



Living Hope
1 Peter 4:1-11
Study Guide

Peter is writing to believers who are facing persecution for their faith. He is telling them they need to 'arm' themselves, not with ammunition, but with the mindset of Christ to suffer. The main idea Peter is relaying to them is that there is power in suffering and serving. Discuss examples of how our culture is averse to suffering and serving? Do you think it's wrong to want to have an easy life? Discuss.

1. The Power of Suffering: Read 1 Peter 4:1-6.

- a. Christ suffered (v. 1a) - Jesus was intentional in going to the cross (John 10:18). How does that inspire us to be willing to suffer?
- b. Suffering Cleanses us (v. 1b-2) - Describe a situation when you saw suffering have a purging/cleansing effect on yourself or someone you know.
- c. Suffering Uncovers Misplaced Passions (v. 3-6) - Our inner trials make our need for love like a narcotic. People will try to fill those spaces with misplaced passions. Discuss the progression in verse 3 and what our culture does to find love. How can we redirect our passions into intimacy with God? Discuss.

2. The Power of Serving: Read 1 Peter 4:7-11

- a. The Power of Prayer (v. 7)- How do you keep your mind uncluttered so you can focus on your relationship with God? Discuss.
- b. The Power of Love (v. 8-9)- Prayer spills over into 'earnestly loving one another'. Give examples of how your prayer life helps to prepare your heart to love others.
- c. The Power of Purpose (v. 10-11)- God has graciously provided each believer with spiritual gifts. How are we to use these speaking and serving gifts? What is their purpose?

Conclusion

The mindset of Christ was to be intentional about suffering and serving. What does that look like for us in today's context? Discuss. Take some time to pray as a group for each other as you 'arm' yourselves with this mindset.

1 Peter 4:1-11

1 Peter 4:1

¹Since therefore **Christ suffered** in the flesh, **arm** yourselves with the **same way of thinking**,...

Big Idea: There is Power in Suffering and Serving.

A. The Power of Suffering (v. 1-6)

1. Christ suffered (1a)

¹Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh...

2. Suffering Cleanses us (1b-2)

... arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ²so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

Hebrews 11:24-25

²⁴By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

3. Suffering Uncovers Misplaced Passions (v. 3-5)

³For 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. ⁴With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

4. Suffering and Life in the Spirit (v. 6)

⁶For 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.

Big Idea: There is Power in Suffering and Serving.

B. The Power of Serving (v. 7-11)

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your **prayers**. ⁸Above all, keep **loving one another** earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to **serve one another**, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who **speaks** oracles of God; whoever **serves**, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—

1. Pray

2. Love

3. Serve

B. The Power of Serving (v. 11b)

...**in order** that in everything **God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Big Idea: There is Power in Suffering and Serving.