



PETER SUFFERING WELL

1 Peter 1:1-2 - Introduction

1. **(Do something like this everyone week)** Before we get into sermon discussion questions, let's share about what God has been doing where we live, work, learn, and/or play. Who comes to mind for us to pray for? How have you seen God working with a neighbor where you live, work, learn, play? How have you seen God working with you as you think about showing and sharing Jesus with others? What opportunities, if any, have come up lately where you have been able to join God in showing and sharing Jesus with someone?
2. Peter writes to people who are beginning to suffer because they are followers of Jesus. A mentor, Paul, has been beheaded. Persecution has begun in their society, at their work places, and even in their homes. Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. One of the first things Peter says is that these people are chosen. How could remembering you are chosen affect how you look at suffering times like these?
3. Calling these people "aliens" was referring to the fact that they were people who lived (were scattered) alongside others who were very different than them. How could remembering this affect how you look at suffering times like these?

4. Being "scattered" was referring to an intentional scattering for a purpose, like why a farmer "scatters" seed. They were scattered according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. How could remembering this affect how you look at suffering times like these?

5. We are also reminded that the Holy Spirit is sanctifying us, in order to obey Jesus and be "sprinkled by His blood", referring most likely to God's forgiveness us and value for us, His relationship with us, and His ownership of us. How could remembering these things affect how you look at suffering times like these?

6. Peter finishes this greeting with "may grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure" referring to the sense, or full realization, of spiritual well-being. How can Peter give this kind of greeting to people whose lives are hurting and facing so many trials?

7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

1 Peter 1:3-12 - Suffering Well - How to Have Joy in Suffering Times

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2. Read through the passage together. What are the things that stand out to you from this passage?
3. In verses 3-5. What has God done to secure our future? What does our future look like?
4. In verse 6, how does having an "eternal perspective" change the way we look at current trials and hurts?
5. In verses 7-8, why are trials necessary?
6. In verses 10-12, we find that prophets and angels wish they knew what we knew about our salvation. What is so remarkable about this salvation we have?
7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

1 Peter 1:13-25 - Living Holy Lives During Times of Suffering

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- 2. Read 1:13-25 together. What are the things that stand out to you from this passage?**
- 3. In verses 13-17, What are the ways God wants us to think or conduct ourselves in the midst of times of persecution or pain?**
- 4. In verses 18-21, what are truths revealed here that can help us live the life God has planned for us to live?**
- 5. In verse 22, what else has God saved us to do? How can this be important during times of suffering?**
- 6. In verses 23-25, how is this "born again" life that we have described here? How can this encourage us to live the life God has planned for us during times of suffering?**
- 7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?**

1 Peter 2:1-12 - Proclaiming Him When Others Make You Suffer

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2. (You can read the passage together first and then come back to these questions) What do these verses (especially 2:8-9) teach us about our identity as individuals and as the church?
3. What happens when we accept our own view, or the world's view, of our identity, instead of trusting what God says is true about us?
4. How does a true understanding of our identity make a difference for us when we experience suffering and trials?
5. What purpose does God have for us when we experience suffering and trials?
6. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

1 Peter 3:1-7 - Suffering Well - Serving Our Spouses, Even Those That Mistreat Us

1. (Do something like this everyone week) Before we get into sermon discussion questions, let's share about what God has been doing where we live, work, learn, and/or play. Who comes to mind for us to pray for? How have you seen God working with a neighbor where you live, work, learn, play? How have you seen God working with you as you think about showing and sharing Jesus with others? What opportunities, if any, have come up lately where you have been able to join God in showing and sharing Jesus with someone?

2. In verse 1, it tells wives to likewise be subject to their husbands. What does it mean that it says, "likewise"? Does this only apply to good husbands? Are there husbands that this does not apply to?

3. In verses 1b-5, what does submission to a disobedient husband look like for a wife? Why would a wife treat a husband this way who does not deserve this kind of respect?

4. In verse 6, why do you think Peter brings up Sarah as an example? Why does Peter tell wives they don't have to be afraid of anything frightening?

5. In verse 7, it says, "likewise" husbands. What does "likewise" tell you here?

6. What can a husband learn here about how to treat a wife who is even disobedient to the Word?

7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

1 Peter 3:8-22 - Being Blessed While Being Mistreated

- 1. What are your greatest struggles to have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind to those who are being evil to your life?**
- 2. How does being called to bless those who do us wrong resemble Christ in your life?**
- 3. What are some ways you might suffer; “V18-righteous for the unrighteous” that might bring people to Christ?**
- 4. Explain what “only the flesh can be offended” means to you?**

1 Peter 4:1-6 - How to Deal with a World That Judges Us

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2. In verses 1-2, what kind of "Christ-thinking" is Peter talking about that would keep us from sinning during times of suffering?
3. In verse 3, Peter talks about a life of living for our own passions. What thoughts do you have about his statement that "the time that is past suffices for doing those things"?
4. In verse 4, how have any of you experienced what Peter is talking about here?
5. In verses 5-6, it first looks like a "but they will get what is coming to them!" kind of idea. But how does verse 6 give us a different way of thinking about those that judge us and malign us?
6. According to this passage, how does your attitude/behavior need to change those those that pressure you to sin the way they do? How can you think like Jesus about them the way Jesus thought about us, who were living for ourselves at one time too?
7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

1 Peter 4:7-11 - Serving Others While Going Through Hard Times

Questions (use some, none, or all to facilitate a discussion with your group):

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2. In verse 7, how does Peter remind his readers about the urgency of the time we have? What should we do with what little time we have?
3. When we are being mistreated, the natural thing is to withdraw and lick my wounds. In verses 8-10, what does Peter say to do during even times like these?
4. In verse 10, how are we reminded of our purpose in life (a purpose that doesn't change even when we are being mistreated)?
5. In verse 11, Peter places spiritual gifts into two major categories, speaking and serving gifts. Which of these categories do you think you find yourself more? Why do you answer the way you do?
6. In what ways are you glorifying God with the gifts that God has given you? How have you observed God being glorified with the gifts of others in your group?
7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?

1 Peter 4:12-19 - Suffering As A Christian

Questions (use some, none, or all to facilitate a discussion with your group):

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2. What stood out to you from 1Peter 4:12-19? What encouraged you? What challenged you as Peter finishes up his discussion of suffering in the life of a follower of Jesus?
3. In verses 12-13 Peter tells us not to be surprised by suffering and also tells us to rejoice while we suffer! Why do you think he tells us this? How is this even possible? Check out Acts 5:12-42 to see a story of Peter's personal suffering. Why did Peter rejoice in suffering?
4. In verses 17-18 Peter comes back to the idea that he first introduced in 4:6. Peter encourages us to not have the mindset of "they will get their's" when we suffer at the hands of others. Peter flips that around and tells us to have sympathy for those that make us suffer because they don't know Jesus. How do we do this? Is there a circumstance of suffering in your life right now that you need to surrender to God so He can change your perspective on it?
5. Peter has mentioned a few times so far in his discussion of suffering that suffering can be God's will for our lives. This is a statement that seems totally crazy and backward but isn't. How do we make sense of this "crazy" claim? What is God's plan for suffering in our lives?

1 Peter 5:1-5 - A Word To The Elders

Questions (use some, none, or all to facilitate a discussion with your group):

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2. In verse 1, Peter turns his attention to the elders. What are Elders in the church (check out 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9)?
3. Who are our Elders at the Well? (FYI, answer: PJ Lewis, Jeff Doolittle, Bryan Reich, Brent Davis)
4. In verses 2-3, what are all the things that Peter says to the Elders about how to be the overseers God wants them to be? Talk about each point and what each means.
5. The last thing Peter says is for the Elders to be examples to the flock. According to the context of 1 Peter, to be examples of what to the flock?
6. In verse 5, how should the rest of the men respond to the Elders? What makes this easy and what makes this difficult to do?
7. What has this passage taught you? What is that one thing you don't want to forget?