



1 PETER:

Holy Exiles



FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST'S SUFFERING

1 PETER 1:3-9

GETTING STARTED...

You must learn to crawl before you can learn to walk. While that is not always strictly true, the principal applies to many areas of life. An expert carpenter must first learn to cut a piece of wood before they can learn a dovetail. An expert chef must first learn to cook eggs before they can make a soufflé. No one starts an expert, and the same is true of the Christian life, no one starts fully mature. And one of the ways God uses to help us mature is through trials in life. God uses these in order to help us grow in our faith and refine us more and more. This is what Peter is helping us to understand, because of what God has done in our salvation, because of what God does in our lives, we can rejoice in such a way that God is glorified.

READ THE TEXT: 1 PETER 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. Peter begins by reminding his readers of the work of God done in our salvation. Looking at verse 3-5, what all does Peter attribute to the work of God?
2. Peter gives a reason for their trials, what is it? What is the goal of their trials? What is the result?
3. Peter is referencing the teachings of Jesus throughout this passage, look at John 3:1-8, Matthew 6:10-12, and 19-21. How does Peter help us follow Jesus?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

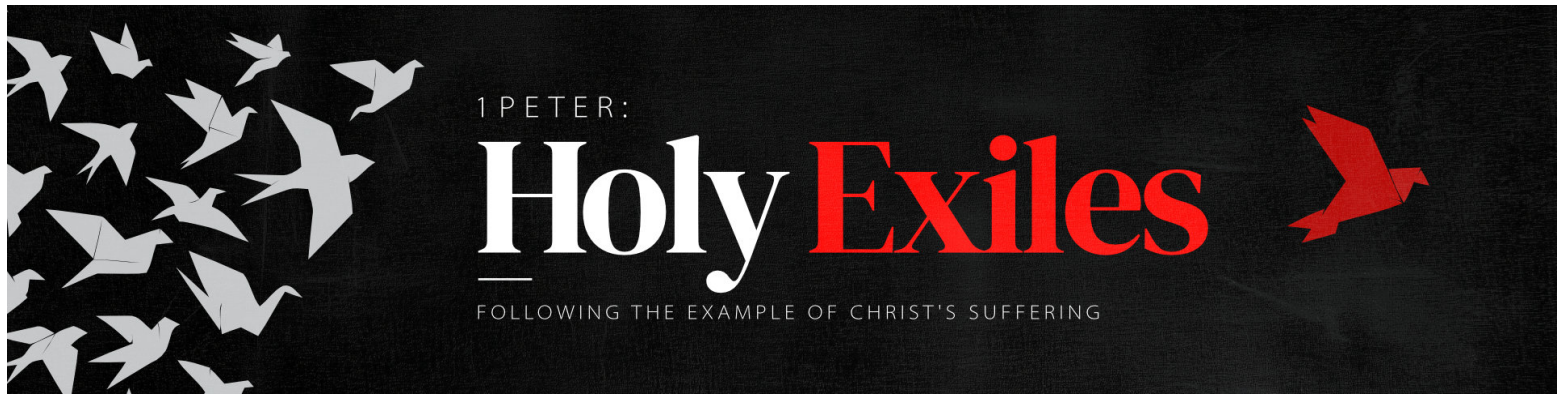
4. What was the main point of the sermon?
5. What has God been applying to your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

6. How does reminding one another of the greatness of our salvation help us go through trials?
7. How have you grown through difficult experiences in life? How can seeing that in the past give us hope for our present trials? What has been most helpful for you as you were struggling?
8. How can we use our joy and rejoicing in God in a way to show others the gospel?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer? An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Promontory Small Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Small Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Small Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*