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# EXILES

## 1 PETER

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# EXILES - 1 PETER

## INTRODUCTION

We live in a culture that is often intrigued by Jesus but is not always fond of His church. We believe Peter is calling us to be a radically different church. He calls us to relate to each other and engage culture with humility (1 Peter 2:13), honor (3:17), gentleness and respect (1 Peter 2:18), unity, sympathy, brotherly love, tender heart and humble minded (1 Peter 3:8). To the unbeliever and the unchurched this will be surprisingly refreshing. We must be intentional in living out this aspect of the text.

**PURPOSE:** to grow our people in proclaiming the excellencies of Christ as chosen exiles in the midst of suffering in a hostile world in our everyday lives.

*'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.'* (1 Peter 2:9)

**MOTIVATION:** 'We were rescued out of darkness into his marvelous light' (1 Peter 2:9b). 'Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people' (1 Peter 2:10a). You had no identity, but now you do. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy (1 Peter 2:10b). You had no hope, now you have eternal hope. **The gospel is not only your FOUNDATION but your FUEL for proclaiming the excellencies of Christ.**

Another example: Peter writes "So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation-if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good" (1 Peter 2:1-3). Peter roots the imperative 'So put away. . .' in the indicative 'if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.' When we have 'tasted' the excellencies of Christ he becomes our one pursuit.

Tullian Tchividjian writes 'imperatives - indicatives = impossibilities.' A great exercise would be to find all the imperatives in 1 Peter and look to how he roots them in the indicatives.

Consider these verses on how words and deeds proclaim the excellencies of Christ:

*'Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, **they may see your good deeds and glorify God** on the day of visitation.'* (1 Peter 2:12)

*'For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should **put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.**'* (1 Peter 2:15)

*'For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a **gracious thing** in the sight of God.'* (1 Peter 2:20).

*'Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, **they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives**, when they see your respectful and pure conduct.'* (1 Peter 3:1-2)

*'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,'* (1 Peter 3:15)

*'With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. **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.**'* (1 Peter 4:4-6).

*'Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, **but let him glorify God in that name.**'* (1 Peter 4:16)

We live in a world in which people are craving peace: financial peace, peace of mind, peace in the home, peace in paradise. Everybody is searching for peace. The problem is that peace cannot be found in created things only in the creator. We live in a world full of people who are restlessly and relentlessly pursuing after the created to find peace but none is to be found. Peace comes from having peace with God. Peace comes when we become comfortable with our justification in Christ. When we rest in him. When we become people of peace our lives will proclaim the excellencies of Christ.

**OUTCOME:** that our church will grow in pointing people to Jesus Christ so that our spouses, families, bosses, coworkers and our city will be redeemed by the power of the gospel for the glory of God.

# 1 | StudyOne

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## A Letter to EXILES

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*1 Peter 1:1-2*

*"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 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 be multiplied to you."*

# 1 | Notes

## Questions

1. Have you ever gone through a painful time in your life when you received an email or message from a friend that was just what you needed to hear at that time? What was it about that message that was so important to you at that time?
2. What do you know about the author and the recipients of the letter?
3. How are we like aliens in this world? What does the role of suffering play in exile's lives? What kinds of suffering would a believer experience because they are a foreigner in this society?
4. What part does each member of the Trinity play in our salvation?
5. Think about what you learned regarding the doctrine of election. How can you know that you are among the chosen ones?

## Responses

## Questions

6. How does the fact that God chose you not because of anything that you have done but because he loves you make you feel? How does it impact the way you live?

7. The recipients of the letter were in danger of assimilation to their pagan environment. Think about your own life. Write down specific areas where you are in danger of conforming to this world rather than taking a stand as a Christian.

8. Come up with ways how you in your community group can help each other to stay on track in obedience towards God and Jesus Christ?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 2 | Study *TWO*

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## Salvation JOY

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*1 Peter 1:3-9*

*"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 Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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. 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*



# 2 | Notes

## Questions

1. Have you ever gone through a trial or a time of suffering that has tested your faith in God? What was the circumstances you were going through and why do you believed it tested whether your faith was genuine?

2. What are the realities of a believer's new life in Christ treated in this lesson?

3. How does the living hope manifest itself in your life?

4. What is the purpose of trials in a believer's life?

## Responses

## Questions

5. How have you seen your faith tested and Christ glorified through trials in your life?

6. How is the inexpressible joy of verse 8 manifested in your life?

7. When joy is lacking in your life - what might be a reason according to 1:8? What do you need to do to find joy?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 3 | Study *Three*

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## Salvation GREATNESS

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*1 Peter 1:10-12*

*"Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look."*

# 3 | Notes

## Questions

## Responses

1. Where have you experienced grace in your life where you did not deserve it? Share a specific example from your experience and how was it revealed that you did not deserve something that was so great?

2. Who are the 4 groups of people Peter is writing about in 1 Peter 1:10-12 and how do they relate to salvation?

3. Was there anything new or surprising to you in these 3 verses? Did you learn anything new about the prophets and angels?

4. The picture of the Old Testament prophets diligently searching and the angels looking in our salvation serves as examples to us. Do their inquiries motivate you to want to search more deeply into the truths of your salvation?

## Questions

5. Explain the good news that has been revealed to you by the Holy Spirit.

6. How have you been served by the writers of the Bible?

7. In what ways are NT believers more privileged than OT prophets and angels?

8. In what ways has this lesson helped you understand the great value of your salvation?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 4 | Study *Four*

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## A Call to HOLINESS

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*1 Peter 1:13-21*

*"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God."*



# 4 | Notes

## Questions

## Responses

1. Has there ever been a time in your life when you lost hope or felt hopeless? How did that effect the way you lived?

2. What does the "therefore" in v. 13 refer to?

3. What are the 4 commands Peter gives the believers in 1 Peter 1:13-21?

4. What difference should our Christian hope make in the way we live? Why?

## Questions

## Responses

5. Discuss how preparing our minds for action and being sober-minded is essential to our hope and setting our hope on God's grace.

6. Peter contrasts the traditions that Christians had received from their forefathers with the gospel they have received from the Father. In our cultural traditions what might run against the truth of the gospel?

## Prayer Requests

# 5 | Study *Five*

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## GROW UP

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*1 Peter 1:22 - 2:3*

*"Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you. So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

# 5 | Notes

## Questions

## Responses

1. Describe what a newborn is like when they are hungry for milk. How have you been like a newborn in your longing for the milk of God's Word? Describe a lack of appetite for God's Word and the effect on your life.

2. Read through 1 Peter 1:22-2:3. What is the main theme / idea of the passage? How would you summarize it in your own words?

3. What are the two commands of this passage (1:22, 2:1-2)? What does the rest of the passage (and the first chapter) tell us about the source and motivation to live out these commands?

4. In what way does this passage reveal our need for the salvation that comes through the good news of Jesus (how do we not fulfill this on our own? How did Jesus fulfill it for us?)?

## Questions

5. How can you (and your group) put 'brotherly love' (1:22) on display to a world full of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander (2:1)?

6. What competes with our appetite for the Word of God? How do those things 'perish' and how can you fight them and help others fight them?

7. How do we gain an intense longing for the Word of God? How can we encourage one another to a renewed longing for 'spiritual milk' (2:2)?

8. What avenues do you have to continually (daily, weekly, etc) taste that the Lord is good through His word (bible, preaching, singing, prayer, etc)?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 6 | Study Six

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## Living STONES

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*1 Peter 2:4-10*

*"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy."*



# 6 | Notes

## Questions

1. Have you ever had something that you thought was worthless but was really valuable? Or maybe there is something that you cherish as priceless but anyone else would think it to be worthless. Share with you group what it might be a why it is so valuable.

2. Read 1 Peter 2:4-12, how would you summarize the main idea of this passage in your own words?

3. How do you see Christ described in this passage in relation to God, the believer, and the unbeliever?

4. Do you see how others around you stumble over Christ or how false religions ultimately reject Christ as the cornerstone?

5. Christ is mentioned as the cornerstone of the spiritual house (the church). What do you think would take place in a church where Christ is not the cornerstone?

## Responses

## Questions

## Responses

6. What did you learn from the study of the Old Covenant and how we are now the “spiritual house” of God?

7. This passage gives us an identity in Jesus and a purpose for that identity, share from the text what the believers identity is as well as the purpose. (v.4-5)  
Why is it important that we understand our identity in order to live out our purpose?

8. How can we proclaim the excellencies of God through our relationships?

## Prayer Requests

# 7 | Study Seven

## Submission to AUTHORITY

*1 Peter 2:11-17*

*"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor."*

# 7 | Notes

## Questions

1. In this text, Peter urges his readers to submit to governing authorities. What are common ways that we do not submit to the laws of the land? Where are people often tempted to go around the law or disobey the law?

2. Read 1 Peter 2.13-17, how would you summarize this passage in your own words?

3. What does it mean to "be subject" to something?

4. What is the motivation for "being subject" to civil authorities? V.13

5. How does placing yourself under God's authority cause you to be subject to the authorities in the world around you?

6. What is the response of the world around us when we "do good" or we live in submission to civil authorities. V.12, 15.

## Responses

## Questions

## Responses

6. Where is it easy for you to disregard the civil authority that God has placed you under? i.e. think about laws you do not like, or leaders you may not respect or agree with.

7. How can our community group pray for local government, our state government, and national government?

8. Are there situations where we should not obey our government? Give some biblical examples of this.

9. Read Jeremiah 29:7, how can we seek the welfare of our community as a community group?

## Prayer Requests

# 8 | Study *Eight*

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## Submission to BOSSSES

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*1 Peter 2:18-25*

*“Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”*



# 8 | Notes

## Questions

1. Have you had a boss you could not trust because they acted in self-interest, were morally corrupt or treated their employees poorly? Share your experience.

2. Have you confronted a situation where you knew that if you did the right thing, you would suffer for it? Share your story.

3. Why do you think in light of encouraging the believers in their suffering, Peter would take the time to specifically address the relationships believers had with others?

4. Review what three relationships Peter addresses. What are they?

- 1 Peter 2:13-17
- 1 Peter 2:18-25
- 1 Peter 3:1-6

Do you see a progression? What is the significance of the order of relationships?

5. Twice in 1 Peter 2:18-20 it says, "For this is a gracious thing." This means that this finds favor with God or this pleases Him. What pleases Him? How does that help you dealing with a bad boss?

## Responses

## Questions

6. What are some examples when you might suffer in the workplace for doing right?
7. The call on our lives is to suffer as Christ suffered. Review the ways Christ suffered from 1 Peter 2:21-23.
8. What does the world say we should do when we deal with a verbally abusive person? How is that different from what this text says? Give specific examples of how we should behave when confronted with verbal assault.
9. How can we continually entrust ourselves to God who judges justly? What does this look like practically?
10. How does Christ's suffering for our sins give us the ability to endure suffering?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 9 | StudyNine

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## Submission to Husbands

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### 1 Peter 3:1-6

*“Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, when they see your respectful and pure conduct. Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.”*

# 9 | Notes

## Questions

1. Do you know any woman that has an unbelieving husband or a husband that claims to be a Christian but acts in a way that is contrary to the Word of God? How tough is that marriage and what makes it difficult?
2. What kind of situation does Peter address in 1 Peter 3:1-6? Why does he address this in light of the suffering of believers?
3. How are these unbelieving husbands to be won? What is it about their wives that wins them to the gospel?
4. What kind of adornment is a wife to have? How is this different than the world's message to women?
5. In 1 Peter, there is a theme of imperishable vs. perishable. Our faith, our inheritance, the blood of Christ and the Word of God are all called imperishable. In this text a woman's gentle and quiet spirit is also called imperishable. What does this tell you how God values a gentle and quiet spirit in a woman who has a difficult marriage? How can you encourage a woman with this verse?

## Responses

## Questions

6. How did Sarah obey Abraham? How is she an example?

7. Is there a time when a wife should not submit to her husband? Discuss specific examples.

8. How can submission to an ungodly man be frightening? How can a woman hope in God?

9. How does Christ's example encourage women living with ungodly husbands?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 10 | Study *Ten*

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## MARRIAGE and MEN

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*1 Peter 3:7*

*“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”*



# 10 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Share of a time where have you have seen a husband honor their wife. If you are married share an example of when you spouse honored you.
2. What is the motivation for a husband to love his wife?
3. What are the responsibilities of the husband toward his wife according to this verse?
4. What does it mean to live with your wife in an understanding way?
5. How can a husband know what his wife's deepest needs are?
6. What are some common ways husbands hinder listening to their wives for understanding?
7. In what ways can a husband show honor to his wife?

## Responses

## Questions

## Responses

8. In what ways are women more vulnerable than men physically, financially, as mothers? Unwrap the meaning of women being “weaker vessels”.

9. How does being “heirs with you of the grace of life” shape how a husband relates to his wife?

10. What are the consequences of husband who does not honor his wife?

11. How does this passage support the idea that men and women are equal but different?

12. What are the blessings of a husband who does honor his wife?

## Prayer Requests

# 11 | StudyEleven

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## Suffering to BLESS

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*1 Peter 3:8-17*

*"Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 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, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil."*

# 11 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Think of a time in your life or a story you know where a person was being abused in some way and instead of returning the evil, they blessed the one persecuting them. How did you or that person receive a blessing in that time of suffering?

2. Read through 1 Peter 3:8-17. What are some themes that you see? What is the context of who Peter is writing to and why would they need this encouragement/reminder?

3. In what ways does a life of blessing (vs. 8-9) result in a life you will love and is full of good days (10-12)?

- a. What does that life entail?
- b. How is it different than what our culture views as 'good days'?
- c. How does 1 Peter 3:8-12 point us to our need of a savior?

4. Although righteous living normally will lead to peace (10-12), it can also lead to persecution (13-17). What does this passage (13-17) teach us about suffering in following Jesus?

## Responses

## Questions

5. How does honoring Christ the Lord as holy (15) allow you to not have an unhealthy fear of people (14)? In what ways will that help you do what is good in relating to others in a ways that could cause you to suffer?

6. In what ways will that help you do what is good in relating to others in a ways that could cause you to suffer?

7. In what ways does your life (and your group's life) call for a 'gospel explanation' for the choices you have made / make?

8. How can you be prepared to point people to Jesus in those explanations?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 12 | Study Twelve

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## Suffering to LEARN

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*1 Peter 3:18-22*

*"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, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, 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. 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him."*



# 12 | *Notes*

## Questions

## Responses

1. Tell about an experience you had when you suffered unjustly for Christ's sake. How did that make you feel? What helped you to keep on trusting in the Lord?

2. What was the result of Jesus suffering?

3. In what tangible ways have you put your flesh to death and been made alive in the spirit?

4. What is the significance of Jesus proclaiming to the spirits?

## Questions

5. Why does Peter draw a similarity between Noah and baptism in this passage?

6. How does the victory of Jesus encourage you in your faith?

7. How does your life testify to the fact that Jesus is on the throne?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 13 | Study *Thirteen*

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## Suffering to SERVE

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*1 Peter 4:1-11*

*"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, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 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. With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 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. The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 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."*

# 13 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. When you do not join with unbelieving friends or family in their sinful activities (debauchery, partying, idolatry, drunkenness), how are you treated? Have you experienced insults or others viewing you negatively or even loss of relationships because your lifestyle is different than theirs? How do you feel about this and how have you responded?

2. What are the themes of 1 Peter 4:1-11?

3. What are Peter's main exhortations (commandment or encouragement) to his readers from this passage?

4. Have you experienced friends being surprised when you don't join them in activities you used to do before you were a Christian? How did they treat you?

## Responses

## Questions

4. Are you armed with the same attitude that Jesus had? What is that attitude/resolve?

5. According to what you learned in this passage, what does it mean to cease from sin?

6. Do you live in light of the approaching end of all things? Does this affect how you spend your time, and where you put your focus? How would your life be different if you were more focused on the approaching end?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 14 | Study *Fourteen*

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## Suffering to WORSHIP

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*1 Peter 4:12-19*

*"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. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 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? And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."*



# 14 | *Notes*

## Questions

1. Have you often thought the source of your suffering might be Satan? According to this passage, who wills our suffering? How does that change your attitude towards your suffering?
2. What is your usual response to suffering?
3. How easy do you find it to rejoice in suffering? What do you think rejoicing in suffering would look like?
4. What kind of insults are Christians receiving in our political and social culture? How do you respond when you hear of a believer being insulted for Christ?
5. Are you afraid to be insulted and called names as a Christian? Do you feel a sense of shame for what you believe and try to hide or minimize your faith in front of others?
6. Rather than being embarrassed by being a Christian, how do we as a church instead glorify God when we share Christ's suffering?
7. 1 Peter 4:13 connects how glad we will be when Christ returns with how much we share in Christ's sufferings -

## Responses

## Questions

-- How does this encourage you in your current trial and the way you feel about suffering?

8. Why is it important that we as Christians not suffer for sin?

9. If God tells us to expect to suffer as Christians, should we then seek out suffering, in order to prove we really are believers? What is wrong with that idea?

10. How does enduring to the end show that one is a true believer? How does falling away from the faith during trials show that the gospel never took root in the life of a person?

11. How can we as a group encourage members who are currently facing suffering? What does this passage tell us about the attitude we should have toward suffering?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests

# 15 | Study Fifteen

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## Humble PASTORS Humble CHRISTIANS

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*1 Peter 5:1-14*

*"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: 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 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." Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. 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. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 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. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ."*

# 15 | *Notes*

## Questions

## Responses

1. What would the church look like if there was no clear authority structure? Why is spiritual authority first to God and then to the church leaders he has set in place a challenge for our culture or maybe even for yourself today?

2. What does Peter call the elders to do?

3. What should the motivation/attitude of an elder be?

4. What are some of the temptations leaders face?

5. What does it mean to you to subject yourself to the elders? Are you easy to lead? Why or why not?

## Questions

6. How can we clothe ourselves in humility towards each other?

7. Identify the leaders (elders) of your church by name and make it a habit to pray for them in your community group!

8. How has this study of 1 Peter built your confidence in Jesus Christ? What are some of the things you want to implement in your life?

## Responses

## Prayer Requests