

SUFFER WELL

A FIELD GUIDE FROM
1ST & 2ND PETER

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

Week 11: Stand Firm

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 5:1-14, Peter exhorts the elders to shepherd the flock of God with humility and willingness, serving as examples rather than domineering leaders. He also encourages believers to cast their anxieties on God, resist the devil, and stand firm in their faith, knowing that God Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish them.

THE BIG IDEA

Suffering is behind the suffering of God's people, but one day suffering will come to an end. Until that day comes, church leaders must shepherd faithfully and all Christians must stand firm.

ICEBREAKER

Share about a mentor in your life that has given you wisdom and encouragement. What have you learned from them and why do you trust them to speak into your life?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 5:1-14

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. 11 To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. 13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. 14 Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

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GROUP DISCUSSION

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

What responsibilities do elders have according to verses 2-4? Take a moment now or during prayer time to pray for our elders and thank God for them.

Read verse 5. What does it mean to "clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another"? How can we practice this in our daily lives?

Have a different person look up the following passages and read them to the group; James 4:6, Prov. 3:34, Matt 23:12, Psalm 138:6 and compare them to the end of 1 Peter 5:5.

- In your own words, summarize these verses in 6 words or less.
- How do these passages relate to the end of verse 5?
- What is God trying to tell you about pride and humility?

In verse 7, why does Peter encourage us to cast all our anxieties on God? How has this been a challenge or a comfort in your faith journey?

Read verse 10. Discuss the 4 things that God "himself" promises to do after your suffering. Share a personal time when God has kept His promise and done these 4 things in your life.

*If you are suffering or in a hard season, memorize this verse and pray it everyday. I'm a living testimony that **He will** restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.)

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

Deeper Community: During the response time this weekend, Pastor James led us to respond in the following ways; cast your anxieties on the Lord, take a stand against the enemy, and confront the thing that has you hiding. Share what God led you to do and how the Holy Spirit ministered to you.

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

*Pray for our Easter gatherings this week that the Gospel will fall on receptive hearts and people will respond to the Gospel by surrendering their life to Jesus.

*Pray for each other's ONE that they would say yes to an invite to Easter.

Closing Prayer (together as a group)

God, we thank You for the leaders of our church. Protect them and lead them as they lead Your church. We are grateful for and we believe in your promise that you will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish us in our times of suffering. God, prepare our hearts and minds for Easter and go before us as we invite people to join us. In Jesus name, Amen.



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