

v15-16. What is the hope that Christians have?

Do you know the reason for this hope?



Ask a Christian friend to explain the reason for the hope that they have!

Memory verse

“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” **1 Peter 3:15**

Notes



Suffering & blessing

1 Peter 3:8-17

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. 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 others. As "foreigners" in the world, Christians are to follow the example of Jesus in living and relating to the rest of the world.

Icebreaker

Have you ever suffered as a consequence of doing the right thing?

Suffering and blessing

Read 1 Peter 3:8-17.

Are there any difficult words here?

What five qualities should Christians have in their life together (**v8**)?

Righteous: People who are right with God (through faith in Jesus).

Blessing: God's favour shown to someone.

What would a community be like if all these things were true?

When Christians are treated wrongly by others, how should they respond?

What must they **do**?

What must they **not do**?

How is this different to the way people usually act in the world?

Why should God's people act this way, according to this passage? (Notice words such as "because", "for", "so that" ...)

How is the Christian life similar to what Jesus experienced?

How can suffering and blessing go together?

What are the 2 ways of suffering, in **v17**? Which is better? Why?

When you think about becoming a Christian, is there anything you are afraid of?

How would Peter answer these fears?