

Resilient Faith: A Study of 1 Peter

Group Guide | February 15

Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Begin your time together as a group with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to soften your hearts to what God has for you this evening.

Read 1 Peter 2:18-25 and then discuss the sermon (35 minutes).

- What stood out to you or challenged you from Dan's sermon?
- Dan shared that Peter encourages us to **trust Jesus** in times of unjust suffering. What does that mean? What are practical ways to trust Jesus in suffering?

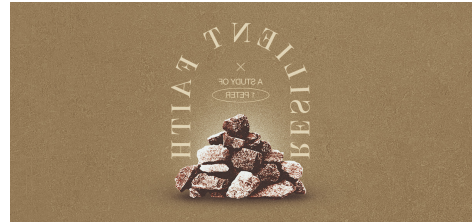
When facing unjust suffering, Peter also teaches us to **follow Jesus** by following His example, especially the example He set during His crucifixion (1 Peter 2:21-23).

- Let's remind ourselves of some of the injustice Jesus faced. (Have someone read Mark 15:9-32.)
- Think of injustice you have faced. How is it similar to what Jesus experienced? How is it different?
- How would reflecting or meditating on Jesus' sufferings shape your response to unfair experiences you face? How would it help you become more like Him?

Dan said, "When we follow the example of Jesus in unjust suffering, not only is our character shaped so we can become more like Him, our witness is enhanced so that others can come to know Him."

- Can you think of a time when one person's faithful suffering has been part of another person's journey to faith?

Peter highlights three forms of "salvation" Jesus provides: salvation by substitution (2:24), salvation by transformation (2:24), and salvation by association (2:25).



Salvation by substitution: Jesus takes our place, receiving the punishment we deserve.

Salvation by transformation: Jesus takes us out of the darkness and into the light, equipping us to live new, holy, and righteous lives.

Salvation by association: Jesus is our Good Shepherd. We stay near Him. He leads us, guides us, and protects us.

- Which of those three roles resonates most with your heart right now—Jesus taking our place, Jesus enabling us to live new lives, or Jesus protecting and guiding us as a shepherd?
- As a result of our study of this passage, is there a new approach you want to take to any situations in your life? If so, what is it?

If applicable, reflect on the 90-Day Bible Reading Plan (10 minutes).

- What was your time reading the New Testament and Psalms like for you this week?
- What is something you learned?
- What stood out or challenged you from God's Word?

Finish with prayer (5 minutes).

Let's spend some time thanking Jesus for paying the price for our sin, enabling us to live a different way, and being our Good Shepherd. We will "popcorn pray"—just share a sentence or two of how you are thankful for who Jesus is in your life.

As the prayer time comes to a close, pray this benediction over your group:

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen." – 1 Peter 5:10-11