

Bible Discussion: Finding Home 7

Text: 1 Peter 3:8-17

Purpose: To learn how to suffer well so our faith is strengthened and we receive blessing.

Opening Question: *What are one or two phobia's you have?*

The last half of 1 Peter deals with this issue of managing suffering in our lives. The skill of navigating suffering is something a Christian needs in his or her toolbox. Our world is flawed and broken, so suffering is a part of everyone's life, but there is also a suffering that comes from being a Christian. Peter's encouragement is to respond to suffering by speaking Christ and good behavior, which leads us to blessing instead of destruction.

Read and Discuss: 1 Peter 3:8-12

1. *What is your first response to injustice in your life? Passive? Anger? Unhealthy response?*
2. *Out of these 6 challenges Peter gives, which one are you strongest in and which one are you weakest in?*
 - a. *Be like minded*
 - b. *Be sympathetic*
 - c. *Love one another*
 - d. *Be compassionate*
 - e. *Be humble*
 - f. *Do not repay with evil or insult.*
3. *How does Jesus help you grow in these 6 challenges as you respond to unjust actions in your life?*

Read and Discuss: 1 Peter 3:13-14

4. *How are we blessed when we suffer for doing what is right? What does that kind of blessing look like?*

Read and Discuss: 1 Peter 3:15-22

5. *In difficult situations, how does the emotion of panic, paralyze you from doing good? What are ways that you can avoid panic and train your mind to think faith?*
6. *Are you ready today to be able to speak Christ if trouble were to come your way? How can you speak Christ into your life without being fake?*
7. *How does responding to injustice and suffering with good behavior and service heal you and make you stronger?*
8. *How are you encouraged by knowing Jesus suffered, endured and is in heaven victorious?*