

Life Group Discussion Guide

1 Peter: Exiles in Our Land

Week 9: The Suffering Savior • 1 Peter 3:17-22

Read **1 Peter 3:17-22** together. Focus on recurring themes, words, and phrases. As you reflect on this passage and Pastor Charlie's message, what are your initial impressions or takeaways? What stood out to you most?

Christ's Suffering Brings Us to God

1 Peter 3:18 Look back and read Isaiah 53:3-5. This is the suffering servant that was foretold, and Peter clearly draws the connection between that prophecy and Jesus' death on the cross. Isaiah 53:5 says, "the punishment that brought us peace... by His wounds we are healed." Peter says, "Christ suffered for sins... to bring you to God."

- How does the suffering of Jesus bring us closer to God?
- Pastor Charlie described vs 18 as "the gospel in one verse." Discuss these three components of the gospel found in verse 18:
 - Christ suffered for sins
 - Christ died once for all
 - Christ died "the righteous for the unrighteous"
- Our peace with God has been restored through Christ's suffering. How should this encourage us when we face suffering?

Christ's Resurrection Saves Us

1 Peter 3:18-21 Keeping a big-picture focus on this passage is key. Peter is encouraging his readers about suffering and Christ's victory. As tempting as it is to detour and discuss all the possibilities of this passage, keep the key point in mind as you read and discuss.

- Peter ends vs 18 with an amazing statement: Christ's resurrection. After suffering and dying on the cross for the sins of His sheep, Jesus was made alive again. Where does He go next? Why? (He was showing the demonic spirits that He is the all-powerful King who conquered sin and death— they lost, He won!)
- Who were those imprisoned spirits? (The fallen angels that were involved in the heinous rebellion before the flood.)
- What is the connection between the flood account and what Peter is saying about continuing in the face of suffering?

Christ's Ascension to Glory Fuels our Faith

1 Peter 3:22 The final thought Peter gives in this passage focuses on the return of Jesus to heaven and why it impacts our faith during suffering.

- What is meant in Scripture when it says, "at God's right hand"?
- If Christ took on the punishment for your sins, paved the path to peace between you and God, defeated sin & death, and then returned to His heavenly home where all power & authority over all creation was given to him... How does that impact your ability to suffer without fear? What encouragement can you take from this that helps you in your current suffering or trials?
- In our American culture today, discuss what kind of witness you will have when you suffer without fear, exhibiting hope and peace.

