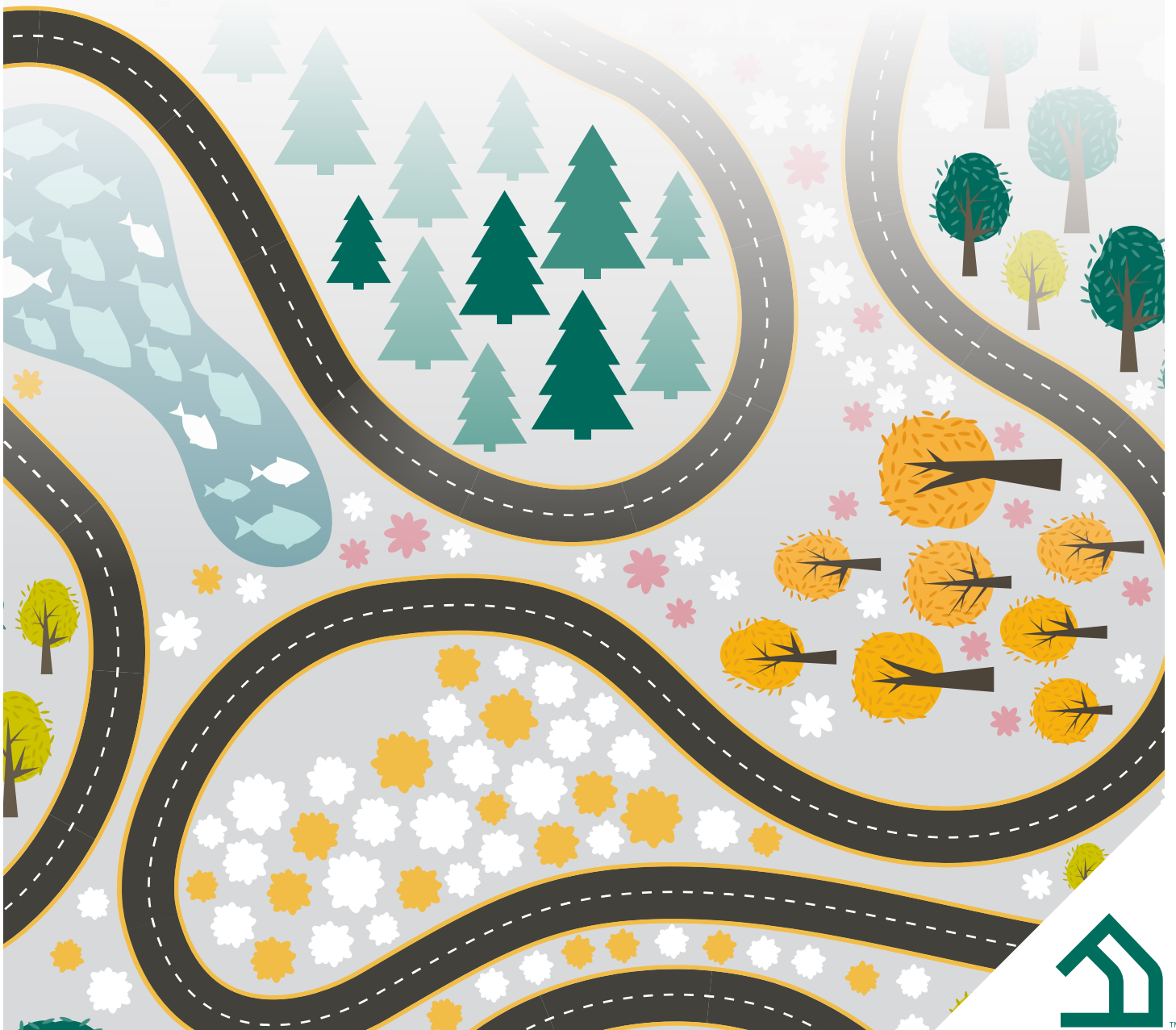


1 PETER

MINISERIES

▶ **1 Peter Miniseries:
Discovering the True
Story in Your Story**



In February 2020, I gathered a group of fourteen staff from Cru, Cru City, and Athletes in Action® together in Orlando to launch our first MyFriends Learning Community. MyFriends is a Swiss-developed approach to meaningful gospel conversations that has transformed the way many of our European and Australian staff and volunteers engage in evangelism. Then, the COVID-19 global pandemic changed everything. In America, it seemed as though this unprecedented event lay bare deep divisions in our society, provoking a mounting economic, societal, and mental health crisis that changed the course of countless lives through illness and death. On the other hand, sheltering in place allowed for some to recalibrate, spend quality time with family, and catch up on unfinished tasks. In a very real way, it was this COVID- moment that prompted me to gather some friends together to study 1 Peter and see what God might do. This miniseries is the result of a collaboration borne out of shared discoveries and longings.

FAQ

Why is this (looking at the Bible and also the topic) important?

The True Story helps us to understand how knowing God helps us understand the meaning of life and the significant part we play in God's story.

What will I get from the series?

An introduction to Jesus and the True Story of the Whole World and a safe place to understand and be understood.

How will it impact my life?

Hopefully, as you get to know God better, you will grow to understand how much God loves you. We hope that you'll do this study with a group of friends and grow in your relationships with each other too.

Who can I invite to join me?

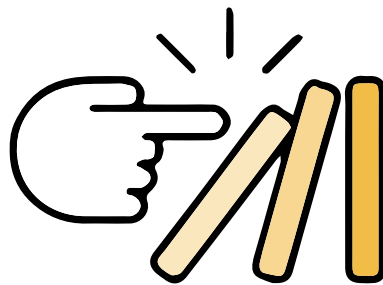
Anyone!

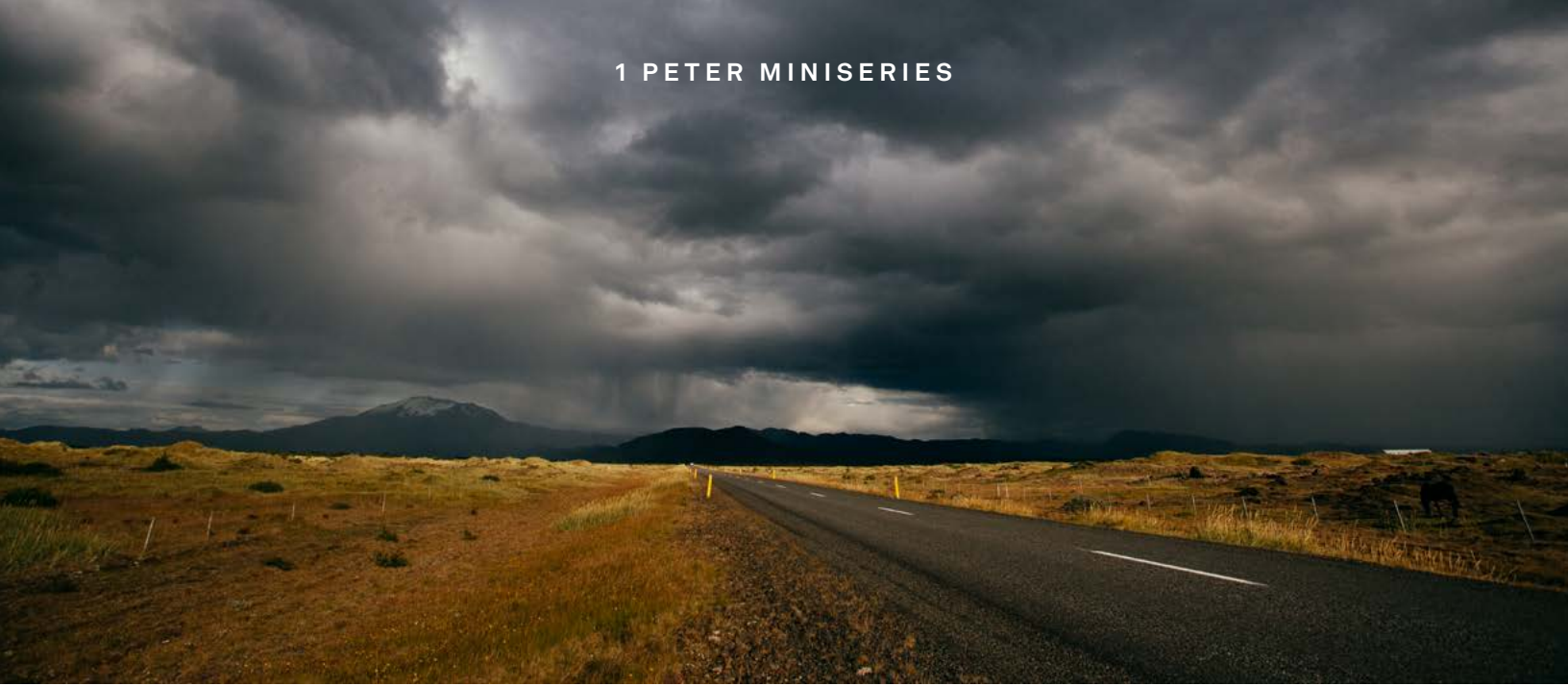
1 Peter Miniseries: Finding Jesus in the COVID Churn

The years 2020 to 2022 mark one big moment in our collective history. The mere mention of COVID-19 evokes memories of where we were and exactly what was happening in our lives when this mysterious virus began to cross our newsfeeds. It's often a defining moment in our conversations— we ramble on, and then we stop to say, “COVID hit.” We glance at each other knowingly and let out a collective sigh. I have found this to be true in conversations with my closest friends and with complete strangers. We all know and have experienced what I call “the COVID churn.”

For me, as the pandemic raged on, I couldn't help but reflect on the myriad of events in our world and in my own. Sometimes it felt like a tornado, the swirl of it all, from riots, to floods, and to an overwhelming amount of death. My dad passed away in 2020, just weeks before I received my PhD by way of Zoom. I felt strongly that these feelings were not unique to me. I knew the Lord wanted me to welcome others into this journey. Especially those who don't have the hope of Christ.

What might be the reverberating effects of the pandemic on people in our everyday lives?





Or maybe there is a deeper question. One that lingers in the back of my mind and urges me forward. What if we never stopped to **acknowledge** that the past few years have been crazy, sobering, unsettling, sad, confusing, and life-changing on so many levels—for us and maybe for you, too? It would be easy to let the COVID churn pass us by without providing safe spaces to ask some of the deeper questions, validating the longings that surfaced. All of my introspection led me to repeatedly turn to the book of 1 Peter in the New Testament, and now I'm inviting you into this journey of healing with me.

Why 1 Peter?

I've been a long-time student of Peter's Epistle since my mom's death due to cancer back when I was in my late twenties. I was just beginning to follow Jesus myself, and 1 Peter helped me to traverse the suffering that was eventually followed by death and the lingering grief. 1 Peter is like a lifeline thrown to people like you and me who are sometimes distressed by all kinds of trials and tribulations. This book brings comfort to those who long to see joy restored and leads them to the kind of eternal hope that only Jesus offers. Peter describes hardship as an invitation get to know the Savior better and learn to love Him all the more.

1 PETER MINISERIES

So, I invited four of my friends to join me in community to study 1 Peter together. Pam Strain, Melanie Krumrey, Yamit Saliceti, and I are connected by friendship and a common love for Jesus. Pam and I became fast friends way back at the beginning of our ministry careers at the University of Utah. I met Melanie when she was a student at the University of Texas a long time ago and we've maintained a great friendship over the years. Yamit and I met through Cru City and share a love of learning and engaging people in meaningful conversations. And now our stories have intersected and we've become even better friends because of this shared experience. For the record, everyone in this group loves a good cup of coffee, which makes me love them even more.



As we shared our stories with each other—the good and the bad—we found freedom and we drew closer to Jesus, collectively. We hope that what we learned during our collaboration prompts you to connect with some friends, too, and together discover God in new and meaningful ways. We also pray that this series will help provide safe spaces to process questions, fears, and longings that surfaced over the past few years and lays a foundation for the challenges you will face again over the course of your life.

As we begin, I'm asking you to consider what the Bible and 1 Peter have to say about some of life's toughest issues. We have chosen to describe this look into 1 Peter as a miniseries rather than an exhaustive study. We aim to guide you through lessons that are **bite-sized and engaging**. We have designed it to help you reflect on God, the Bible, and yourself in the context of a small group of trusted friends. Near the end of each lesson, you'll be given guided prompts, a concrete way to summarize your learning, and an opportunity to relate to others what you're learning about your own story. So let's get started!

