

Review:

**Lesson 1:** Foundations for Holiness

**Lesson 5:** Respect for Authorities

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

**Lesson 6:** Suffering Servants

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

**Lesson 7:** Submission in Marriage

**Lesson 4:** Living Stones

## Suffering: a Summary

### 1 Peter 3:8-17

*As Christ followers, learning to love our enemies begins with attitude and matters of the heart and then moves to blessing those who mock or abuse or persecute us. Blessing, not cursing. It is a \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Discussion 1. What do you think it means to “bless” your enemy? What does it look or sound like? How can we make sure we are doing it genuinely, i.e., that it is not just an outward behavior unsupported by an inner attitude?**

*Taking a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ posture with the hostile world around us is not merely a New Testament concept; it is a posture often practiced and understood by God’s people throughout scripture. Our “better angels” move us in that direction.*

**Discussion 2. What kinds of circumstances or attitudes/behaviors of others make it difficult for you to have a peaceful posture toward them? What part does prayer play in your choosing such a posture?**

*For God’s people, the reason for living Godly lives is NOT for our own comfort or blessings (though those may often follow), but so that our lives will \_\_\_\_\_ to God. This was God’s plan from the very beginning.*

**Discussion 3. If you were to start every morning determined to live that day in a way that definitively pointed people to God, what kinds of things might it change in your life? What disciplines would you add into your schedule?**

*For those following Christ, suffering is always an opportunity for holiness, if it comes because of doing good. If it comes because of doing evil, then that suffering looks common and there is nothing holy about it. We should \_\_\_\_\_ and suffer well.*

**Discussion 4. What do you have more experience with: suffering for doing good or suffering as a result of your own bad choices? Is there an example you can share?**

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