1. *Letters of Peter*:

These letters, written to Christians in five provinces in Asia Minor, give evidence that the Apostle Peter had been among these people for some time. His first letter was written to encourage believers to persevere in the face of persecution which the Emperor Nero had started against them. The second letter was written as a warning against being led astray by false teachers among themselves. It is thought that both were written a short time before Peter’s death, or about 67 A.D.

2. *Letters of John*:

The Apostle John spent the later years of his life ministering in the province of Asia, and primarily in Ephesus. The first letter is a circular letter to the churches, and seems to have been written especially to warn against the false teachings of the Gnostics. The Gnostics had mixed Greek philosophy with Christian teaching and claimed to possess certain mystical knowledge of God and of truth which others did not have. Their boasts of superior wisdom were not seen in the fruit of their lives and John shows their claims to be false.

3. *Letter of Jude*:

The brother of Jesus and of James (Mark 6:3) writes to Christians probably in Asia Minor, to warn them against false teachers and to strengthen them by sound teaching and holy living “urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to his holy people.” (Jude 3b)

4. *Of Special Interest*:

--More titles for believers are found in 1 Peter than any other New Testament book.

--Peter’s first letter can be compared to the Book of Job in the Old Testament because it stresses faithfulness to God in the midst of unbearable suffering.

--2 Peter confirms that the story of Balaam’s talking donkey (Numbers 22:30) should be interpreted as historical, not as a parable (2:16).

--John wrote his gospel account to prove the deity of Christ; his first letter was written to prove Christ’s humanity. Both teachings are equally vital to the Christian faith.

--3 John is the smallest book in the Bible.

--Because Jude gives the activities of false teachers, some have referred to this letter as the Acts of the Apostates. It is the only book in the Bible devoted entirely to the subject of false teachers.

5. *August Reading Guide*

Week of Aug 1-Aug 7 1 Peter 1-5

Week of Aug 8-14 2 Peter 1-3

Week of Aug 15-21 1 John 1-5

Week of Aug 22-28 2 John-Jude