

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 28, 2013

This Week's Focus: Peter concludes his letter reassuring the believers in Asia Minor that they are not alone, their suffering will only be a little while, God is sovereign and at work, and that they will make it through by standing firm in the true grace of God.

This Week's Text: 1 Peter 5:9-14

“People are not prepared or able to rejoice in suffering unless they experience a massive biblical revolution of how they think and feel about the meaning of life. Human nature and American culture make it impossible to rejoice in suffering. This is a miracle in the human soul wrought by God through His Word.” **John Piper**

“If we really are serious about wanting Christ – to experience Christ, to know Him – we must be ready for suffering.” **Francis Chan**

“Note to self: Trials in my life don't mean God forgot about me. They're evidence that He's working on me.”
Trip Lee

Related Texts: John 15:18-27, Romans 8:28-37, Philippians 2:8-11, 1 Peter 1:3-7

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has God spoken to you about regarding the sermon?
- Why does Peter bother to include “knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood through out the world” at the end of this letter?
 - As a reader of this letter what comfort does that bring?
- Why is community necessary for living on mission and enduring this life?
- Peter tells us that the suffering will only last a “little while,” meaning as long as we're in this world.
 - How does this phrasing put suffering and life into perspective?
- Peter gives us four verbs that describe the future and present work of God in us; “restore, confirm,

strengthen and establish.” Explain each of these individually and how they work together.

- Where have you seen evidences of these works of God in your life?
- Define dominion.
 - What are the implications of Peter recognizing and ascribing to God dominion forever and ever?
 - Who’s dominion are you surrendering to, your own or God’s?
- What is the true grace of God that Peter refers to in verse 12?
- How are we able to endure trials and suffering?
- Where does the strength to endure come from?
- Peter’s final word to the readers of the letter is, “Peace to all of you who are in Christ.”
 - Why is this phrase such a fitting conclusion?
- What in this letter has brought you peace?

Gospel Celebration:

- Whose plan was it for Jesus to suffer?
- How does Jesus perfectly display the necessity of enduring suffering?
- Though perfectly capable, did Jesus end His suffering prematurely? Why or why not?

Our Response:

- Give thanks for the time of trial and suffering in your life, and for the work that God is doing in you through them.
- Repent of times when you sought your will over God’s will.
- Rejoice that in the end we have a promise that there will be no more pain and no more hurting, no more death and no more tears.

Next Week’s Text: 2 Peter 1:1-4