

Sermon: Responding To Hardships With Hope
Series: 1 Peter: Hardships, Holiness, and Hope

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-19
Date: November 15, 2020

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?

a) Do you have a theology of suffering? What are some things you believe about suffering and evil?

b) We suffer because we live in a fallen world, because of our sin, and because of righteousness. Can you think of examples of these in your own life?

c) We listed some “hopeless” responses to suffering in the sermon: surprise (v12), shame (v16), and sin (v15). Have you seen these responses to suffering in your own life? Where have you heard people try to minimize your suffering or their own suffering?

2) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) Read verse 19 – What does Peter call God in this verse? How does this title for God encourage us in our suffering?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Read verse 13 again. How does our suffering reveal the glory of Christ?

b) Why can we rejoice in suffering? What do you think it means that our suffering is the “shared” suffering of Christ?

c) Read verse 14 again. How does it comfort you to know that the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you? (Note: think back to Jesus’ baptism when the Spirit rested upon him. He was declared to be the beloved Son of God. You have this same Spirit of son-ship).

APPLICATION

a) Read verse 19. Where specifically do you need to trust your life to your faithful Creator?

b) What “good” can you do this week to express your hope even in the midst of suffering?

FIGHTER VERSES: 1 Peter 5:6-11.

PRAYER

Praise God for his purifying presence in suffering.

Confess any sinful responses to suffering that you have had.

Ask God to help you see your suffering as shared suffering with Christ. Entrust your life to God.