



## **Suffering, My Friend? | 1 Peter 4:12-19**

As we conclude chapter four, Peter summarizes what he has been writing about suffering and challenges us to see suffering, not as a stranger, but a friend. Warren Wierbe writes that "The world believes that the absence of suffering means glory, but a Christian's outlook is different ..."

How are we, as followers of Christ, often affected more by the world's outlook than what God has to say about suffering? Give specific examples.

### **READ/REFLECT**

**1 Peter 4:12-19** ... read through these verses.

What would it look like to not be surprised by suffering? to not see it as something strange?

"Sharing in Christ's sufferings" (v. 13) is a description of the suffering that occurs when we move into difficult things because we are choosing to follow Christ. Share some examples of this kind of suffering.

What is the "glory that is revealed"? (v. 13) What happens to us when His glory is revealed? (consider: 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

How does knowing these truths serve as a motivation to suffer faithfully?

How does receiving an insult lead to knowing that "you are blessed"? (v. 14)

In verse 15, Peter challenges us to be careful not to move into "self-protective" strategies for interacting with a fallen world. How can you relate to the examples given? What other "self-protective" strategies can you think of?

How does "shame" enter into suffering? Why might someone be ashamed? (vs. 16)

The judgment that is described in verse 17 is a reference to fact that our eternal destiny (think the rewards described in v. 13) begins to be revealed now. How is that a comfort? How is that humbling?

In what ways (v. 19), do you need to entrust your soul (i.e., all that you are) to God?

### **RESPOND**

What specifically will you take away from this passage? How and when will you apply that truth?

### **REACH OUT** in prayer

Ask each person in the group to share how others can pray for them to apply these truths to their lives.