

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **March 19, 2023** Family Theme | **Tested in Suffering**
Study Text | **1 Peter 4:1-19**

Objective: Family members choose to rejoice and entrust themselves to God's will when suffering because of living for Christ.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this letter to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor around AD 62-63.

Bible Basics: Review Colossians 1:16b-17 this week with family members.

Read the Word: 1 Peter 4:1-19

Disciple Your Kids:

Help your children and grandchildren understand that we may be made fun of or treated badly because we love and serve Jesus. We rejoice when this happens and trust God to take care of it as He sees fit.



Key Truth: Believers View Suffering as Christ Did (1 Peter 4:1-6)

- Believers should have Christ's attitude toward suffering, a willingness to do God's will no matter the cost. They should no longer live for the sinful things that used to dominate them. Rather, they should live to do God's will (verses 1-2).
- When a believer's lifestyle is marked by holiness, the world is surprised or astonished by their different conduct. As a result, the Christ-follower is maligned or slandered. Even so, those who slander us will give account to God (verses 3-5).
- Believers who die after hearing the gospel and being saved will not face judgment for their sins. They have a wonderful future ahead (verse 6).



Key Truth: Believers Love and Serve One Another in the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 4:7-11)

- The return of Christ could come at any time. For that reason, Peter appealed to his readers to be self-controlled and serious minded for the purpose of prayer. They also should love each other in a deep, self-sacrificing way. This kind of love would also offer hospitality without grumbling (verses 7-9).
- Believers are to use the gifts of grace God gives them to serve or minister to others. This is all for God's glory (verses 10-11).



Key Truth: Believers Glorify God in the Way They Handle Suffering (1 Peter 4:12-19)

- Believers are not to be surprised by the trials they experience, but to see trials as a test to reveal the strength of their faith. They should respond to trials with joy because it gives them an opportunity to identify with their Savior and rejoice when He returns. They can expect to face ostracism, discrimination, and ridicule because of their association with Christ (verses 12-14).
- Suffering because of our own wrongdoing does not glorify God, but suffering for Christ's sake is nothing to be ashamed of. It glorifies God (verses 15-16).
- God will purify His people. And if those who are saved have such purifying judgment to bear, the wicked will not be able to stand before God at all. Believers are to continue doing good, regardless of suffering, knowing that their faithful Creator has them in His hands (verses 17-19).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Jesus was willing to suffer to make salvation possible for us. Why would He do this?
- Why do unbelievers sometimes treat believers badly?
- What does it look like for believers to love and serve one another?
- Why is it important for every believer to use the gifts and abilities God has given him or her to serve God and others?
- How do trials test a believer's faith?
- **How can knowing Jesus experienced suffering while on earth help you when you go through hard times?**
- **How can suffering grow our faith?**

Everyday Extras

Make homemade pretzels to talk about suffering as a Christian. Pretzels are not easy to make. They required waiting, boiling, and baking — a lot of suffering! Find a recipe and work on the stages together, making comparisons to suffering as you go. We often must wait (as the dough rises), not certain of what is ahead. We are shaped by circumstances and sometimes we have to “roll” with them. We fold our arms in prayer (think of your arms crossed with hands on your shoulders and your head bowed as you fold the pretzel shapes) and are molded to be like Jesus. We face “hot water” situations, where our faith is put on trial by difficulty. Sometimes there are salty tears, and we suffer the heat as others oppose us when we stand for Christ. But all of this suffering makes a good (and delicious) result! We can thank God for working even through the difficulties we face.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Peter and John were put in jail for sharing about Jesus, but they continued to tell others about Jesus. Later, Peter was put in jail again for sharing about Jesus, but God sent an angel to help him escape. Peter went to where the Christians were praying for him and shared with them what had happened. **I Can Share About Jesus** wherever I am.