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GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Life in Exile: Perseverance in Suffering (1 Peter 4)

TEACHING SUMMARY

Peter calls believers to adopt Yeshua's readiness to suffer rather than return to sin. Refusing former practices may provoke criticism and persecution. Enduring that pressure shows that believers now aim to live for God's will instead of their old desires.

God will judge the living and the dead, so hostile human judgments are not final. The teaching understands the gospel preached to the dead as preaching received while those people were alive. Their subsequent death does not cancel the promised resurrection.

Because the end is at hand, believers should exercise self-control and remain focused in prayer. Peter urges earnest love, quick forgiveness, and hospitality without resentment. Hard circumstances make mutual care especially important rather than excusing its neglect.

Each person should use God's gifts to serve others. Speaking and serving depend on what God supplies and should bring him glory through Yeshua. The community benefits when people share what they have received rather than treating others as inconveniences.

Fiery trials should not surprise believers who follow a suffering Messiah. Peter distinguishes suffering for faithfulness from consequences of wrongdoing. Trials test and refine faith, while the coming revelation of Messiah's glory provides reason to persevere without shame.

The application rejects the idea that comfort and prosperity are life's purpose. Suffering can develop wisdom, obedience, and stronger relationships, although its purpose may not be clear immediately. Believers are urged to trust their faithful Creator, continue doing good, and remember that suffering is temporary.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Believers should adopt Yeshua's readiness to suffer faithfully.
- Changed conduct may attract criticism from former companions.
- God's final judgment outweighs hostile human judgments.
- The teaching reads the dead as people who heard the gospel while alive.
- Resurrection gives hope beyond physical death.
- Self-control supports focused prayer and faithful conduct.
- Earnest love leads to forgiveness and willing hospitality.
- Spiritual gifts are given for service and God's glory.
- Suffering for righteousness differs from suffering for wrongdoing.
- Believers should entrust themselves to God while continuing to do good.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. Peter tells believers to adopt the attitude toward suffering shown by _____.
2. Believers should live for the _____ of God rather than human passions.
3. God is ready to judge the living and the _____.
4. Peter says that love covers a multitude of _____.
5. Hospitality should be offered without _____.
6. Believers should entrust themselves to a faithful _____ while doing good.

Challenging

1. The Greek term for "arm yourselves" is _____.
2. The teaching understands the future hope of deceased believers as the _____.
3. The Greek word for a gift is _____.
4. Judgment begins at the _____ of God.
5. The ending -ianos in Christianos means _____.
6. The teaching connects James's account of trials with the development of _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does accepting suffering for faithfulness demonstrate a changed relationship to sin?
2. How does the teaching interpret the gospel being preached to those who are dead?
3. Why are forgiveness and hospitality important when the community faces pressure?
4. How should the purpose of spiritual gifts shape the way believers use them?
5. Why does Peter distinguish suffering for righteousness from suffering caused by wrongdoing?
6. How can believers acknowledge suffering's possible benefits without assuming they understand its purpose immediately?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Yeshua
2. will
3. dead
4. sins
5. grumbling
6. Creator

Challenging

1. hoplizo
2. resurrection
3. charisma
4. household
5. follower
6. steadfastness