

Small Group Resource Guide for I Peter 4:12-19
November 2-3, 2021
Hope Church Women's Bible Study

Icebreaker: Describe a time when you were genuinely and pleasantly surprised.

Read I Peter 4:12-19. Listen for and jot down any repeated words or phrases.

Discover:

v12-13

How does Peter refer to his readers? Why might this be significant?

How does Peter encourage his readers to respond to what is currently happening to them?

v14-17:

These verses communicate some "if-then" sequences. What does the passage indicate might happen and if so what is the result?

It may help to read v15 in the NIV: "If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler."

If...	Then..

How does your study of these verses shed light on a believer's understanding of suffering?

How might these verses add to this understanding? (Ask each group member to take one of the passages and summarize it to the group).

Matthew 5:11-12	
Romans 5:3-5	
Romans 8:16-17	
Colossians 1:24-26	
James 1:2-4	

v17-19:

What does Peter want his readers to understand about God's judgment?

Read the following passages (divide them up amongst the group if that is helpful).

Proverbs 11:31

Malachi 3:1-4; 4:1-3

I Corinthians 11:32

How do these passages help us better understand the concept of God's judgment? How is it different for believers in Jesus and non-believers?

Big Picture:

Read the bookends of this passage (v12-13 and v19). What are key concepts and phrases you notice in these bookend verses?

Now read v16 again and note the key concepts and phrases. How do the bookends and v16 help us see and understand today's passage?

What do we learn about God in this passage?(Note that all three persons of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit are mentioned in this passage).

What continued themes of I Peter do you see in this passage?

Application:

- Are you surprised by your suffering? Do you hide from it? Ignore it? Try to make it better? Let it define you? Explain.
- How do you usually respond to suffering? Do you rejoice? Or do you experience anger? How does understanding Jesus' suffering affect how you handle suffering?
- Are you facing suffering right now? Consider these two questions: Is this suffering a result of my own sinful actions or reactions? Is this suffering a result of living as a Christian in a broken world? (Questions taken from sermon "Suffering as a Christian" by Bradley Barnes August 29, 2021 Christ the King Church Newton, MA).