

Review:

**Lesson 1:** Foundations for Holiness    **Lesson 5:** Respect for Authorities

**Lesson 2:** Foundations, Pt. 2

**Lesson 3:** Foundations, Pt. 3

**Lesson 4:** Living Stones

## Suffering Servants

### 1 Peter 2:18-25

*In circumstances of injustice or cruelty, a Christ follower's quiet suffering and endurance (like so many other behaviors) can be commendable when the motive is to glorify God. As always, the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 1.** Can you recall any circumstances in your life (or perhaps in the life of a close friend or family member) when injustice or abuse was quietly endured for a time? What was the motive behind enduring it? Why do you think God cares about the motive? Do you think the unbelieving world cares about the motive?

*There is a certain holiness to the quiet suffering of a completely \_\_\_\_\_ child of God; but there is nothing holy about suffering consequences I have brought on myself.*

**Discussion 2.** When you consider the connection between holiness and suffering, what kinds of images or circumstances come to your mind? Do you think the unbelieving world sees that kind of suffering differently from how God sees it? Why or why not?

*Christ's calling is not merely to be saved, i.e., not merely to "become a Christian"; His calling on us is to follow him. Answering that calling, then, means following Him all the way to the cross. It means \_\_\_\_\_ because He suffered.*

**Discussion 3.** Do you think the American church (at large) teaches us to embrace suffering as a part of God's calling on our lives? How does the reality of a "call to suffer" change your perspective on your own life and interests?

*Suffering is not always holy, but holiness always includes suffering. Suffering that is a part of holiness is innocent, silent, intentional, purpose-driven, and completely in line with \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 4.** Given Peter's criteria for "holy suffering" (innocent, silent, intentional, purpose-driven, and aligned with God's will), are there examples you have seen? Is there suffering in your own life (either past, present, or even future) which could be a part of your journey toward holiness?

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