

SUFFER WELL

A FIELD GUIDE FROM
1ST & 2ND PETER

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

WK 8: The Blessing of Suffering

SERIES OVERVIEW

Suffering is a natural consequence of surrender. As we surrender in greater ways to the Lordship of Jesus, we should expect persecution and difficulty especially as we find ourselves living in a negative world. 1st Peter encourages believers to persevere faithfully in light of their present hope and future salvation.

1 PETER VIDEO OVERVIEW

- [Watch HERE](#)

CONTEXT

In 1 Peter 3:13-22, believers are encouraged to endure suffering for righteousness' sake, knowing they are blessed and should not fear intimidation. The passage emphasizes that Christ also suffered for the unrighteous to bring them to God, highlighting the importance of maintaining a clear conscience and sharing the hope found in Jesus.

THE BIG IDEA

We are blessed when we suffer for doing good. Part of the blessing is knowing that our suffering makes us more like our savior.

ICEBREAKER

Think back to your childhood. Share a time when you got in trouble even though you did the right thing or someone lied and blamed you for something they did. For example, my brothers were getting a major “woopin” as I smiled and watched. They falsely accused me so guess who got a woopin? I was innocent!!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 3:13-22

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. 21 Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

STARTER QUESTION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

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GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Peter 3:13-22 as a group.

How does Peter's rhetorical question in verse 13 challenge your understanding of fear and harm?

Read verse 14 and Matthew 5:10-12.

(Blessed= fortunate/highly privileged

Righteousness= right thing, right by God/people)

- What does it mean to suffer for righteousness' sake?
- Share a time when you (or someone you know) felt fortunate when people slandered or persecuted you b/c of your commitment to Jesus.

As we answer our All To Him question, "Are there areas in my life that aren't fully surrendered to Him", how can our obedience to this question help us live out verses 15-16?

How have you or how would you want to respond to someone who is curious about the "reason for the hope that is in you?" Why is it import to share our hope with gentleness and respect?

Read verse 17. Share a time in your life when you chose to suffer for doing good instead of doing what was easier or didn't have consequences.

How does Jesus' suffering and victory over sin and death give us hope in our own suffering?

Deeper Community:

Reflect on the Cross of Jesus and His suffering. What is your heart felt response to the fact that he **volunteered/chose** to go to the cross because of His love for you and He knew the suffering and sacrifice it would take for your salvation?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

- Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer request.
- Pray for opportunities to share the hope you have found in your relationship with Jesus.
- Pray for your ONE.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the blessing of suffering for righteousness' sake, knowing that You have promised us eternal rewards and a place in Your kingdom. Help us to remain steadfast in our faith, honoring You in our hearts and living boldly for Your glory, no matter the trials we face. In the strong name of Jesus we pray, Amen.