

Review:

Lesson 1: Foundations for Holiness

Lesson 2: Foundations, Pt. 2

Lesson 3: Foundations, Pt. 3

Lesson 4: Living Stones

Lesson 5: Respect for Authorities

Lesson 6: Suffering Servants

Lesson 7: Submission in Marriage

Lesson 8: Suffering: a Summary

Lesson 9: Suffering like Jesus

Lesson 10: End-times Holiness

Lesson 11: Suffering: a Reprise

Lesson 12: Leadership & Humility

Suffering and the Enemy

1 Peter 5:7-14

Our suffering can be used by God for good or it can be used by the enemy for destruction. _____ by how we handle our suffering.

Discussion 1. Can you think of an example from your own life of the lies the enemy told you during a time of suffering or difficulty? Did you find those lies persuasive? Why or why not?

When God's people suffer, the devil's tactic is to persuade us to take matters into our own hands and to act independently of God. Resisting the devil, then, and _____ in our faith go hand in hand.

Discussion 2. Take a circumstance going on in your life right now and describe what it would mean for you to "act independently of God" and take matters into your own hands. What steps can you (do you) take to make sure you are not acting independently of God?

Our enemy uses our suffering to try to destroy our faith. God, however, uses both our _____ AND the enemy's _____ to actually build our faith and to fortify us as His children. This is the very definition of sovereignty.

Discussion 3. Think back to any of the circumstances you thought about in response to the previous discussion questions (above). Did those circumstances grow your faith in God? If so, how? If not, why not?

When we are getting Christian community right, the _____ we form with one another rise above all other identities and ways of separating ourselves: above ethnicity, above politics, and above all the world's labels.

Discussion 4. If our identity in Christ "rises above" all our other identities, does that mean our national, ethnic, political, or other identities are not important at all? In your Christian friendships, how do you make sure to keep your Christian identity at the forefront of the relationship, even above all the other identities?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?