

SUFFER WELL

A FIELD GUIDE FROM
1ST & 2ND PETER

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

Week 9: Living For God

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 4:1-11, believers are encouraged to live for the will of God rather than human desires, using their gifts to serve others and glorify God. The passage emphasizes the importance of love, hospitality, and speaking and serving with the strength God provides.

THE BIG IDEA

Are you living for God or for the world?
Living for God means putting away worldly behavior, living with the end in mind, and serving people for the glory of God.

ICEBREAKER

Let's play a game of 2 TRUTHS AND A LIE: SURPRISED EDITION. Each couple or person will share 2 truths about themselves and 1 lie. See if the group can figure out the lie. Which truth and lie surprised you the most?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 4:1-11

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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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

Read 1 Peter 4:1-11 as a group.

What did Pastor James say it means to “cease from sin,” as mentioned in 1 Peter 4:1?

Read through the list of sinful behaviors listed in 1 Peter 4:3. Why is it important to move away from these behaviors and which behavior is the hardest for you to move away from?

How does 1 Peter 4:4 explain the reaction of non-believers to Christians who do not join in their sinful behaviors?

Read Acts 9:1-5 and 1 Peter 4:4-5. How are these similar when it comes to giving an account to God?

Read 1 Peter 4:7-8. How are believers instructed to live in light of the end times? How would you say verse 8 in your own words?

Why is it important to share the Gospel to all people, including those who oppose or persecute you?

Pastor James titled verses 7-11, “End Time Ethics”. Read the verses and underline all the commands/practical things to be doing in light of the end coming.

Discussion continued: Pastor James talked about 4 things we are called to do in these verses: *Think Clearly, Love Deeply, Welcome Gladly, and Serve Humbly*. Which of these do you feel God is wanting you to do and what is your next step?

Deeper Community:

Share a time when you were hurt by someone’s slander or criticism toward you even when you were doing the right thing. How can the assurance of God’s judgment help you deal with slander and criticism from others, including non-believers?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

- Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.
- Pray for opportunities to share the hope you have found in your relationship with Jesus.
- Pray for your ONE and each other's ONE. Share any victories and struggles.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Word and the opportunity we have to love and serve you and your church. God, deepen our love for each other and may our love express itself through hospitality and humble service. God give us courage and assurance in our suffering. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.