

LIVING HOPE

A STUDY IN 1ST PETER

MCA

Sermon Outline

Key verse

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice...

1 Peter 4:12, 13a

Living with hope gives us a right response to suffering

If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Peter 4:14

Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:9

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:10-11

THE HOPE OF SUFFERING

FEBRUARY 16
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Opening Thought

We respond differently to suffering because of our hope. We rejoice in suffering! The typical worldly response is to grumble, complain and become defeated. Peter tells us to be glad when we are suffering. He says, “rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.” (1 Peter 4:13) When we are wronged, we do not seek revenge, but patiently hope in the Lord as we await his return.

Ice breaker

- Are you the kind of person who likes surprises—or hates them? Why?

Dig Deeper

- What in your life is God using right now to refine you? What is it producing in you?
- Peter exhorts us to rejoice for two reasons. First, in the same way that we share in Christ’s suffering we will share in his glory. Also, God is with us by his Spirit.
 - Why do you think it is so important that we rejoice in our suffering? What does rejoicing in our suffering reveal or communicate?
- One of the keys to be able to endure suffering well is not to go through it alone: we need to walk with God and others through it.
 - How have you seen this to be true in your life and the life of others?
- One of the keys in this passage is that we need to make sure that we are not suffering because of our own sin.
 - What are some examples or ways that we might think we are suffering unjustly, but it is actually because of our sin?

Closing

Living hope allows us to face suffering with confidence in what is to come. Christ suffered for you, and Christ himself will restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast!