

# COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

## REMEMBER TO SUFFER

Luke 22:14-23

Pastor Miles McPherson – July 22, 2012



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. Let your friends know that they can always live stream the Rock Church Sunday worship experience by visiting <http://www.sdrock.com/live/>.
3. We are currently in the process of rolling out our new Area Leader and Coach leadership team for the Community Group ministry. If you are interested in joining this team, or could use the benefits of having a Community Group Coach, please contact [john.darrow@sdrock.com](mailto:john.darrow@sdrock.com).

## MEMORY VERSE

“And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’” (Luke 22:19 ESV)

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.” (1 Peter 3:8-9 ESV)

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Use one or more of the following opening discussion starters)

1. What does suffering mean to you?
2. What does the concept of suffering do to you internally? Do you accept or reject it?



## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – REMEMBER TO SUFFER

### Sermon Review and Introduction

Suffering a part of the Christian life that is unavoidable. Whether or not we are physically suffering in another country for our faith, it is inevitable that the disciple of Christ will come face to face with the opposition. Pastor Miles discussed that our suffering may not be violent necessarily, but there has to be a giving up of ourselves for those in the body of Christ and for those outside. Many people have a bad understanding of suffering and so as we consider how we can serve one another, let us have a better understanding of suffering.

1. If necessary briefly review the lesson plan from Sunday and any extra notes you may have taken with the group.
  - Suffering is a part of God’s **plan**.
  - **Humility** in suffering purifies our heart.
  - **Grace** in suffering helps purify the hearts of others.

Add'l Notes:

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2. Examine the context of 1 Peter 3 together as a group. A few key things to consider before approaching this lesson:
  - The major issue discussed is suffering and persecution. This is done in two ways.
    1. Jesus is presented as the ultimate example of suffering and rejection (cf. 1:11; 2:21, 23; 3:18; 4:1, 13; 5:1).
    2. Jesus’ followers are called on to emulate His pattern and attitude (cf. 1:6–7; 2:19; 3:13–17; 4:1, 12–19; 5:9–10).<sup>1</sup>
  - Not only are Christians to pattern lives of suffering, but also we are to do this corporately as a church, or an entire body of Christ. The word “you” in 3:8 is in the plural, not singular, so the whole church was expected to maintain this virtuous suffering.
  - In 3:9, Peter states that we are “called” to this lifestyle. This is the progression of maturity for all believers pursuing true Christian discipleship (cf. Heb. 5:8; 1 Pet. 3:15).

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<sup>1</sup>Robert James Dr. Utey, vol. Volume 2, *The Gospel According to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter*, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2001), 209.



3. Peter mentions the word suffering multiple times in this epistle. He himself suffered for the gospel, to the point of death. How do reconcile that with your own Christian walk? Is there a recognizable level of suffering or are you avoiding suffering at all costs? Give examples.
  - Note: Physical martyrdom in the Unites States is obviously not the same as it was in 1<sup>st</sup> Century Rome. We don't expect physical suffering, but how has our heart been burdened toward those that are? How does our lifestyle, friends, associations, etc. reflect a life of "suffering" or potential "suffering?"
3. Why do you suppose the Bible is so concerned with Christian suffering as opposed to a promise of Christian thriving and prosperity?
  - Passages to consider: Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 12:26; 2 Cor. 1:5, 6, 7; Phil. 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:5; Heb. 2:9

### **Application**

Pastor Miles tied the theme of suffering in with our giving of our time to serve on Sunday's. Clearly it is a stretch from the physical suffering that occurred in the church throughout history, but the lack of giving up of ourselves and our best interests shows that any form of suffering is not very important. The following application questions should get you discussing what giving of your time on a Sunday will look like.

1. Are you giving of yourself on a Sunday or throughout the week in a ministry? Which one do you serve in?
2. What are reasons or excuses that may keep you from serving the body as a whole?
3. Is there something you as a group could do to serve together on a Sunday, such as Hospitality or Altar Call?

### **Homework**

Join a Sunday ministry today by filling out the online form at:

<https://therocksandiego.wufoo.com/forms/r7s8q5>

