

1 Peter 4:1-19
Inductive Discovery Lesson 11

Suffering in Hope Those of you who went to church as a child may recall a favorite little song from Sunday school. It has a tune so sweet and fun to sing that we hardly notice how important the words can be in real life...

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine... Hide it under a bushel—No!—I'm gonna let it shine... Won't let Satan (puff!) it out, I'm gonna to let it shine...

When a Christian lives out their daily routine determined to follow what Jesus taught, the world won't cheer them on. At times, we may be shunned, mistreated or ridiculed. Have you ever been tempted to fly under the radar with your faith? Peter was (see Matthew 26:69-75) and the Lord turned that painful experience into a lesson Peter carried with him for the rest of his life.

For anyone who has ever suffered for being a Christian, Peter's words on the subject offer comfort and a way to make sense of it all. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, Peter says, don't hang your head in shame. Remember that Jesus suffered too. He will help you be true and will reward your faithfulness. So stand firm and don't lose sight of your hope!

Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine...

Background Peter had special words of comfort for those who suffer for being a Christian. He wrote this letter at a time when Christians were facing persecution at an alarming rate. Under Nero's reign, believers were a favorite target for abuse and hatred—often suffering to the point of death. In some parts of the world today, Christians are still singled out and put to death for their faith. For countless more, persecution will come in other ways.

"Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God..." Peter reminds his readers that suffering actually serves a purpose in God's plan for believers. They might suffer mistreatment and injustice (I Peter 2). They might be badgered for living a godly life (I Peter 3). But those who are willing to suffer rather than give up or give in to sin have armed themselves with the same attitude that Christ had (Hebrews 12:2-3). They will discover that suffering in hope is more than a frame of mind—it's a mighty weapon of faith!

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us,

what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And "If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" 19 Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

OBSERVE

Start by reading the entire chapter at least once. Now read each section and record what you see. **Use the first column to keep track of what you find in the Bible passage**. (Who? What? When? Where?) Briefly describe, *in your own words*, what it says.

Use the second column to keep track of information you get from other sources such as scripture references, a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions.** *Do your best to follow Peter's train of thought.* Does he use a word or phrase repeatedly, or emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

1 Peter 4:1-6 Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:

1 Peter 4:7-11 Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:
1 Peter 4:12-19 Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:

1 Peter 4:12-19 (continued) Facts from the passage:	My Research and Personal Observations:
Key Words and Phrases	
Write the definition of the following words and concordance with Greek Dictionary if you have or	
"in the flesh" (vs. 1,2,6)	
"suffered, suffers" (vs.1,15,16,19)	
"reproached for the name of Christ" (vs.14,)	

INTERPRET

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLY

We don't study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to *put it into action*.

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.

Lesson:	
Application:	
1 Peter 4 :7-11 Lesson:	
Application:	
1 Peter 4:12-19 Lesson:	
Application:	
Summary Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about	
Give a title to the chapter to help you remember what it says.	

Up close and personal

Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 4:19

→ Memorize God's Word
Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.
⊃ Meditate on God's Word
While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.
Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just <i>think and pray</i> about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.
Look up . What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)
Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?
Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?
Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

∩ Make G	od's Word Your Prayer
examine your	orize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Sp heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith a t on the truth of God's Word.
	God's Word Bearing Fruit
	onally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y
	onally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will yo
	onally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter? How will y

Choosing to suffer means that there must be something wrong with you.

But choosing God's will—even if it means you will suffer—is something very different.

No normal, healthy saint ever chooses suffering;
he simply chooses God's will, just as Jesus did,
whether it means suffering or not.

- Oswald Chambers -

Message	Notes:
_	