

Virtual Small Group Discussion



1 Peter 4.12–19

A Trustworthy guide

Getting Started

- The idea that suffering should not come as a surprise is counter-cultural to our 21st century modern sensibilities. We live in a world surrounded by and defined by comfort. We have been conditioned to avoid suffering at all costs. It is viewed as abnormal.
- Can you think of a time when you were surprised by a trial that entered into your life? What was it? How did you respond? Related question, what is your default response to suffering?

Static Questions

• WHAT IS THE PASSAGE ABOUT?

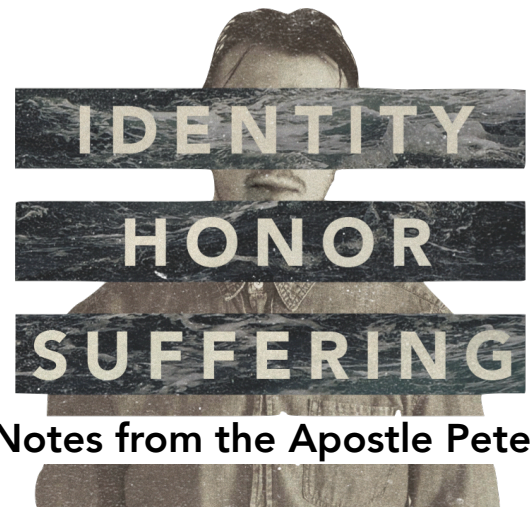
- Note the key details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, etc.)
- Pay attention to the main *Facts* of the passage.

• WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

- What does the passage reveal about God? About people?
- Is there a promise or a command or a warning?
- What is the main truth of the passage?
- What lessons do you see?

• HOW WILL YOU APPLY IT?

- How does this passage relate to your life right now?
- What change in your thinking or behavior is needed to align with the truths in this passage?
- How should you respond based on what you learned?



From the Teaching this Morning

- The prosperity “gospel” has propagated the lie that God just wants us to be happy, successful, wealthy, and prosperous. How does this passage correct that dangerous teaching?
- What should be our attitude (and caution) when it comes to suffering and trial?
- According to this passage, what is God’s purpose for suffering, if any?
- Read verse 19 again. How does this verse serve both as a summary and an encouragement for all of us with this difficult issue?

APPLICATION QUESTION

- Peter gives us the application in verse 19. Two calls to action. What are they? What are some ways you think you can start doing this today?
- If this text has stirred a desire in you to learn more about the nature and purpose of suffering, we will be starting a sermon series in late October taking a broad scriptural look at the role suffering plays in the life of the church. Stay tuned!