

SET APART

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | WEEK 8

Victory in the Midst of Suffering | 1 Peter 3:17–22 (NLT)

SERMON FOCUS

Following Jesus does not mean we will avoid suffering. Peter directs our attention to Jesus: He suffered and died to bring us to God, conquered death, and now reigns over every authority and power. Because Christ is victorious, we can remain faithful—even when following Him is difficult.

PURPOSE

Help group members talk honestly about suffering, understand the hope we have because of Jesus, and encourage one another to remain faithful in difficult circumstances.

LEADER REMINDER

Please read the accompanying Leader's Guide before your group meets. Choose questions that fit your group; you do not need to cover everything. Make room for honest conversation, especially when suffering is personal or ongoing.

OPENING CHECK-IN (5-10 MINUTES)

- Have you ever started something thinking it would be easier than it turned out to be?
- What stood out to you most from this weekend's message?

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Read 1 Peter 3:17–22 together. Additional passages: John 16:33; Romans 5:3–5; Romans 6:3–4; 1 Peter 1:3–4; 2:9–11. (NLT)

QUESTION 1 - WHEN DOING GOOD STILL LEADS TO SUFFERING (V.17)

- Why can suffering feel especially confusing when you are trying to do what is right?
- How would you distinguish suffering caused by our choices from suffering that comes through living in a broken world or following Jesus?
- When circumstances are painful or unanswered questions remain, what helps you hold on to God's goodness?

QUESTION 2 - JESUS SUFFERED AND DIED TO BRING US TO GOD (V.18)

- What stands out to you about the words "once for all" and "to bring you safely home to God" (NLT)?
- How is trusting what Jesus has done, different from trying to earn God's approval?
- How might being reconciled to God change the way we face suffering that does not immediately go away?

QUESTION 3 - JESUS CONQUERED DEATH AND MADE SALVATION POSSIBLE (VV.19-21)

- These verses raise difficult questions. What truths about Jesus are clear even when some details are debated?
- How does Peter connect baptism with Jesus' resurrection? What does baptism communicate about our faith in Christ?
- How can we study difficult passages humbly while preserving unity with other believers?

QUESTION 4 - JESUS REIGNS OVER EVERY AUTHORITY AND POWER (V.22)

- What difference does it make to know Jesus reigns even when circumstances feel out of control?
- Peter reminds believers who they are (1 Peter 1:3–4; 2:9–11). Which of those truths do you most need to remember right now?

APPLICATION & NEXT STEPS

- Which truth do you need to carry into this week: Jesus suffered for you, Jesus rose, or Jesus reigns? Why?
- How can this group encourage or practically support someone facing a difficult season?
- This Week's Challenge: When suffering or uncertainty comes, pause and remember who you are and whose you are in Christ. Remember Jesus reigns over all.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray for people who are suffering, for renewed confidence in the finished work and resurrection of Jesus, and for courage to remain faithful because Christ reigns.

LEADER NOTE

The goal is not to explain away suffering or solve every interpretive question. Help people see Jesus clearly, respond with compassion, and take a meaningful next step of faith.