

Application

Video clip – suffering

At the beginning of the study, we mentioned some suffering that we went through, which we found hard to deal with. Was this suffering because of Christ or not?

How did you deal with this suffering?

After reading today's passage, would you have reacted in the same way? How would you have changed your reaction?

How will today's Bible study help you when you encounter suffering in the future?



**Not ashamed to suffer for
Christ**

1 Peter 4: 12-19

Big idea: Suffering Christians do not be surprised or ashamed when suffering comes, you are blessed and your suffering will bring glory and joy when Christ is revealed.

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.

In our last study, we focused on the how believers can live for God, rejecting sin and be prepared to follow him no matter what.

Icebreaker: Have you ever experienced suffering you found hard to deal with?

Read 1 Peter 4: 12-19

Are there any difficult words here?

Suffering for Christ (4: 12-16)

vs12 – Who are the “friends” that Peter is writing to?

What do you understand by “fiery ordeal”?

Circle all the verbs in the passage (**vs 12-16**)

Underline the verbs that that describe how the Christians in exile should respond to suffering.

What is the outcome of not being surprised and rejoicing when suffering for Christ (**vs 13-14**)?

Describe the kinds of suffering Peter identifies in **vs 15-16**.

Judgement (Read 4: 17-19)

How do these verses encourage Christians in times of suffering?

What does **vs19** compel suffering Christians to do?