

We Shall Overcome-Finding Hope in Hardship
1 Peter 2:13-25 - Endure Well!

Break the Ice!

Relive to the group your first speeding ticket or your first run-in with the law!

Read It!

(1) Read and observe 1 Peter 2:11-12.

“Keeping our behavior excellent” among the world requires that:

***Christians are to be good citizens.**

(2) What is the purpose of authorities based on v. 13? Is there any indication that the authorities should be meeting our individual needs, or rather, doing justice?

(3) Do we get to choose which leaders we submit to? (v. 13)

(4) How can we view oppression as an opportunity? (v.15, 16)

***Christians are to be good employees.**

(5) Is it commendable to receive just punishment, or unjust punishment? (v. 20)

(6) Discuss the difference between injustice and inconvenience. What should be used to gauge the difference between the two? How should our response to the two differ in the workplace or at home?

***Christians are to be good examples.**

(7) Observe verse 21. What four specific things about Jesus’ response to unjust suffering can we emulate when we must suffer injustice?

(8) Why would Jesus have done this? What was the ultimate purpose? (v. 24)

(9) What did Jesus know about his suffering and death that his persecutors did not know?

Work it out!

***Entrust yourself to God**

(10) Entrusting indicates turning over and releasing control. What situation in your life do you wish that you could release control of to God, allowing his purposes beyond your own understanding?

(11) Read this quote and discuss a time when you were able to recognize God’s divine purposes after the fact, even when they weren’t what you thought you needed/wanted earlier.

“We tend to look at circumstances of life in terms of what they may do to our cherished hopes and convenience, and we shape our decisions and reactions accordingly. When a problem threatens, we rush to God, not to seek His perspective, but to ask him to deflect the trouble. Our self-concern takes priority over whatever it is that God might be trying to do through the trouble. One of the harder lessons of life is to learn that our low-centered, sense-oriented subjectivism militates against our effective cooperation with God in His purpose for us in a given trial.” **-R. Arthur Mathews “Born for Battle”**

***Endure well**

(12) Good intentions and decisions can be deterred over time. How can v. 20 encourage us to continue? What situation in your life do you know that you need to keep enduring?