

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

1 Peter – The Call to Faith as God’s People

Sermon Series

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|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| 06 Sep 2020 | 1 Peter 3:13-22 | The Devotion of God’s People to Christ |
| 13 Sep 2020 | 1 Peter 4:1-11 | The Vigilance of God’s People |
| 20 Sep 2020 | 1 Peter 4:12-19 | The Faith of God’s People in Suffering |
| 27 Sep 2020 | 1 Peter 5:1-14 | The Community of God’s People |

Outline of 1 Peter

1 PETER: THE CALL TO FAITH AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING

I. THE SAVING HOPE OF GOD'S PEOPLE *1:1-12*

A. GREETINGS *1:1-2*

B. THE HOPE THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US BY GOD *1:3-12*

PRaise GOD:

HE HAS GIVEN US HOPE

II. THE HOLY CONDUCT OF GOD'S PEOPLE *1:13-21*

A. FOLLOWING CHRIST MEANS HOLINESS IN CONDUCT *1:13-16*

B. FOLLOWING CHRIST MEANS TREASURING HIS BLOOD *1:17-21*

WE HAVE A NEW

IDENTITY:

WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

III. THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD'S PEOPLE *1:22-2:10*

A. LOVE EACH OTHER *1:22-2:3*

B. LIVING STONES WHO ARE GOD'S PEOPLE *2:4-10*

IV. LIVE AS SERVANTS OF GOD *2:11-25*

A. BE SERVANTS OF GOD *2:11-17*

B. BE SERVANTS FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE *2:18-25*

BEING GOD'S PEOPLE

MEANS:

SUFFERING AS A

WITNESS TO JESUS

V. THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS OF GOD'S PEOPLE *3:1-12*

A. WHAT FOLLOWING GOD LOOKS LIKE FOR WOMEN *3:1-6*

B. WHAT FOLLOWING GOD LOOKS LIKE FOR MEN *3:7*

C. WHAT FOLLOWING GOD LOOKS LIKE FOR ALL *3:8-12*

VI. THE DEVOTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE *3:13-22*

A. BE ZEALOUS FOR WHAT IS GOOD *3:13-17*

B. CHRIST AS THE EXAMPLE *3:18-22*

VII. THE VIGILANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE *4:1-11*

A. FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST *4:1-6*

B. LIVE WITH THE END IN MIND *4:7-11*

VIII. THE FAITH OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN SUFFERING *4:12-19*

A. THERE WILL BE SUFFERING *4:12-14*

B. RIGHT AND WRONG REASONS FOR SUFFERING *4:15-19*

IX. THE COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE *5:1-14*

A. LEADERS: BE GOOD SHEPHERDS *5:1-4*

B. OTHERS: SUBMIT AND BE HUMBLE *5:5-7*

C. STAY ON GUARD *5:8-9*

D. GOD WILL RESTORE YOU *5:10-11*

E. ENDNOTES *5:12-14*

PERSEVERE

IN THE FACE OF

SUFFERING

SEPTEMBER

5. Read 1 Peter 3:21-22. What does Peter say baptism is about here? What is it *not* about?

APPLICATION

6. What gives us the strength to stay faithful to God and obey Him while experiencing difficulties? What does obedience to God look like where you are now?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- As believers, we are blessed even if we are suffering (and hence do not appear blessed to unbelievers). Our external circumstances have no bearing on our status before God.
- God is our ultimate Judge of our lives, not the standards of the world around us.
- Jesus' example is a source of encouragement for us to stay faithful while suffering as witnesses for him

13 Sep 2020

1 Peter 4:1-11

The Vigilance of God's People

We all have role-models in our lives whose lives we imitate. Who has been such a role-model for us? How have our lives been shaped by these people?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 1 Peter 4:1-6.

(a) Peter tells the believers to “arm yourselves also with the same attitude.” What attitude is this?

(b) What reasons does he give for telling the believers to do this? (Protip: look for words like “since,” “for,” or “because.”)

2. Peter acknowledges in vv.3-6 that those around the believers see the believers as acting strangely resulting in them mocking the believers. What does Peter say about these unbelievers who are mocking the believers?

3. Read 1 Peter 4:7. Why should the believers be clear minded and self-controlled? What is the purpose of being clear minded and self-controlled?

4. Read 1 Peter 4:8. Why does Peter say that the believers should love? What importance does he give to love, and why?

5. Read 1 Peter 4:9-11.

(a) What hospitality is Peter asking the believers to offer? (Consider vv.10-11.)

(b) Why would that (Q.5a) possibly result in grumbling?

(c) Why would the willing hospitality of the believers (in the various forms it takes) bring glory to God through Jesus Christ?

APPLICATION

6. What situations have you faced (or are currently facing) where the people around you mock you when you choose not to join them in behaviours that do not reflect Christ?

7. To show hospitality without grumbling involves both loving each other and being clear minded and self-controlled. How will you show hospitality to one another without grumbling in the weeks ahead?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Christ is the ultimate role model for us in Christian living.
- Christian discipleship involves both a passive “not-doing” of sin and an active “doing” of Christ-like behaviours
- Each Christian is a representative of God – living in Christlikeness brings glory to God.

20 Sep 2020

1 Peter 4:12-19

The Faith of God's People in Suffering

When was the last time you told someone (including yourself) to rejoice because they were experiencing difficulties?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read 1 Peter 4:12. Why does Peter tell the believers that suffering is expected, and not "something strange?" (See also 1 Peter 4:1-6.)

2. Read 1 Peter 4:13. How should the believers respond to suffering? Why?

3. Read 1 Peter 4:14-16.
 - (a) What is the result of being "insulted because of the name of Christ?" What would qualify as such insult?

 - (b) Why would being "insulted because of the name of Christ" mean that the believer is blessed?

 - (c) Why would a believer praise God while suffering for being a Christian?

4. Read 1 Peter 4:17-18. How does Peter comfort the believers?

5. Read 1 Peter 4:19. What does Peter conclude that believers should do?

APPLICATION

6. What difficulties are we going through because of our faith? Are we able to rejoice in these?

7. What habits or routines can we build into our lives so that we can intentionally rejoice in all circumstances that we experience?

8. How can we support, encourage, and pray for the suffering church around the world, in light of this text?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- As Christians, we should expect to suffer for our faith, as the Holy Spirit within us sanctifies us and enables us to live differently from the world
- Suffering for our faith is a cause for joy and praise, not for shame
- We should persevere in our faith, continuing to do God's will, even while suffering

6. Read 1 Peter 5:12-14.

(a) What is the message that Peter has written to the believers? (Consider the whole of 1 Peter.)

(b) How is Peter's message an encouragement and testimony to the true grace of God?

APPLICATION

7. What are some ways in which you can support, encourage, and pray for the "elders" (i.e. those who are serving as overseers of any sort) within our church?

8. What does humility towards God and towards others look like in our positions today? If you are "younger": consider also who you should be submitting to, and in what way.

9. Reflect upon the whole message of 1 Peter. What is one major learning point for you over the past two months?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Stand fast in the true grace of God, and continue to persevere in our Christian discipleship
- God is sovereign – the suffering we go through for the sake of the faith is not in vain, and will also come to an end