

# king's chapel

## Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 10, 2013

**This Week's Focus:** Our suffering Savior demonstrates the greatest act of suffering and submission through His sacrifice on the cross, reigning victorious over sin and death.

**This Week's Text:** 1 Peter 3:18-22

*The encounter of Christian faith with hostility therefore becomes a test that must be faced by Christians. If a Christian turns away from Christ in order to avoid suffering insult and alienation from unbelieving friends, neighbors, or colleagues, then that person's faith is thereby shown to be lacking. God wills the Christian to suffer in the sense that God wills the Christian to remain faithful even if suffering is the consequence. Such a testing situation allows Christians to see their faith for what it is—or is not. **Karen Jobe***

*In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. **Hebrews 5:7-8***

**Related Texts:** Ephesians 2:4-10, Philippians 2:5-11, Revelation 4:1-11, Romans 6:1–11, Hebrews 10:19-23

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- What does verse 18a tell us about Christ's sacrifice? Does He ever need to die again?
- How is Jesus characterized in verse 18b? How are we characterized? How does this demonstrate God's greatness?
- In verse 18c, how does Peter say we get to God? Whose work then is it?
  - What are some practical implications of this fact?
- What is meant by the words in verse 18d, "being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit"?
- What are the two main interpretations in describing when and where Jesus "made proclamation" to the spirits in prison?

- How many years did it take Noah to build the ark? Is the patience of Noah something we should strive to achieve?
- What is the main point of the corresponding story of Noah and baptism?
- Does baptism make you a Christian? How is salvation achieved? Reference Ephesians 2:8-9.
  - What environment did you grow up in? Was the reason for baptism clearly taught? What view of baptism were you taught?
- Read Hebrews 10:19-23 and verse 21 of our text. Discuss how we achieve a clear conscience.
- What does it mean that Jesus is at the "right hand" of God?
  - How should we live in light of this fact?
  - How does your life testify to the fact that all authority is subjected to Jesus?
- How does the resurrection affect our confidence in the face of suffering?

### **Gospel Celebration:**

- We are no longer bound by sin and death! Christ is victorious and reigning in heaven. Now what is our mission?
- In light of Jesus ascension into heaven, what is our hope?

### **Our Response:**

- Hold fast to the power of the gospel, allowing it to motivate us in all that we do.
- Proclaim the good news, making disciples.
- Subject ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

**Next Week's Text:** 1 Peter 4:1-11.