

*“And if we answer the call to discipleship, where will it lead us? What decisions and partings will it demand? To answer this question, we shall have to go to him, for only he knows the answer. Only Jesus Christ, who bids us follow him, knows the journey’s end. But we do know that it will be a road of boundless mercy. Discipleship means joy.”*

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

## WELCOME

This week we continue to explore Peter’s exhortations about living out a confident faith in the midst of opposition. As you gather this week, discuss one or both of these questions:

- Think of a skill that you have (playing an instrument, a sport, cooking, etc.). Who helped you develop that ability and how? Think about those who helped you directly and indirectly.
- Describe a time as a child when someone modeled forgiveness?

## WORD

Read **1 Peter 4:7-19**

1. What stood out to you in the scripture? In the sermon this past Sunday?
2. Skim 4:12-19. What challenges were these Christians facing?
3. In light of the previous question, what actions and values does Peter call Christians to embrace in verses 7-11). How does this relate in light of what Christian’s face today?
4. How does ‘love cover a multitude of sins?’ (verse 8). How would this exhortation to love deeply have formed the priorities of the churches in Asia Minor? What is the call for our church and the church in America?
5. What false assumption does Peter correct in verse 12?
6. How is rejoicing in suffering different from enduring suffering? What is meant by rejoicing in this passage?

## WORSHIP

1. Spend a few moments in silence, just being in the presence of God.
2. Thank God for each other and God’s grace in Jesus Christ
3. Pray for each other for their needs and the ways they would like grow in grace.
4. Pray for the larger needs around you and the ways God is working around the world.

## WITNESS

1. What is your response to verse 19? If it challenges or inspires you, what does this encourage you to do?
2. What is one way that you could step out as a child of God (verses 14-16) this week?

**SERMON NOTES:**