



A STUDY THROUGH 1 PETER

ARRIVAL / CONNECTING and SNACK: (15 minutes) Spend time catching up and socializing with one another. Follow up on prayer requests and any action steps from your last time together.

SHORT OPENING PRAYER FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER: (2 minutes)

SCRIPTURE and DISCUSSION: (50-60 minutes) Open your Bibles to **1 Peter 4**. Have someone read verses 1-11, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then take a few moments to quietly reflect. Re-read each passage below and discuss the questions.

1 Peter 4:1-3

¹Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. ²As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. ³For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

- How has suffering built your faith in God?
- How does suffering cause a believer in Christ to abandon sinful lifestyles?

1 Peter 4:5-7

⁴They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. ⁵But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. ⁷The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

- How can suffering well as a Christian impact non-believers' view of Christianity?

[In verse 6, Peter is referring to Christians who had come to know Christ while they were alive but had died before Peter wrote this letter.]

- How does the promise of heaven build our hope as we suffer in this life?

1 Peter 4:8-11

⁸Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. ⁹Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

SURRENDER: (15 minutes)

- How can loving other people cause us to suffer? Explain your answer.
- How has sharing suffering with other Christians impacted your life?
- How can our own suffering actually enhance our ministry to other people?
- Are there areas of other people's suffering God would have you enter into?

PRAYER: (10 min) Pray for one another in light of what has been shared.