

SUFFER WELL

A FIELD GUIDE FROM
1ST & 2ND PETER

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE WEEK 1: A Living Hope

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.

CONTEXT

In 1 Peter 1:1-9, Peter addresses believers scattered throughout various regions, encouraging them to rejoice in their salvation and the living hope they have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He reminds them that their faith, tested by trials, is more precious than gold and will result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 PETER VIDEO OVERVIEW

- [Watch HERE](#)

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 1:1-9

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus

Scripture continued; Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

THE BIG IDEA

As exiles living in a foreign land, suffering is to be expected. This suffering is temporary however, and the best is yet to come for the believer in Jesus.

ICEBREAKER: Share a serious or light-hearted experience or situation when you felt like an exile/outsider. (Think of a time you were left out or even felt prejudice due to your age, gender, religion, skin color, primary language, interest, favorite sports team or level of education.)

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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?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Watch the [1 Peter Overview](#) as a group.

Read 1 Peter 1:1-9 as a group.

In verse 1 Peter calls his audience “elect exiles”. How did Pastor James define “elect” and “exile”?

How does knowing that we are chosen (elect) and are not of this world (exiled) relate to followers of Jesus today and bring comfort to His followers?

Peter speaks of a "living hope" through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. How does this hope influence our perspective on past, present, and future difficulties?

What does verse 6 tell us to do even in the midst of our trials? In verses 6-9, we learn that our suffering is temporary and purposeful. How does this help us through our suffering and even rejoice through it?

What do we have to rejoice about in the midst of our suffering and hard times?

How does faith relate to verse 8? How does the fact that we can't see Jesus but we can know Jesus impact your love for Him?

In what ways can we encourage one another to hold onto the living hope we have in Christ, especially during difficult times?

Deeper Community: In relation to our All To Him Discipleship Journey, how has giving your “All to Him” resulted in suffering, hardship or loss of a relationship?

PRAYER

*For a deeper and more responsive prayer time, separate into smaller (3-6 people) men's groups and women's groups or couples.

Share praises, answered prayers and prayer requests. Pray for each person that is going through trials or suffering.

Pray for your ONE by name!

Begin with prayer

Listen to their story

Eat with them

Serve them

Share your story and the story of Jesus

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we navigate the trials and sufferings of this world, grant us the strength to rejoice in the living hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. God, give us the strength to suffer well. May our faith, tested and refined, result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.