



“FOLLOWING CHRIST: Reaching the Lost”
Growth Group Discussion Questions for 1 Peter 3:13-18
Week of February 10-13, 2019

1. Scripture memory: Review Psalm 63:1-5. Memorize, meditate on, and be ready to recite Ps. 63:6.
2. Carefully read 1 Peter 3:13-18 at least twice.
3. Does verse 13 mean that Christians will be free from harm if they do good? Explain the principle that Peter is emphasizing here. Consider the following verses in your explanation (Psalm 38:20; Proverbs 16:17; Romans 13:30)
4. How can one be blessed in the suffering of persecution? Read what Jesus said in Matthew 5:10-12. Is this related to what Peter is saying in verse 14? Why or why not?
5. Look at an Old Testament parallel to verses 14 and 15 in Isaiah 8:12-13. How does the believer stand in the face of people, a culture, even a government that opposes righteous standards and faith? What did Jesus say about standing against the fear of the world (see Luke 6:22-23; Luke 12:4-5; Acts 18:9-10)?
6. Christian persecution is on the rise throughout the world. In a letter, written before but, released after his arrest in December 2018, Chinese pastor Wang Yi wrote:

As a pastor, my firm belief in the gospel, my teaching, and my rebuking of all evil proceeds from Christ’s command in the gospel and from the unfathomable love of that glorious King. Every man’s life is extremely short, and God fervently commands the church to lead and call any man to repentance who is willing to repent. Christ is eager and willing to forgive all who turn from their sins. This is the goal of all the efforts of the church in China—to testify to the world about our Christ, to testify to the Middle Kingdom about the Kingdom of Heaven, to testify to earthly, momentary lives about heavenly, eternal life. This is also the pastoral calling that I have received. <http://www.chinapartnership.org/blog/2018/12/my-declaration-of-faithful-disobedience>

How is this pastor’s statement in line with verse 15 “in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy”? Explain how honoring Christ is the foundation for enduring suffering?

7. How is honoring Christ also the fuel spreading the message of gospel (verse 15)?

8. Verse 15 also challenges the believer to be prepared to make a defense of his faith. Are you ready to tell others why you believe in Christ? Has anyone asked you this before? Were you ready? How can we be better prepared to defend our faith?

9. How should we treat those that scoff at our faith? Why is maintaining good behavior and conscience important when you and your faith are reviled? What does the Bible mean when it says “[they] may be put to shame”?

10. For what should we suffer, and for what should we not suffer (verse 17)? How could it be God’s will that we may suffer for doing good?

11. Why does Peter point us back to Jesus as the example of unjust suffering (verse 18)? Explain how this is more than an example for us, but a foundational truth for this whole passage.

12. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on this passage on Sunday, February 10th? How were you specifically challenged? What points of application did you take away from the message?

PRAY IN THE GROUP: Pray for our brothers and sisters who suffer under the yoke of Christian persecution. Pray that they may bear up with gentleness and respect. Pray that the gospel will boldly be proclaimed, and Christ will be honored through it. Pray for the same strength in our land as antagonism towards confessional belief and Christian truth seems to rise.