



Suffering Well
1 Peter 3:13-22
Week of April 7, 2019

Objective of this study: To understand why and how we can “suffer well.”

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God’s Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. He wants to change the world through us.]

Welcome (5 minutes)

Do you remember a time when you were in a really tough or confusing situation and all you could do was entrust yourself to God?

Worship (5 – 10 minutes)

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for hearing his word. After the silence, have someone read **Psalm 16:8-11** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything “jump out at you”?**

[It’s really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to *your* heart.]

Word/Work (60-90 minutes)

1. What stood out from the sermon?

Remember, Peter was writing to believers who were experiencing a lot of persecution for their faith. He wrote to encourage them and give them guidance on how to live in their difficult situation, in a society that was against them. He wrote to point his readers to Jesus, and to help them point their unbelieving neighbors, bosses, spouses, etc. to Jesus.

2. Read 1 Peter 3:13-22.
3. Look at verses 13-18 and verse 22 again. What are all the things in this passage that speak to the **mindset** we can have, to help us get through suffering well?
4. Look at these verses again. What reasons does Peter give to help us **choose to do good**, when we are suffering, even unjustly?
5. Verse 15 talks about our **hope**. What does this passage tell us about our hope?
6. Read verses 14-16. “... So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead... worship Christ as Lord...” The NIV says “Do not be frightened. But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.” See also 2:23 and 4:19. What do these verses have to say about how to relate to God when we are suffering, and how to relate to people?
7. Read verses 15 and 16 again and consider the following quotes:

Sermon quote: “Learn to be respectful and humble and not reactionary when our buttons are pushed. Respond thoughtfully, lovingly, gently and humbly.”

Sermon Quote: “Don’t be dominated by triggers. Be lovingly guided, ruled by God. Triggers contain at least some falsehood, and are based on some previous bad experience. Sift it out. Focus on God’s words of truth and grace and love, to yourself and to the other person. “Stand firm in the true grace of God” (1 Peter 5:12, paraphrase). Do this BEFORE speaking in reaction to the trigger.”

Which of these things are hard for you? Think of a recent time when your buttons were pushed, or you felt ‘triggered.’ How did you feel? How did you respond?

Which of the things mentioned in the sermon quotes above would you like to grow in?

8. A question for thought: Is your heart soft and ready to grow?

Prayer

1. Spend the rest of the time praying for each other. **Praise God together for how he works, and how he allows us to partner with him to accomplish things in his kingdom.**
2. Here are some things you can pray about for the church:

A. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.

B. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus

C. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.

D. **Our missionary of the week:** Luc and Denise Tetreault, with the Fellowship. (Check out the church website for how to pray for them.)

E. **Local CR church:** Church of the Way, Pastors Rick and Brenda Shuttleworth.

Radiant Life March Drive - Men’s and women’s underwear, socks, and Depends. Yes, all of these need to be new :)