

**Main Point:** *Peter tells his readers not to be surprised when they suffer as if it were purposeless, but in sufferings - to rejoice and be glad, living good lives with their eyes on their sure future hope*

**Study aim:** *That we would be prepared to suffer and, knowing that our faithful God is in control, would rejoice when suffering comes, living good lives with our eyes on our sure future hope*

- 8.45 **Intro** - this week we will pray at the end. We will finish promptly/ruthlessly at 8.40, wherever we've got to in our study (JJ's good idea). So let's get cracking...
- 8.46 **Quotes** - Charles Spurgeon said, *"Those who dive in the sea of affliction bring up rarest pearls"*. Samuel Rutherford, *"I accept being put into the cellars of suffering because the Great King keeps his wine there"*. The suffering Peter is talking about is because of persecution, but his encouragements apply to all sorts of suffering, whether stress, depression, loneliness, sickness or worry - we can be encouraged to stand firm
- 8.47 **Pray** that God's Spirit would convict and change us as we study His word
- 8.50 **Recap** last week - in **pairs**, summarise last week with a poem, a sentence or a picture. Also share how/if it has impacted the last week for you... Why is Peter writing? Feed back to group
- 8.57 **Read** passage *I Peter 4:12-19*
- 8.59 **Questions:** (on a scale of low hand to high hand)  
*What did you think? Likes/dislikes? Understood/confused?  
Make you excited about evangelism/not? Why?*
- 9.03 **Into the passage...** (vv12-13 in **pairs**, discuss, write, feed back)  
**Questions:** *How are Christians to view suffering?  
How does Peter say Christians should react to suffering? Why?  
Is this our experience of suffering? What do we tend to do?*

- 9.07 **Brainstorm/**feed back - **suffering**; expectation? reactions? purpose?
- 9.10 **Verses 14-16** - questions:  
*What kind of suffering is Peter talking about specifically here?  
Do we experience that kind of suffering? Why/why not?  
How does Peter say **not** to suffer? What does this mean for us?  
What do you think the phrase 'in that name' means?  
How are we ashamedly tempted to avoid the badge 'Christian'?*
- 8.16 **Verses 17-18** - (in **pairs**, discuss 1<sup>st</sup> question, feed back)  
**Questions:** *What's Peter talking about here?*  
[Prov 3:12, 11:31; I Pet 1:7; Heb 12:6; Rom 5:1-5; Eph 1:13-14; Jam 1:2-4]  
*How is Christians suffering 'different'?  
How does this motivate us to live now?*
- 8.20 **Verse 19** - question:  
*What will suffering 'differently' achieve?*  
[4:16, 2:12, 4:11]
- 8.22 **'Application'** - questions:  
*How do we need to change our views re: suffering?  
How do we need to change our views re: God's discipline?  
How can we keep our eyes fixed on our future hope?*
- 8.25 **Pray** together that this won't have just been an academic exercise, but that we would apply what we've learnt/ discussed...