

# 1 PETER

MINISERIES

## ▶ EPISODE 5: Jesus, Cas' Story

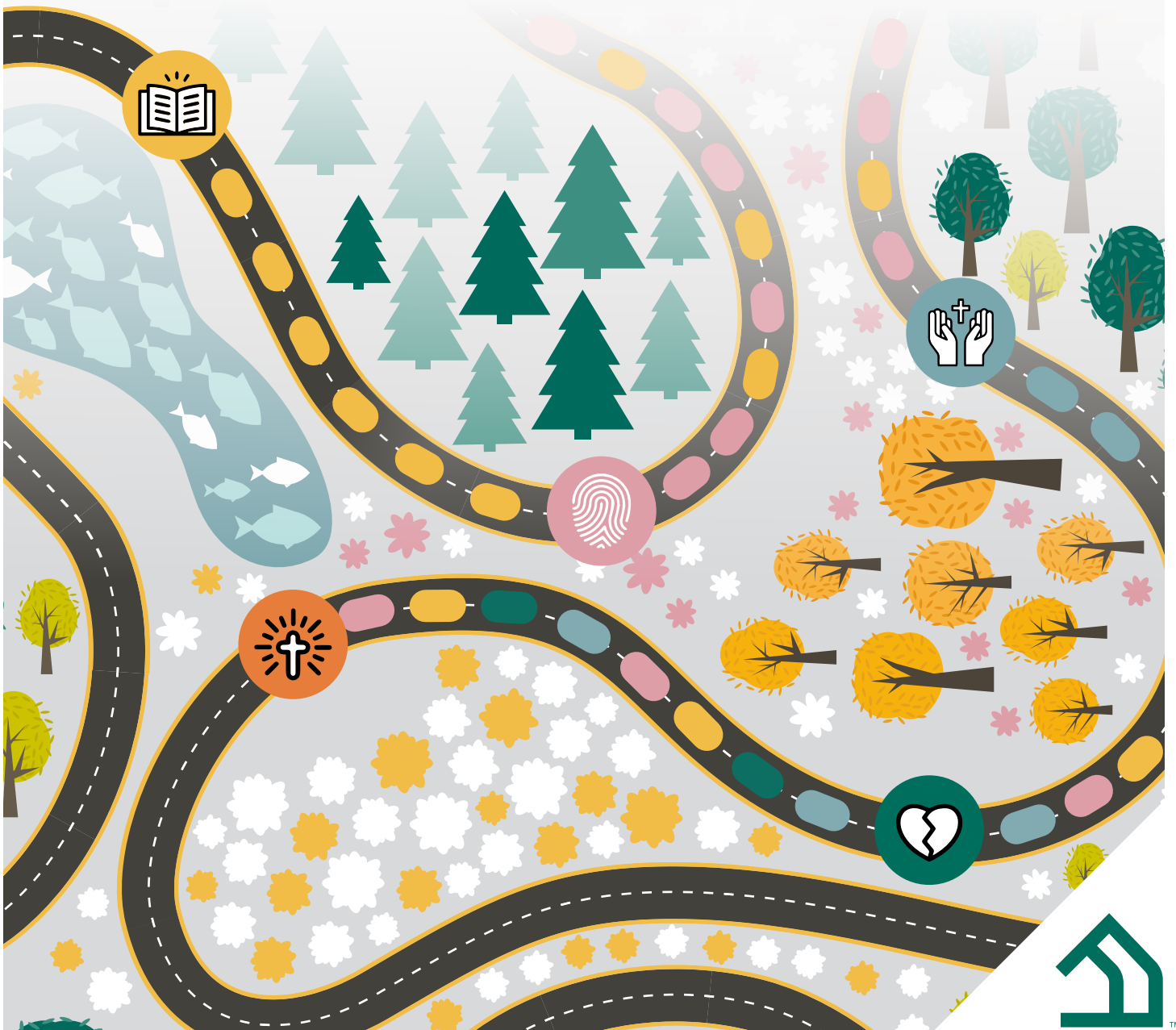
The True Story

Identity

Hope

Suffering

Jesus





### Foundational Principle:

Jesus is the Creator of all things, the source of our born again identity, our living hope, and our example in suffering.



### Read and Watch:



**BibleProject**

[The Crucifixion of Jesus: Luke 19-23<sup>1</sup>](#)

## Well, you made it to the last episode, friend! Way to go!

We hope that as we shared our stories—the good and the bad—you, too, have found freedom to draw closer to Jesus, collectively. We also hope this series has helped provide a safe space to process big questions, fears, and longings that surfaced for you.

In review, Pam described her search for love and acceptance. She spoke about the ultimate satisfaction she found in God’s unconditional love. Pam introduced us to our new identity in Christ, and we learned that we have been born again to a living hope. We have a gospel identity that will never change. “We will never not be loved by God.” Her lifelong passion to help others discover their born again identity and to “live loved” draws us into the True Story.

Melanie opened her life and described raw moments of hopelessness, despair, and depression, recounting the mysterious and tangible ways God met her in this dark place. She described concrete ways God cared for her and restored her hope through the Bible, her husband, her children, and her friends. She also passed on simple ways to cultivate faithfulness to God without minimizing the struggles. Her story provides us with ways to turn to God in times of isolation and despair.

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Yamit invited us right into the middle of his grief—the death of his father and a miscarriage—and invited us to join him in the heartache that followed. He illustrated the importance of suffering alone with God and in community with others. He also highlighted the practice of hospitality as a simple way to provide safe spaces for processing sorrow and engaging in meaningful gospel conversations. At the heart of Jay’s story, we discover with him tangible ways to follow God into deeper relationships as a community of believers.

These stories give voice to the very real struggles, temptations, and doubts we all wrestle with. We hope to have provided some perspective along the way.

This week we’re going to zero in on Jesus Christ who provides the most significant clues for unlocking the meaning of life—in the good times and the bad.

**Jot down one unexpected thing you’ve learned from this miniseries.**

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## The True Story of the Whole World: Jesus Our Plumb Line

A long, long, time ago my husband and I lived in Austin, Texas in a one-bedroom, one-bathroom condominium. The bathroom included just exactly enough space for a small tub and shower, a toilet, one sink, a standard rectangle-shaped mirror, and a stackable washer and dryer. Covering the walls of this tiny room was black wallpaper dotted with wisps of tiny peach-colored flowers and sage green leaves. It felt like a dark tunnel.

So, one hot, humid, August morning I had an idea.

Why don't we replace the ugly with a trendy pink and white striped wallpaper. Somehow Bob agreed, so we embarked on the never-before-attempted-by-us process of re-wallpapering this tiny space. "How hard could it be?"

We eagerly ripped down the old and prepped the walls for the new, until about half-way into the job we realized that we were way (way) out of our depth. So, we stopped to read the step-by-step directions included with our expensive rolls of wallpaper. To our surprise, the key to properly hanging wallpaper begins with the "first wall plumb-line." Who knew?!

A plumb line serves as a guide for aligning the first strip of wallpaper and is created by attaching a metal weight to a string at one end that, when suspended from the point where the wall meets the ceiling, drops down to the earth's center of gravity. We then learned to cover the string with colored chalk (provided with the plumb line we had to purchase) and snap it against the wall to clearly mark a straight line. This process was necessarily repeated at each corner to maintain proper vertical alignment all the way around. We turned ten, tight corners in that tiny bathroom!

## Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man

In a similar but more profound way, Jesus Christ is the plumb line in the True Story of the Whole World. Jesus, in a sense, is the center of gravity for this grand story. Every smaller story within the True Story in some way points to Jesus. Peter references the Old Testament historians and prophets, psalmists and storytellers who “searched and inquired carefully, inquired what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and subsequent glories to follow” (1 Peter 1:10-11). These sojourners strained to catch a glimpse of the prophet who is like Moses, a Servant who suffers violence and death, a King who comes from the line of David, a Redeemer who loves and rescues, and a Creator who makes all things new.

The New Testament introduces us to Jesus—the Son of God and Son of Man—who fulfills all of these promises. In fact, God took on human flesh in the body of a man called Jesus of Nazareth.

The Gospel of John tells us:

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.... No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, Jesus has made him known.”*

(JOHN 1:14, 18).

Jesus was begotten of God’s Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He was born in the nondescript town of Bethlehem, grew up as a political refugee, became a carpenter like Joseph, and in His early thirties He began His public ministry.

Jesus was fully human, just like us. He breathed in fresh air, learned a trade, and enjoyed gathering around a table with good friends. He laughed and He cried real tears. He attended weddings and funerals, and He developed strong and lasting friendships. He also suffered ridicule, stood up to the religious elite, and, in turn, stood firm against false proclamations and accusations. During the last meal that Jesus shared with His followers, He said some remarkable things about suffering. In the hours just before Jesus stood trial, He encouraged them, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” and “I have said these things that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world” (John 14:27; 16:33).

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Jesus, just hours later, was beaten, whipped. He was innocent and nailed to a cross under the banner, “The King of Israel.” He also rose from the grave just as the prophets predicted. He appeared to His disciples, including Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas who struggled with doubt. Not long after He was raised from the dead, He ascended into heaven where He reigns as King over all His creation.

He continues to reveal Himself to people today—often through His children who have been born again and through the powerful story we’ve been studying in the Bible. In fact, your participation in this miniseries is an example of one of the ways God reaches into our lives to reveal Himself.



**Question: How has God revealed Himself to you in creation or in people around you?**

Try reading this short passage from the book of Colossians aloud. What stands out to you? Why?

***Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.***

***He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth.***

***He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.***

***Everything was created through him and for him.***

***He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.***

COLOSSIANS 1:15–17



## How does Jesus fit into 1 Peter?

Let's look back to the early days when Jesus invited Peter and his brother Andrew to follow Him. Imagine what it must have been like to watch Jesus give sight to the blind, lift the lame man to his feet, and raise people from the dead! Peter witnessed miraculous events like Jesus walking on water and commanding the wind to stop blowing while the roiling sea stopped churning. Peter often heard the voice of the Father declare His love for Jesus, "This is My Son whom I love. Listen to Him!" (Mark 9:7 NIV)

Peter was the first disciple to recognize that Jesus was indeed Christ, the promised Son of God. He was also the first to deny any association with Jesus in the hours before the cross.

*"As Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, 'You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.' But he denied it, saying, 'I neither know nor understand what you mean.' And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed.*

*And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.'" But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.' But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, 'I do not know this man of whom you speak.' And immediately the rooster crowed a second time.*

*And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept" (MARK 14:66-72).*



Peter knew firsthand the weight of fear and doubt—the weight that we often bear when life doesn't make sense, and the nagging doubt when it feels like God has abandoned us.

Earlier in our study, I mentioned that the first time I studied Peter's letter was right around the time that my mom was diagnosed with cancer. This letter helped me to find God in the midst of my mom's suffering and to discover God's love even in the grief of loss.

### Follow Me

Peter not only knew the weight of fear and doubt; he also experienced the profound love and forgiveness of Jesus. John's gospel describes a scene that takes place after Jesus has been raised from the dead. The disciples, including Peter, had been out fishing all night and catching nothing. Early in the morning, Jesus, who is standing on the shore, tells them to cast out their net on the right side of the boat. The disciples reluctantly cast their net another time, only to find it bursting with fish! Once they reach the shore they find Jesus preparing them breakfast over an open fire. After they had eaten their fill, Jesus pulls Peter aside,

*“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ He said to him a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me?; Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ and he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. (JOHN 21:15–17).*

Remember, this meal and moment come after Peter denies knowing Jesus three times. Strikingly, Jesus doesn't gloss over the denials, He doesn't rebuke or write Peter off, but instead, He asks Peter to reaffirm his love. Then, He invites Peter into the mission of God by calling him to follow.

Remember, Yamit pointed out earlier how Peter's letter encouraged him because it was written by a guy who experienced hardship, struggled with unbelief, and, even still, knew the love of Jesus. Peter is the perfect person to pen a letter to sojourners like us who struggle and suffer and mysteriously experience the love of Jesus along the way.

***And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.***

***He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.***

1 PETER 1:17–21



Finally, look at the last section of the passage and notice that Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world. He became flesh for our sake so that our faith and hope are in Him. Jesus is the Son of God and Son of Man. In this passage, Peter draws our attention to Jesus's death and the significance of His shed blood. He explains why His great sacrifice beckons us to live in a way that reflects this gift. Remember, he's writing to born-again believers whose identity had been transformed by God.

Read through this section and underline the words or phrases that describe God the Father. What stands out to you and why?

Now, underline or circle or highlight the words or phrases that pertain to Jesus and His shed blood.

Why does Peter describe Jesus's blood as precious? Take your time looking at the passage itself for your clues.

## Jesus brings meaning to all of history and to our very lives

The True Story points to God's perfect plan to reconcile and restore the fractured world through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. In our journey together we've discovered some foundational principles that help us find meaning in the midst of life's challenges:

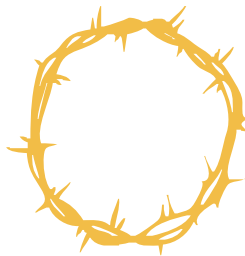
- The Bible, the True Story of the Whole World, contains four overarching themes that help the follower and the curious discover their place in God's story.



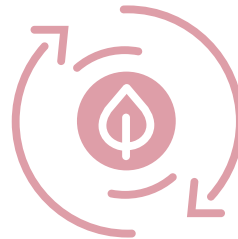
**Creation**



**Rebellion**



**Redemption**



**Restoration**

- Our born again identity is the most important thing about us.
- When our lives are grounded in the gospel found in the True Story of the Whole World, even the most discouraging times can become opportunities to grow in perseverance and hope.
- It's reasonable to expect suffering when God asks us to obey in unreasonable ways.
- Jesus, the Creator of all things, is the source of our born again identity, our living hope, and our example in suffering.

# Shrink & Think

This “shrink and think” exercise is to help you summarize what you’ve learned about God, yourself, and others from this episode.

**1. Factual Insights**  
*This step helps you to look at the big picture and the facts in this episode*  
From this lesson, what do you learn about

- Jesus
- Yourself in relation to Jesus as God
- The world in relation to Jesus as God?

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**2. Revealing Relevance**  
*This step helps you to pinpoint what in the lesson has been most revealing or relevant for you*

- Why does it matter what we believe about Jesus?
- Similarly, why do we have hope because of Jesus's resurrection?

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**3. Summary Statement (10-12 words)**  
*This steps helps you shrink your observations into a short, shareable sentence or summary*

Write one or two sentences summarizing what you currently believe about Jesus.

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**4. Apply It**  
*This last step helps you to apply what you've learned*

You've learned a lot about Jesus and yourself in this miniseries.

Make a list, draw a picture, write a poem, or go for a walk and talk about God. Consider sharing one way God and the True Story of the Whole World has impacted your life personally.

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## Final Reflection

One thing I hope we've made clear in our study of 1 Peter is that God created us for a deep and meaningful relationship with Him. We see the closeness of this relationship right away in the first few chapters of the True Story. But it doesn't take long before Adam and Eve, tempted by Satan, rebel against God's authority and are banished from the garden.

Adam and Eve's rebellion shattered their relationship with God and the consequences of their sin enter into the picture full frame. Self-centeredness, jealousy, strife, and murder become major themes across the True Story. The good news is that God, right from the beginning, promises redemption by sending His only Son into our fractured world. Jesus, the perfect Son of God, shed His blood on the cross for humankind's rebellion, paying the penalty for sin in full (1 Peter 1:17-19; 3:18).



**REBELLION**  
(Fractured Relationship)



**REDEMPTION**  
(Restored Relationship)

Jesus, through His resurrection, defeated sin and death and now reigns as King over all of creation. As we've discovered in this miniseries, even though we're often confused about our identity and wonder why we're here, we are loved by God. Even though we sometimes experience hopelessness and an unreasonable amount of suffering, we can look to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the anchor of our hope. He lives and is coming back and will restore all of creation.

When we're born again and members of His family, we are called to proclaim the good news of hope. This is our invitation into the mission of God.



**CREATION**  
(Designed for Relationship)



**REBELLION**  
(Fractured Relationship)



**REDEMPTION**  
(Restored Relationship)



**RESTORATION**  
(Relationship made new)

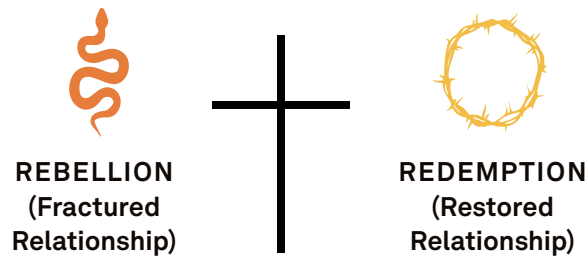


## Your Own Journey

Now that you've nearly completed this miniseries, how would you describe your own relationship with God?

The four-themed diagram on the prior page is a simple illustration of the conversation we've been having about Jesus in this episode and throughout the miniseries. Because of sin, our relationship with our Creator God has been broken. The good news is that God is inviting us to enter into a personal relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus.

Below, you'll see the two middle images of the True Story.



We've learned that Jesus suffered once for our sins by being put to death on a cross. Jesus died on our behalf in order to bring us to God. He redeems and restores our relationship with God.

- **Has your relationship with God been redeemed and restored?**
- If yes, how has this miniseries helped you deepen your relationship with God and understand His purposes for your struggles? If you're unsure, then stop for a minute and talk to God.
- Express your desire to be born again to a living hope. Thank Him for Jesus who shed His blood and died and rose again on your behalf, and by faith, acknowledge Him as your Lord and Savior.



Be sure and indicate this on your LIFE MAP—draw a cross or write today's date to help you remember.



Next, tell someone about what you have experienced in this episode. Text a friend to set up a coffee date or a time to grow together. Use the questions above to talk with them about what you've learned about Jesus. Maybe you could share what you wrote, drew, or discussed with God today.

## Going Deeper:



**BibleProject**

[1 Peter Overview](#)<sup>2</sup>



**Read 1 Peter 1:3; 17-21; 2:18-25; 3:18-22; 4:12-14; 5:10-11**

J. D. Greear, [Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Powerful](#)<sup>3</sup>

Matt Mikalatos, [Journey to Love: What We Long For, How to Find It, and How to Pass It On](#)<sup>4</sup>

If you'd like to study 1 Peter further, Jen Wilken's study provides the perfect next step, check it out: [A Living Hope in Christ](#)<sup>5</sup>

## Endnotes:

1. "The Crucifixion of Jesus," BibleProject, accessed January 2, 2023, <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-luke-4/>.
2. Bible Project: "1 Peter Overview," accessed January 6, 2024. <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-peter/>.
3. J. D. Greear, *Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Powerful* (Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2011).
4. Matt Mikalatos, *Journey to Love: What We Long For, How to Find It, and How to Pass It On* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2021).
5. Jen Wilken, *1 Peter Bible Study: A Living Hope in Christ* (Italicize) (Nashville: Lifeway, 2016).