

SUFFER WELL

A FIELD GUIDE FROM
1ST & 2ND PETER

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

Week 10: Suffering Well

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 4:12-19, believers are encouraged not to be surprised by the fiery trials they face, as these are a part of sharing in Christ's sufferings. Instead, they should rejoice and trust in God's faithfulness, knowing that suffering for Christ's name is a blessing and that judgment begins with the household of God.

THE BIG IDEA

Suffering shouldn't surprise us but is a normal part of the Christian life. The one who suffers should rejoice and praise God and continue trusting in Him.

ICEBREAKER

Let's have a little fun before we begin our discussion time with the "Dad Joke Final Four". Have at least 4 people share a favorite "dad" joke. Googling jokes is legal. The group votes on the 2 best jokes. Then have a championship round where they tell a new joke. Winner is crowned National Champion!

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 4:12-19

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And

"If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

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 4:12-19 as a group.

What were your initial expectations when you decided to follow Jesus? How did the sermon change your perspective on suffering?

In verse 13, Peter suggests that suffering has a purpose. Share a time when suffering led to significant spiritual growth or learning experience in your life?

What does it mean to rejoice in what suffering is producing rather than in the suffering itself? Share an example.

Read verses 14-16. What kind of suffering (insults) are blessed versus those not blessed? Discuss what Pastor James said about us being blessed when we are "insulted for the name of Christ" and what he said about suffering that does not receive blessing.

How has suffering helped deepen your relationship with Jesus?

In what ways has suffering transformed you to be more like Jesus? Identify and share specific character changes.

After reading this passage and listening to the sermon, what part brings you hope?

Deeper Community

When dealing with suffering for the sake of Jesus, what is your honest feeling/reaction to the words; surprised, rejoice, blessed, glad and glory in this passage of scripture?

Why do you think God wants you to live out these words with suffering and how is the Holy Spirit working to help you suffer well?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

- Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.
- Pray for each other in relation to the Deeper Community discussion.
- Pray for your ONE and each other's ONE. Share any victories and struggles.

Closing Prayer (together as a group)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the strength and grace You provide in times of trial and suffering. Help us to rejoice in sharing Christ's sufferings, knowing that Your glory will be revealed. Jesus, may we trust in Your unwavering faithfulness and promises as we share in Your sufferings and our own. In Jesus name, Amen.



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GROUPS WELCOME