



Frisco First Baptist Church

1 PETER • GLORIFYING GOD THROUGH SUFFERING • 1 PETER 4:1-11 • 8/3/2025

MAIN POINT

While Pastor Chuck finishes his sabbatical, we will take a three-week look at 1 Peter. These LIFEGroup lessons will not follow along with our guest speakers. Today's lesson: As Christians, we are temporary residents in this world and are to look to Christ as our example in suffering. Since Jesus suffered, we must also be prepared to suffer.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Describe the worst storm you have personally ever experienced. What were some of your fears and thoughts during that time?

What do you do to prepare for a storm in life? How does your preparation give you confidence as you prepare yourself for the storm?

On April 27, 2011 an enormous system of EF-4 tornadoes, some of which were a mile and a half in width, broke in Birmingham and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The storm left a path of destruction more than 80 miles long and caused an estimated 2.4 billion dollars worth of damage. Obviously a tornado is an unexpected occurrence, but thankfully word was spread through a variety of news channels and people were able to prepare themselves for the storm. Wisely, the manager of a local restaurant took all of his employees into the walk-in freezer for safety. While the restaurant was destroyed, the life of every employee was saved because of the manager's preparation. As Christians, we will encounter trials. Yet it is in our preparation for trials and the way that we live during hardships that people will see the beauty of our Savior.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 PETER 4:1-6.

How does taking on the attitude of Jesus Christ allow us to suffer “well”?

How did Jesus respond when He suffered unjustly?

How has the suffering of Christ refined us? How does it lead us to live differently?

Practically speaking, what does it look like for the Christian to suffer well?

The goal of the Christian life is to be transformed into the image of Christ. While it's true our sanctification process won't be complete until we get to heaven, the longer we follow Jesus, the more we become like Him. As we recognize this, we must also understand that Jesus suffered more than any person who has ever lived. Isaiah 53 refers to Jesus as “despised and rejected” and a “man of suffering” (v. 3). The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus are the catalyst for our sanctification. In the remaining time we have left on earth, we live in the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of Christ.

What motivation did Peter give to continue to live for God, even when it was difficult?

In what ways have God's people suffered for their faith throughout history?

What enables Christians to rejoice in the midst of trials?

How does the way we live separate Christians from non-Christians? What does it look like to stand against ungodly living while still being open to people who are lost in sin?

Unbelievers might think it's strange when you don't live the way they do and don't join them in their “unrestrained behavior” (v. 3). But this provides opportunity and reason to proclaim the gospel. In the past, we too were lost and in desperate need of salvation. All people will one day come face-to-face with the Judge of the earth and must give an account for their lives. In light of this sober truth, we live differently, not so we can pat ourselves on the back, but so we can lead people to see the hope and salvation we have found in Jesus Christ. Unbelievers will see this hope through our service if we have a Christ-exalting ethic.

Have a volunteer read 1 Peter 4:7-11.

How did Peter instruct his audience to spend their time waiting? Specifically, how did Peter tell his readers to relate to each other?

Do you enjoy extending hospitality? Why is it hard to show hospitality at times? Why is it important?

Peter understood that Jesus' return is imminent; believers, therefore, are to live with a sense of urgency and purpose, especially in how they relate to others. Peter taught that the essential priority is to extend this distinctive love to everyone, but especially to other Christians (v. 8).

Hospitality is about extending kindness to others by serving them. In Peter's day, hospitality was much more than a form of courtesy—it was a vital ministry, but apparently it led to complaining. Peter explained that believers were to be hospitable without complaint. Even if guests overstayed and took advantage of their hosts, the hosts were to be patient and kind.

What did Peter mean when he said there are various gifts (v. 10)? Why are all gifts necessary?

What are we denying the church if we do not use our gifts? What are we denying ourselves when we refuse to serve?

There are various gifts, and each one is necessary if the church is to function in the way that God intends. For the church to function properly, we need to understand that every member matters greatly to God. If we refuse to use our gifts to serve the body of Christ, we deny the church the ability to minister in specific ways. God provides all the resources to build His church, and by His grace, we are one of those resources. He will give us the strength we need to represent Him well, both through our gifts and our service to Him.

As Christians, we can't allow suffering to derail us. Instead of allowing suffering to stop you in your tracks, allow suffering to lead you to greater levels of trust and faith in Christ. The type of suffering Peter wrote about was not suffering because of our own sin or because of the sin of the world (natural disasters, poverty, health), but suffering because of our relationship with Jesus. In order to suffer well, we must recognize that how we live matters. God has called us to a standard of holiness that we should embrace for the good of our own souls.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Have you ever been called to suffer because of your faith? What were the circumstances? Where did you find strength in the midst of suffering?

How do we see the beauty and gift of Christian community through our suffering?

How might God take the way we respond to suffering and use it to help others see His glory and purpose in our lives?

PRAYER

Pray that God will give you the grace to suffer well for His name. Ask that God will show you His character and His grace in those moments when you are called to share in the sufferings of Christ.

COMMENTARY

| 1 PETER 4:1-11

4:1-6 Peter commanded believers as temporary residents who looked to Christ as their example to suffer and separate themselves from the practices of those who slandered them. God will condemn the slanderers and vindicate believers in heaven's court.

4:5 The living and the dead means anyone who has ever lived, or people of all generations.

4:6 Those who are now dead seems to refer to deceased believers in Christ. When they were alive, the gospel was preached to them. While on earth they were judged by men in the fleshly realm, or condemned and martyred on account of the gospel. But they now live by God in the spiritual realm, heaven.

4:7-11 Peter commanded believers to maintain their unity while doing everything to God's glory.

4:8 The phrase love covers a multitude of sins means that love repeatedly forgives (Pr 10:12).

4:9 When being persecuted, it is easy to snipe and complain even at other believers; thus Peter's command to be hospitable to one another.

4:10 The words based on the gift each one has received refer to a spiritual gift. Spiritual gifts are divine endowments that God entrusts to believers as stewards.

4:11 Christians should manage and use their spiritual gifts to God's glory, just as God intends.