

Goldstone Church

Small Group Questions

1 Peter 4:12-19

For Starting

- What practical advice would you give to someone about to enter a marathon or climb a mountain?
- What is the worst pain you've ever experienced? What helped you endure that pain?
- What kind of behaviour should make us ashamed? Does it?
- What are the normal responses to suffering?

For Reviewing

- Should Christians be surprised by suffering (v.12)?
- How does Peter encourage Christians to respond to trials (v.13)?
- Who rests on Christians when they suffer (v.14)?
- What FOUR activities does Peter say should not characterise the life of a Christian (v.15)?
- Rephrase v.16 in your own words. What must Christians *not* do in the middle of suffering (v.16)?
- What Old Testament Bible verse does Peter quote in v.18? Hint: see footnote. Compare the two verses.
- What does it mean for Christians to "commit themselves to their faithful Creator" during persecution? (v.19)?

For Discussion

- Do you think that all suffering the same? Is suffering for Christ the same as suffering due to our own lack of judgment?
- Do you think Christians suffer "fiery trials" in UK today?
- The term "Christian" is only used three times in the Bible. Compare how the word is used in: Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16.
- "*When we are suffering in the will of God, we can commit ourselves into the care of God.*" Do you agree/disagree? How does this impact our Christian lives today?
- What is the connection with "committing ourselves to the Creator" and "continuing to do good?" (v.19)
- You could end by reading together 1 Peter 4:12-13.

1 Peter 4:12-19 (NIVUK)

Suffering for Being a Christian

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. ¹⁶ However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"¹

¹⁹ So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

¹ Proverbs 11:31