



Through Jesus' suffering and sacrifice, we have eternal life and forgiveness of our sins. Through his sacrifice, our eternity has been changed. But the suffering of Jesus must also impact our day-to-day. How does Jesus' suffering directly help us deal with our own suffering?

### **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

In this passage, the Apostle Peter is addressing slaves, specifically household slaves (*oiketai*) who had believed in Jesus Christ. In this passage, Peter is challenging the Christian slaves to submit to earthly authority. It is important to note that in the previous verses (vs 13-17), Peter had likewise challenged free Christians to do the very same thing so that God may be glorified. This context matters because it shows that Peter's focus here is on the universal need for submission and on glorifying God regardless of circumstances. Peter's objective in addressing slaves was not to condone or approve of the system of slavery or to give cruel slave owners a pass. Many believers at that time were slaves, and were suffering as slaves; therefore, Peter saw the need to address how they could glorify God in the midst of their suffering. While our suffering today may look vastly different than theirs, Peter's words and Jesus' example provide us with the same wisdom and hope in the midst of suffering.

**READ:** 1 Peter 2:18-25

1. Vs 21 - How does, or should, the reality that Jesus Christ suffered, specifically suffered for us, shape how we respond to difficulty and suffering?
2. Jesus was able not to retaliate, despite the terrible pain and suffering people were putting him through, because "he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." What did Peter mean by that?

**READ:** 1 Peter 3:13-18

3. Vs 14 - How could we ever view suffering as a blessing as the Apostle Peter described it?
4. How has a difficult season of your life grown you in your faith?
5. Vs 15 - How does suffering and hardship give us opportunities to give an answer for our faith that times of ease would not?

6. The Apostle Peter wanted the early church to know that following a suffering Savior meant viewing suffering in a vastly different way. Suffering is not by default God's punishment on us. Instead, it is the reality we face for following Jesus in a broken world. The question is: how do we seek the will of God in the midst of suffering rather than blaming God for it?

## **PRAYER TIME**

## **DISMISS**