

Small Group Study | 1 Peter 2:21-25

BIG IDEA: We follow in the suffering footsteps of Jesus so that the world can see what our God is like.

Supporting: 1 Peter 2:9-12; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 53:3-7; Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19

Main Passage: 1 Peter 2:21-25

When something feels unfair, what is your natural response: defend yourself, fight back, withdraw, try to fix it, or something else?

READ 1 PETER 2:21-25

OBSERVE - What does the passage say?

1. According to verse 21, what have believers been **called** to?
2. What reason does Peter give for this calling?
3. List everything verses 21-24 tell us Jesus did or did not do.
4. How did Jesus respond when people insulted Him and when He suffered?
5. According to verse 23, what did Jesus do **instead** of retaliating or making threats?
6. What did Jesus accomplish through His suffering according to verse 24?
7. What contrast do you see between our condition at the beginning and end of verse 25?

INTERPRET - What does the passage mean?

1. "To this you were called" - Read 1 Peter 2:20-21. Peter distinguishes between suffering because we have done wrong and suffering while doing what is right. Why does Peter make that distinction? What does it mean that believers are "called" to follow Jesus in this way?

2. Putting God on display - Read 1 Peter 2:9-12 and Exodus 19:5-6. Peter calls God's people a royal priesthood and holy nation. One way to summarize the work of priests is: priests put God on display. How does this help you understand Peter's instructions about suffering? How could our response to unfair treatment show others what God is like?

3. The Suffering Servant - Read Isaiah 53:3-7. Peter uses Isaiah's language to describe Jesus, the One who perfectly shows us what faithful suffering looks like. What similarities do you notice between Isaiah 53 and 1 Peter 2? Why does Peter point us to Jesus instead of simply telling us to "try harder"?

4. "He entrusted himself" - 1 Peter 2:23. Jesus did not retaliate or threaten. Instead, He entrusted Himself to the Father who judges justly. What does it mean to entrust

yourself to God when you are hurt, misunderstood, or treated unfairly? How is that different from pretending it does not hurt or seeking revenge?

5. "By his wounds you have been healed" - 1 Peter 2:24. The cross looked like defeat and injustice, yet God made the place of suffering the place of salvation. What does this teach us about God's ability to redeem suffering? How should the fact that Jesus bore our sins shape the way we understand this passage?

PETER'S STORY

Read Luke 22:54-62. Jesus is falsely accused and does not retaliate. Peter is questioned and denies Jesus. Jesus entrusts Himself to the Father; Peter tries to protect himself.

Where do you see Peter failing to live the very thing he later teaches in 1 Peter 2? Knowing Peter's history, how does it change the way you hear him say, "Follow in His steps"?

Read John 21:15-19. Peter denied Jesus three times. Jesus restores him, calls him to care for His sheep, and gives him the invitation again: "Follow Me."

What does Jesus' response to Peter teach us about failure and restoration? How does this help you understand 1 Peter 2:25: "You were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls"?

APPLY - How should this change the way I live?

1. Where are you currently experiencing difficulty, disappointment, misunderstanding, or suffering?
2. What would it practically look like to **entrust that situation to God** this week?
3. Is there a wound from your past that God has begun using to encourage or help someone else?
4. Is there an area where you have wandered and need to hear Jesus' invitation again: **"Follow Me"**?
5. If someone watched the way you handled your current struggles, what would they learn about God?

PRAYER

Father, help us follow in the footsteps of Jesus. When we are hurt, keep us from retaliation and bitterness. Teach us to entrust ourselves to You, knowing that You see us and judge justly. Take the wounds and difficulties of our lives and redeem them for Your purposes. When we wander, remind us that Jesus is the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls. Help our lives put Your grace, mercy, love, and compassion on display. Amen.