

1 PETER



PETER 1:7

THESE HAVE COME SO THAT THE PROVEN GENUINENESS
OF YOUR FAITH OF GREATER WORTH THAN GOLD
WHICH PERISHES EVEN THOUGH REFINED BY FIRE MAY
RESULT IN PRAISE GLORY AND HONOR WHEN JESUS
CHRIST IS REVEALED

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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The Purpose of Suffering

First Peter focuses on the importance of building a resilient faith in challenging times. After laying some necessary groundwork in 1 Peter 1–2, he turns to what is believed to be the main issue that prompted the letter—a growing persecution taking place in the congregations he was writing to. Over time, this letter has been understood as a theology of Christian suffering.

Read 1 Peter 3:8–22.

- Has suffering, of whatever kind, drawn you closer to God or drawn you away from him?
- How are we called as followers of Jesus to respond to persecution or opposition that may arise in our lives (1 Peter 3:9)? (see Matthew 5:11–12; Romans 12:14)
- How is a positive response to suffering or persecution a way in which you follow Jesus (1 Peter 2:21)?
- How might our fear or fears be redirected in response to our sufferings (1 Peter 3:14–15a)? (see Isaiah 8:12–13)
- How can a positive response to our suffering be a means for sharing our faith (1 Peter 3:15b)?
- How prepared are you to speak to others about the hope the gospel has brought into your life?

Praying together

Holy Spirit, give me a greater strength to endure my sufferings and see them as a way to point people to You.