



# FIRST LIGHT CHURCH

# SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Date: 7/17/2022

Series: Hope In a Hostile World

Text: 1 Peter 3:8-22

**BIG IDEA: Following Christ Will Involve Suffering.**

**ICEBREAKER:** Ask the members of your group to imagine the following scenario: “Your house is on fire, and everyone is safe. You have 30 seconds to run through the house and collect three or four articles you want to save. What would you grab? Why?”

**CONTEXT:** The first letter of Peter, addressed to persecuted Christians living in five regions of Asia Minor, exhorts the readers to emulate the suffering Christ in their distress, remembering that after his Passion and death, Jesus rose from the dead and is now in glory.

**PASSAGE:** Have volunteers read 1 Peter 3:8-22.

## DISCUSSION:

1. List the five commands in 1 Peter 3:8 and discuss what stands out most to you about them.
2. Why do you think that God is telling Christians to respond to evil with good? (Read Matthew 5:39-45.)
3. What makes the “Christian life” different from that of the world?
4. If someone asked you why is it that you have hope in life, how would you answer them?
5. What is the point that Peter is trying to make (*especially in verses 18 and 22 of 1 Peter 3*) for believers who are suffering because of their faith in Jesus Christ? Read John 15:20.
6. How can suffering be considered a blessing? (Refer to 1 Peter 3:14.) Look up and read Matt. 5:10-12 and Luke 9:22-24.
7. Discuss the symbolism of baptism and what the water from “the flood” symbolizes. Note: There is a double symbolism – refer to Romans 6:3-4.

## APPLICATION:

8. As you read the commands in 1 Peter 3, is there any area where God is encouraging you to grow?
9. Are you prepared to suffer for the sake of spreading the Gospel? What are some ways you can do this?

## K4 CONNECTION:

Living out the message of Jesus is not always the most comfortable or easy task. We are called to love others, even if they are unlovely. We are called to serve and esteem others as higher than ourselves. We are called to live peaceably and not return unpleasantries with those who hate us. These things go against human nature, but they are what shows others that there is something different about us. Exhibiting these Christ-like qualities in our places of business, schools, and neighborhoods is one way of bringing light into a very dark world. It opens doors and perpetuates conversations which can lead to sharing the Gospel.

## CARE AND PRAY:

- Ask God to show you ways to “live out” your faith.
- Pray for those in our world who are suffering daily for the sake of Christ.

- Pray for our church as we are going through some transitions and difficult situations.

## **WHERE'S THE GOSPEL**

The message of the Gospel is clearly written in 1 Peter 3:18—***For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.***” This proclamation explains that Jesus, the perfectly sinless man, was the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of humanity. He suffered on our behalf. He did this to reconcile us to our Maker and restore our relationship with the Heavenly Father. Sin is what separates us from God, but Christ’s suffering brings us into the Father’s arms. Christ’s resurrection shows His power to conquer the penalty for sin and exhibits His glorious love and grace. Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father and is going to return to take those with Him, who call Him Lord.