

# Suffer Well // Discussion & Reflection Questions

Text: 1 Peter 4

## 1. Understanding the Big Picture

1. What stood out to you most from the message or from 1 Peter 4 itself? Why do you think that caught your attention?
2. Peter assumes suffering will be part of the Christian life. How does that expectation compare to how Christians sometimes talk about faith today?
3. Austin framed the question: *"How do I suffer well?"* How would you personally define "suffering well"?

## 2. Accept Reality (1 Peter 4:1-2)

4. Peter connects our suffering to the suffering of Jesus. What difference does that make for how we interpret hardship?
5. Why do you think acceptance is often the hardest first step when facing pain or difficulty?
6. Where in your life right now might God be inviting you to adopt a "not my will, but Yours" posture?

## 3. Remain Different (1 Peter 4:3-6)

7. Peter describes a clear break between a believer's past and present way of living. What are some modern examples of that tension?
8. Have you ever experienced confusion or pushback from others because of your faith? What did that reveal about your identity in Christ?
9. Austin described a testimony pattern: *"I was... but God... and now..."* How would you fill in those blanks for yourself?

## 4. Get Ready (1 Peter 4:7)

10. What do you think it looks like practically to be "alert and sober-minded" in today's culture?
11. How does prayer help us endure suffering differently than simply trying to power through on our own?
12. What habits or distractions make it harder for you to stay spiritually awake?

## 5. Shift Perspective (1 Peter 4:12-18)

13. Peter says not to be surprised by trials. Why do you think suffering still feels so shocking when it comes?
14. What does it mean to “rejoice” in suffering without pretending pain isn’t real?
15. How does viewing life through the Kingdom of God change the way we interpret present struggles?

## **6. Commit to the Creator (1 Peter 4:19)**

16. Austin explained that “commit” means entrusting your whole self to God. What makes that kind of surrender difficult?
17. When life feels unstable, what truths about God’s character help you trust Him more deeply?
18. What is one area where you feel invited to entrust yourself more fully to God right now?

## **7. Continue to Do Good (1 Peter 4:8-11, 19)**

19. Peter says to *continue* doing good, not just start when things are easy. Why is faithfulness often hardest during suffering?
20. Which example from verses 8-11 feels most challenging for you personally:
  - Loving deeply
  - Practicing hospitality
  - Using your gifts
  - Speaking wisely
  - Serving in God’s strength
21. Think about someone you’ve seen “suffer well.” What did their faithfulness look like in real life?

## **8. Personal & Group Application**

22. Which of the six guidelines do you sense God highlighting for you this week: Accept Reality, Remain Different, Get Ready, Shift Perspective, Commit to the Creator, or Continue to Do Good?
23. What is one small, practical step you can take this week to live out that guideline?
24. How can this group (or your family) support each other in suffering well rather than suffering alone?