

Women's Bible Study

Study Questions for December 6, 2017

Supporting the Suffering ~1 Peter 5~ Gretchen Steer

**Key verse: "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."
(1 Peter 5:10)**

1. How would you sum up the message of 1st Peter (all five chapters)? How does 1st Peter's message dovetail with Job's message on suffering?
2. 1st Peter 5 reminds us that the job of elders and pastors in the church is to shepherd the flock. What makes shepherding different from a business model of leadership? Give 3 attributes of each approach. Now look up these verses to see how Jesus shepherds us: Matthew 9:36, John 10:11-14, Matthew 26:31, Acts 20:28, Revelation 7:17. What do these tell us about a true shepherd's motivation?
3. If we are to truly help the suffering among us we must approach them with humility. Who submits to whom in the church? Is there anyone who does not submit to someone? Look at 1 Peter 5:5, 1 Peter 3:1, 1 Peter 3:7, Hebrews 13:7, Ephesians 5:21, John 17:4. Why is it helpful to be humble when approaching a suffering person?
4. Peter tells us that believers throughout the world are suffering, but he first warns us to be aware of Satan's schemes in our lives. When we suffer because of our own sin, does that mean we deserve it? Can God help us in this situation? Is there a way to turn suffering from the consequences of our own sin into glory for God?
5. Look at 1 Peter 5:10. This promises an end to our suffering. How do we apply that promise when suffering is lifelong, because of a physical condition, or recurrent grief, or mental illness? How does God restore and make us firm, steadfast and strong when the circumstances don't change?

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1. Part of 1 Peter 5's message is that we are to strengthen each other, and we can only do that when we have the right approach to a suffering person. Have you experienced "unhelpful" help from another Christian when you were suffering? Why was it unhelpful?

2. With question #1 in mind, how can we approach others and their problems with humility? What does humility look like in day to day life? Give some examples of how the humble person approaches a difficult situation, as opposed to a proud person.

3. Jesus showed humility, even towards people who wished to harm him or take advantage of him. And we are to be like him. Look up these verses: Luke 22:63-65, 1 Peter 2:23, Philippians 2:3, Philippians 2:8, James 3:13, Matthew 11:29, Matthew 23:12. What happens when we humble ourselves? What happens when we don't?

4. Look at 1 Peter 5:10. This promises an end to our suffering. How do we apply that promise when suffering is lifelong, because of a physical condition, or recurrent grief, or mental illness? How does God restore and make us firm, steadfast and strong when the circumstances don't change?

5. We are warned that Satan is always prowling around us, looking for an opening. How can we resist Satan's attacks in our life? Name some practical ways that we do this. What role do others have in keeping us safe from Satan's attacks? Describe ways that we can help each other resist temptation and sin.