

How does Jesus' example challenge or encourage you when you are treated unfairly –

- in your life now?
- if you return to your home country?

Memory verse

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

(1 Peter 2:23)

Talk outline

Introduction: Christ is the Centre

Following Jesus in the world

The Best Case Scenario: People glorify God

- submission

The Worst Case Scenario: We suffer unjustly

- slavery

- Christ is our model

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Conclusion



Following Jesus in the world

1 Peter 2:11-25

The letter so far...

This semester we are reading 1 Peter – a letter from the apostle Peter, to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor in the mid-60s AD. Peter writes to encourage them (and us) to stand firm in God's grace during our temporary stay in this world (5:12). As Christians, we can look forward to our heavenly inheritance with certainty, and keep going despite suffering as God gives us faith until we get there. Being a Christian means being part of a loving family, growing through God's word and making God known to those around us.

Last week's passage focused on the special privilege of being God's people. This week, Peter starts addressing how God's people are to live in this world which is not our home.

Icebreaker

Have you ever been falsely accused of something? How did you feel?

Living as foreigners

Read 1 Peter 2:11-17.

If you are a foreigner with only temporary residence in a country, what difference does that make to how you live there?

Exiles: *Temporary residents, living somewhere away from their home.*

Abstain: *Stop yourself from doing something.*

Pagans: *People who don't know the real God.*

Why do you think Peter reminds the Christians that they are "foreigners and exiles" here?

Debate: *Split into two groups and debate this idea:*

Christians should separate from society and live in a Christian-only suburb, with Christian schools, shops, hospitals, government & community.
(What would be the advantages/disadvantages of this?)

What is Peter telling the Christians to do?

Why?

v11

v12

v13-17

So what should be our attitude to those in authority over us?
How does this teaching compare with the normal attitude to government in your culture?

What laws or authorities do we tend to ignore or disobey?
How does this passage challenge us?

A case study: Slaves

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25.

How does Peter encourage slaves to submit in situations of unjust suffering?

As a Christian, what are you called to (v21)?

Peter talks about Jesus as the Suffering Servant, quoting Isaiah 53 (from the Old Testament, written 700 years before Christ).

What do we learn about Jesus' death here:

- as an example for us (v21-23)?

- what it achieved (v24-25)?

What does it actually mean to follow in Jesus' steps?