

Cell Notes

Suffering as a Christian

I Peter 4 v 12-19

The three main teaching points were:

- a) We should expect to experience suffering as a Christian.
- b) We should expect to experience hope and joy when we suffer.
- c) We should expect to pattern our lives after Christ in all our ways.

Discussion points:

1) Verse 19 talks about suffering being "God's will", what do you think or feel about this? It also says that God is "Creator God" in the same verse. What do you think is the point of this reference?

2) Is suffering just about building character in us? If not, why not?

3) Hebrews 12 has a lot to say about suffering and joy. In pairs find 3 helpful points it has to say to encourage us as we face difficulties.

4) When we face hardship, pain, suffering, shame or loss we can encounter the reality of the cross in ways we could not if life did not contain suffering. As a cell how have you/are you experiencing any of these situations at the moment?

Pray for one another to know God in increasing measure in your experiences of suffering.