

Women's Bible Study
Study Questions for November 15, 2017
Submitting in Difficult Times ~ 1 Peter 3 ~ Svea Merry

1. Read 1 Peter 3:1–9, and review 2:13–25 from last week. From each paragraph (2:13–17; 2:18–25; 3:1–6; 3:7; and 3:8–9), identify who it is that Peter calls to submission. Based on what you've seen, is submission a "women's issue"?

2. In 1 Peter 3:1–6, what is the reason given for why wives should live this way? Why might living like this win an unbelieving husband to Christ? Have you seen this happen?

3. The only place in the Bible where Sarah called Abraham "lord" is found in Genesis 18:12. Certainly there were other times when she submitted to his decisions (ie. Genesis 12—leaving her home country behind, agreeing to pretend to be Abraham's sister), so why do you think Peter chose this seemingly impulsive, reflex-like comment to illustrate the point?

4. Peter quotes Psalm 34 in verses 10–12. How does this beautiful psalm enhance his guidance in verses 8–9 for how all Christians should live, particularly in the face of suffering?

5. What is the implied answer to verse 13? Peter knows, though, that Christians still suffer harm. After all, suffering for the sake of Christ is one of 1 Peter's main themes. So how are Christians ultimately free from harm? (Romans 8:31–39 is a great passage on this idea.)

6. Verses 14–17 describe the attitude we should have when suffering for our faith. What we are to do with our hearts? Our minds? Our words? And our actions? Choose one of these and think through how you could apply it to a situation you face right now.

7. Before sifting through what Jesus's death and resurrection has to do with Noah and the Flood and baptism, read Romans 6:1–11. With this in mind, what parallels do you think Peter was trying to draw between the Flood story (skim Genesis 6–8 if you wish) and how we are saved through Jesus's death and resurrection as symbolized by baptism?

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1. In many ways, 1 Peter 3 encourages "lifestyle evangelism" (living for Christ in such a way that makes others to want to know about our faith). What do you see as advantages and disadvantages to this approach to sharing our faith?

2. It is implied that Sarah "did not fear what is frightening" because she learned to hope in God. Learning to hope in God is essential for us too! Read Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 34:4–7; Isaiah 26:3–4; and 1 Peter 5:6–7. Discuss how the truths in these verses could help you conquer a specific fear you face.

3. In 1 Peter 3:8, Peter lists 5 virtues we should all strive to display. Which of these feels most and least natural for you? Does your answer change if you consider how you relate to Christians vs. non-Christians? Family vs. strangers? Or when life is calm vs. "when life stinks"?

4. Peter says in 3:14 that if we suffer for righteousness's sake, we will be blessed. Look up Matthew 5:10–12 and recall that Peter was there when Jesus preached these words from the Sermon on the Mount. What blessings do persecuted believers receive? Do these blessings impact how you feel about suffering for your faith?

5. 1 Peter 3:15 is a popular verse about being ready to tell others why we have hope in God, but don't miss its context about hope in God in the midst of suffering. Why does the story of someone who has suffered greatly and yet emerged with a beautiful relationship with God so inspiring? Have you been impacted by someone with a story like this?