

EXILES - SUFFERING

SMALL GROUP NOTES 10/03/19

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SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3: 8-22

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

This part of the letter seeks to comfort, encourage and empower believers to not lose heart in the face of persecution and suffering. Peter points to three truths we can know as we face suffering in a godly way. God promises to provide grace and strength when we continue walking in obedience. Suffering also has a purpose: God encountered suffering so that we could encounter a hope that cannot be extinguished, because nothing can take the life from our spirits which are now joined with Christ. Because of Jesus' victory, he has won victory for us too. His death and resurrection allows us to pass through God's judgement into his love, freedom and acceptance. Jesus has won for us a cleansed and alive heart. His victory through suffering empowers us to endure through ours.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. Peter is clear that we should be unswerving in living righteously, whatever the consequences. What does this passage say about how we should act in response to those who act against us? Why?
2. Have you any examples of times when you have shared your faith in any way, and it met with a negative response? How did you handle this?
3. What promises of God are there in this passage for us?