

Living Hope

Week 10 – Victory Over Suffering

Transition: In last week's text, Peter showed how our suffering has the potential to make people inquisitive about our hope. When others inquire, we must be ready to give an answer with the right attitude.

Check Point: How have you followed up with the things you said you wanted to work on from last weeks discussion?

Context: In this week's text, Peter addresses the sufficiency of Christ's death for sin, his proclamation to the spirits in prison, his resurrection, and his ascension and exaltation.

Opening Questions:

- When you were growing up, did you ever trade things with your friends? If so, describe what you traded. Was there ever a time when you felt the trade wasn't fair? Describe the occasion.
- Describe a time in your life when you experienced a victory. What were you feeling in that moment?

Scripture/Storying: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Discipleship Questions:

- By returning to the topic of Christ's suffering, what point is Peter trying to make to believers who are suffering for their faith? Why is it comforting to you personally that Jesus understands your suffering? How will you use Christ's familiarity with suffering to comfort a believer who is suffering? Is it possible to comfort a non-believer with the truth that God is familiar with suffering? Why or why not?
- What does the truth that Christ suffered "once for sin" imply? Why is the sufficiency of Christ's payment for your sin important to you personally? How will this truth impact you the next time you trip up?
- How does the statement "the righteous for the unrighteous" connect with Christ's suffering? Who are you now in light of this great exchange (the righteous for the unrighteous)? How will understanding this exchange help you battle feelings of condemnation when they come?
- Peter used the story of the flood as a picture of baptism. What connections do you see between the symbolism of baptismal waters and the flood waters? What mode of baptism do you feel captures this connection best? Why? Why do you feel Peter inserts the words, "not as a removal of dirt from the body." How would you personally disciple a believer who has not been baptized to follow through with this symbol of their position in Christ?
- How will the truths about Christ in verse 22 affect your thoughts, words, and actions, when you feel overwhelmed with all the turmoil in the world?
- This week we sang the song, "Jesus Paid It All." What emotions did this song bring to the surface in you? What were some key phrases that stood out to you and why? How did singing this song help you to glorify God?
- What is the Holy Spirit teaching you through this story? How does it impact the way you think and live?

Prayer time: Hope Roberts

Pray for her continued health as the Ethnos360 campus faces illness. **Pray** for team unity & wisdom as they make branding/marketing decisions. **Pray** for a successful launch of their website this month. **Pray** for safe travels for Hope as she visits friends from her training before they move to their fields of service. **Pray** for more laborers, both for staff positions on campus and for incoming students looking to serve internationally.