

EXILES - ENDURING

SMALL GROUP NOTES 24/03/19

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SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4: 12-19

SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

This next section of the letter is all about persevering. Our identity as exiles means that we face suffering and we need to know comfort and strength in Christ to be able to handle it. Peter makes the point that suffering is normal; we are not to be surprised. And Jesus is bigger than our suffering, so we are encouraged not to lose heart: if you are suffering for the sake of Him, you are blessed. You can even know joy in the face of suffering because His Spirit is resting on you: the helper, comforter and counsellor is with you through the pain and will strengthen you to keep going. Peter points us to God. When we are going through painful and difficult situations that we don't understand, we can look to the faithful one and entrust ourselves to his goodness and will, continuing to do good.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. What are the comforts we find in this passage?
2. What blessings do you think there could be for us through suffering?
3. If suffering should not come as a surprise, how can we best prepare for it?
4. Make time to share and pray through any current difficult situations.