



## 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 12-19, 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 4:12-13

*<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

- Have you ever been persecuted for your faith in Christ? Explain?
- How does God use persecution for our good?
- How does knowing that Christ is with you in your suffering give you hope?

### 1 Peter 4:14-16

*<sup>14</sup> If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.*

- What is a Christ-like way to respond to persecution?
- What are some wrong ways that you have seen people respond to hostility towards Christ?
- What are the reasons we have to rejoice as we suffer persecution?

**SURRENDER:** (15 minutes)

### 1 Peter 4:17-19

*<sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" <sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*

- How does God's loving discipline make us more like Christ?
- What does it look like for you to commit yourself to God when you experience persecution?

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