter was written to a group of people and we find out a bit about them in verses 1 and 2. From these verses, how are we different from Peter's readers? How are we the same as Peter's readers?

<i>Different</i>	<i>Same</i>

Peter says 'God has chosen us' - not 'we have chosen him'. (The same word comes up again in chapter 2v20) How does this help us when life is tough?

What has God chosen us *for*?

Will this make us more of a stranger or less of a stranger in the world? Why?

In what areas have you made a stand and been 'different' because you have acted holy?

Look at some of the suggestions Peter made about how to live a holy life in 1v13. What specific things do you need to work on?

Is just living a good life enough? How does 1 Peter 3:15-16 help us?

Read 2 v9-12

Here another reason is given. What is it?

We often want to fit in and be the same as our friends instead of being different. Why is it hard to be different (v11)?

Why is it important to be different (v12)? How does this fit with our role in verse 9?

What are some ways you feel sinful desires 'at war against your soul'? How do you find it hard to be different?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16

Should we be surprised when we suffer as Christians? Why? Why not?

When do you find it hard to be a Christian?

How can we help each other out when we are finding it hard going as Christians? Try to think of three ways.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What things can we be thankful for to God when we are doing it tough as Christians? Spend some time praying and thanking God for these things.

To think about by yourself:

Would you say you are a Christian and a stranger to this world, or would you say that at this stage you are a stranger to God? If you're the second, what's stopping you from being friends?

Aliens, our mission

Intro - Who's who:

Ask each person to write a list of five obscure things about him/herself on a piece of paper and then scrunch it up and throw it into the middle of the group. When everyone has finished, ask each person to get a piece of paper from the middle of the circle and read the list to the rest of the group. As each one is read, the rest of the group has to guess who the person is.

We can recognise people by what they do or what they are like. In this passage we are thinking about other people being able to recognise that we are Christians because of how we act!

Read 1 Peter 1:13-15

What reasons here are given to live holy lives?
(Tick the appropriate boxes)

- win friends for yourselves
- to be like God
- so that we will be saved
- it makes our life more comfortable
- we want to obey God
- so that God will be pleased with us

To think about by yourself. (Talk to a leader about these questions if you want to). Have you been rescued or are you still living an empty life? If you are not a Christian, do you find it offensive that the Bible calls your life empty? What do you think it means? If Christians look back on their lives without Jesus as empty, what do you think it says about life as a Christian?

Aliens of Hope

Intro

Think of something that you started but never finished. It might be a school project, a movie, a job, a sport. Share it with the group. Why did you give up?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5

HOPE: In verses 3-5 Peter encourages us by reminding us what God has done for us in the past, what he does for us now in the present, and what he promises us in the future.

What has God done for us already (v3)?

What does God keep for us in the future (v3-4)?

What is God doing for us now (v5)?

How was our living hope achieved? How does this help us understand what it is?

Even a Big Mac that's jam-packed with preservative perishes; even the best things in this life are spoilt by evil; even the most beautiful flowers fade with time. But our inheritance in heaven is un-perishable, un-spoiled, and unfading! The future is certain for followers of Jesus. Why do you think Peter starts his letter with these things?

Read 1 Peter 2:24. How does this help us understand the 'redemption' idea better?

This section says that as strangers in the world we are to live in reverent fear. But Peter doesn't mean fear of the people round us, he means fear of God! We are to fear God because he is our judge (verse 17), but when we fear him we are not to forget what he did for us! Here Peter shows us the enormous, extravagant cost of our salvation. It was not a financial cost to save us. Money can't buy salvation! We weren't saved with silver or gold. We were redeemed with something much more valuable than that - the precious blood of Jesus. In fact, Peter tells us that even though the gospel message was only fully known after Jesus came, this was God's plan from before the world was made! If you look at Acts 2:23, which are also Peter's words, you will see the same idea!

Spend some time praying and thanking God for the precious blood of his only Son that was shed for you.

What do you think is 'empty' (v18) about life without Jesus?

Over in 1 Peter 3:18 Peter tells us a bit more about how we were re-deemed. **Read 1 Peter 3:18.** Have a go at answering these questions by yourself then come back to the group and check out your answers.

Who is the one?

Who is the all?

Who is the righteous?

Who is the unrighteous?

How do these things help us understand 1 Peter 1:18-19?

Meet some more strangers:

Read Hebrews 11:1-16. What do we have in common with all these people?

Do you think much about heaven? Why? Why not?

What things cause you to lose hope? What things strengthen your hope?

Are there any times in your life when you really look forward to heaven? When?

Pray, thanking God that he has made our future certain.

How to become an alien

Intro

Has you ever won a competition like in the Mars Bar wrapper or Coke lids? Tell your group members if you've ever won anything.

Often when you win a competition you will have to 'redeem' your winning wrapper for a prize. You 'give' the wrapper and swap it for the prize. In this passage we are learning about someone who redeemed something very valuable.

Read 1 Peter 1:17-21

Who is redeemed and how?

How does Peter describe Jesus and his blood? How does this make you feel?

What words does Peter use to describe his readers before they came to know Jesus (v14 and v18)?

Aliens Under Fire

Intro

If your house was burning down and you had to save one thing, what would it be?

In this passage we look at the most valuable thing that a Christian possesses. It is something much more valuable than gold...

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9

Suffering can be hard. But why does God allow us to suffer?

What does it mean to rejoice in our grief (v6)? How can you rejoice and grieve at the same time?

What is more precious than gold? Why? what does it bring about?

