



SERMON STUDY GUIDE
For the sermon preached on
5/24/2020:
“When We Suffer”
1 Peter 4:12-19

How to use the Study Guide During Our “Stay at Home” Online Group Meetings

Group life is even more critical during this incredible season. Over and over, group leaders are reporting that suddenly, there is a new hunger to connect, share, pray, and meditate on Scripture together and so we are making these guides available weekly and suggesting a new format during this season.

As you know, our Group Life’s vision is to “practice the way of Jesus.” And while Jesus never had to lead a Torah study over Zoom, he was strategic in his teaching ministry, and we want to be as well.

There are a number of differences between meeting in person and meeting online, ranging from the obvious to the subtle. One is, given our attention spans for online meetings, we want to encourage you to limit the length of your call between 45-60 minutes and we are calling this “Check-In Plus One.” Meaning, spend a few minutes checking in with your group and see if there are any new needs with them (or even amongst their neighbors). “The One” is to spend time in study. As our Stay at Home continues, our desire for meaningful content and interaction will grow. Given our new format, the study guides based on Sunday’s Sermon will be designed to be more application based (as opposed to unpacking the text with the Inductive Bible Study method). You might consider sharing the passage beforehand with your group in hopes that they might spend more time with the Scripture before the gathering.

As always, we are so grateful for you, your gifting, your servant leadership, and all that you do in practicing the way of Jesus in community.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tim, on behalf of the Group Life Team

For the Leader: “Check-In Plus One”

Welcome everyone to the Zoom call and outline the goal of this call being 45 minutes. Spend 15-20 minutes checking in with one another, then move into a time of prayer, and then spend some time discussing the application of the Scripture passage.

A “Check-in” question might be, “How are you doing, and is there anything new that has arisen

in your life or in your neighborhood that we can pray about?”

For the Group:

As mentioned, throughout our Stay at Home quarantine, we have shortened our study, given the confinements and attention spans on Zoom calls. So these three questions are designed to be less inductive, and more practical. Let's get started.

This is Week 6 in our “What Now” series called “When We Suffer.”

Q – As an icebreaker to prime some Zoom conversation, Pastor Bryan said that chances are you haven't heard too many sermons from I & 2 Peter as they are among the least popular New Testament books, Jude being the least popular. For the sake of an icebreaker here on Zoom, what is the New Testament book that you find the least motivating to read? And which of the New Testament books do you regard as your favorite one? (For example: Least motivated to read the Book of Revelation, but give me the Gospel of John all day).

Q – It's always a challenge to talk about suffering, especially in a virtual meeting. Given the medium of Zoom, we'll avoid getting into the details of own suffering but indeed all of us have gone through our share of it. But let's do our best to have a meaningful and a redemptive conversation on what I Peter is telling us about suffering.

Peter writes in I Peter 4:12-19:

¹² 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. ¹³ But rejoice inasmuch as 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 God's household; 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?”

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

Q - Bryan mentioned that we have all gone through suffering and included the type of suffering that is going on throughout our world. What are the sufferings of the world that have impacted your heart? As we read I Peter 4:12-19, what stands out as an encouragement or a message of empowerment in Peter's words?

Q – Pastor Jeanette Yep spoke with one of our Global Partners in Cairo, Egypt, Fayez Ishak Fayez. He mentioned that there is a unique type of suffering in the Middle-East for being a Christian. Most Western Christians have never had to endure that type of persecution. What

can we learn from the suffering in the Middle-Eastern churches and how can we continue to support our brothers and sisters in Christ?

We have an opportunity to know Christ and to show Christ when we suffer. People see Christ in us when we suffer with dignity, courage and faith. As we close, what are the sufferings that are on our hearts today? Maybe it's yours or someone else's nearby or someone you've never met on the other side of the world - Let's lift all of this suffering and call out for hope in prayer – May we pray for the Lord's strength and that God would use it for good! Let's pray...