



Living Hope
1 Peter 4:12-19
Study Guide

In July of 64 A.D., Nero had Rome set on fire to rebuild a more glorious city. He blamed Christians to avoid a revolt against him, and it marked the beginning of a 'fiery trial' of persecution. Peter writes to offer hope to believers facing suffering.

1. Read 1 Peter 4:12.

"Beloved"- How have you experienced the fact that God loves you?

"...do not be surprised"- How do you reconcile God's love and yet suffering in some way because you are a Christian? Discuss.

"...to test you..."- How has God used suffering in your life to purify your faith and make it more genuine? (see also 1 Peter 1:6-7).

2. Read 1 Peter 4:13-14.

"Rejoice"!! That's so counter intuitive.

Peter gives us things to consider to help us rejoice in our suffering:

a. Share Christ's sufferings- What does it mean for you to identify with Christ in His sufferings? Share of a time when you felt closer to Christ through trials. What was that like for you?

b. Consider future glory- *"...when his glory is revealed"*. What is it like for you to consider that heaven is so glorious that any suffering on earth is only 'light and momentary' (2 Cor. 4:17).

c. Consider the Spirit of God's glory resting on you now already. How have you sensed God's presence with you in suffering? How have you found Him to be glorified in your suffering? Discuss.

3. Read 1 Peter 4:15-18.

Discuss the difference between deserved suffering and undeserved suffering.

Why does God allow judgement in the church to minimize future damnation for people? Discuss.

4. Read 1 Peter 4:19.

What does it look like for you to 'entrust' your soul to God?

Share with the group something that you are having a hard time letting go of. Ask for prayer to 'entrust' it to God.

1 Peter 4:12-19

Born Again to a Living Hope

Big Idea: Don't be surprised when you suffer; rejoice, evaluate, and entrust your soul to God.

1. Do not be surprised (v. 12)

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Christians will be evil spoken of (1 Peter 4:4), hated by our relatives (Matthew 10:21), endure martyrdom (Acts 7:58), shame (Acts 5:41), tribulations (Acts 14:22), imprisonments (Acts 4, 5 & 12), stoning (Acts 14:19), beatings (2 Corinthians 11:24-25), be made a spectacle (1 Corinthians 4:9), be misunderstood, defamed and despised (1 Corinthians 4:12-13), endure trouble, afflictions, distress, tumults, labors and evil reports (2 Corinthians 6:4-10).

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1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ 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.

2. Rejoice (v. 13-14)

¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

- a. Share Christ's sufferings
- b. Share the Future
- c. Share the Present

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3. Evaluate (v. 15-18)

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ 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? ¹⁸ And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"

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4. Entrust (v. 19)

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.