

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### 1 Peter 3:13-18

#### For Starting

- What was the naughtiest thing that you did in school?
- What is your first memory of church? What are some of the good and bad aspects of the memory?
- Have you ever felt "left out" or "alone" because you were a Christian? How does it feel to be a stranger / exile in this world?
- What are the normal responses to intimidation?

#### For Reviewing

- What is the obvious answer to the rhetorical question in v.13?
- What will happen when Christians suffer unjustly (v.14)?
- When should Christians be ready to provide an answer (v.15)?
- What must be kept clear when facing opposition (v.16)?
- What is it better to suffer (v.17)?
- What did Jesus do (v.18)?

#### For Discussion

- Does v.13 mean that Christians will be free from harm if they do good? See Psalm 38:20; Proverbs 16:17.
- How can persecution cause the church to grow?
- How can someone be blessed in the suffering of persecution (v.14)? See Matthew 5:10-12.
- Peter urges us to speak up about their hope (v.15) adding, "But do this with gentleness and respect". Why is this important?
- Read Isaiah 8:12-13. How does this relate to v.14-15?
- "*Good behaviour silences slander far better than arrogant replies.*" Do you agree/disagree? How does this impact our Christian lives today?
- Practice answering the question, "Why are you still a Christian?"
- Why do you think Christians do not suffer more in UK today?
- You could end by reading together 1 Peter 3:18.

## **1 Peter 3:13-18 (NIVUK)**

<sup>13</sup> Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good?

<sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.