

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 **Lesson 8:** Suffering: a Summary

Suffering like Jesus 1 Peter 3:18-22

If we are following Christ even in our suffering (indeed, especially in our suffering) then our suffering should be _____ (not merely the consequences of wrongdoing on our part) and _____ (to point people toward God). For Christ followers, this is a necessary part of our journey toward holiness.

Discussion 1. When is the right time to be making sure my suffering is innocent: WHILE I am suffering or BEFORE I am suffering? What can we do to help make sure our suffering is innocent?

Jesus' suffering, i.e., his death on the cross, had some powerful spiritual ramifications lost on most observers at the time. Likewise, the suffering of Christ followers, has a certain _____ which may not be apparent in this life.

Discussion 2. Can you think of any examples of possible unseen spiritual benefits to our suffering in this life? Can you think of any possible spiritual benefits of the suffering of our persecuted brothers and sisters in other parts of the world?

Baptism as a symbolic washing away of our sins should remind us that it was Christ's _____ which made this possible for us in the first place.

Discussion 3. If you have been baptized, what do you remember feeling during it? As you watch others being baptized now, what does it make you feel? Are there particular images or other realities it brings to mind when you watch it?

While following Christ means following Him all the way to the cross, it also means following Him beyond the cross to our own resurrection and, ultimately, _____ with Him forever. It's the amazing ending to end all endings.

Discussion 4. If all authorities and powers have been subjected to Christ, why is that good news for Christ followers but horrible news for everyone else? How does this reality motivate you to follow Christ more closely?

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