

## 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 to stand firm in God’s grace during their temporary stay in this world (5:12). So far, we’ve learned that the way we respond to Jesus will determine our eternal future. We’ve learnt about what it means to be a Christian: having a certain hope of heavenly inheritance, being part of a loving family, growing through God’s word and making God known to those around us. This week, Peter starts talking about how God’s people are to live as “foreigners” in this world.

## 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?

What is Peter telling the Christians to do?

**v11**

**v12**

**v13-17**

Why?

So what should be our attitude

- to those in authority over us?

- to God?

How does this teaching compare with the normal attitude to government in your culture?

## A case study: Slaves

### Read 1 Peter 2:18-25.

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

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 Jesus?

What is your response to this teaching?

**Share** with the group: one important thing you have learned, or a question you have.

## 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)**