



About 1 Peter

1 Peter is the first of two NT letters written by the apostle Peter. Peter, despite his denial of Jesus, later became one of the most senior leaders of the early church. According to 1 Peter 5:13, Peter is sending greetings from Babylon, which is probably a coded way of referring to Rome, where Peter ended his life.

His letter is addressed to Christians in a wide area of Asia Minor, rather than to a specific congregation. Possibly some of these were Christians from Rome, scattered due to persecution, in which case they might have known Peter. Alternatively, they may have been converted due to Paul's missionary efforts across that region, and only known Peter by reputation.

Since we don't know the precise background to the letter, the only evidence we have for the situation it addresses comes from within the letter itself. The theme of suffering and persecution strongly suggests that these Christians were under attack for their faith and lifestyle. Peter writes to encourage them through times of hardship by reminding them that suffering proves their faith, pointing to the example of Christ, and showing their future hope. His letter shows how Christ is the model for Christians: as the firstfruit of the resurrection; as the cornerstone of the house we're being built into; as the exemplar of patient, undeserved suffering and submission; as the chief shepherd of the flock.

About this Bible Study Guide

This guide is designed for use in small groups, with the questions intended to encourage discussion about the meaning of the text and its application. The discussion will work best if one person has done some preparation and leads the discussion. To assist this, there are some additional notes at the end for leaders. The notes have been prepared with the NIV Bible, and you may find it helpful to encourage everyone in the group to use this translation during the study.

1 Peter 1:1-12

1. Who is the author of the letter and how does he describe himself? What do you know about his background?

(Optional: you may like to look at some of these passages to remind yourself about Peter's history: Matthew 4:18-20, Matthew 16:13-20, Mark 14:66-72, John 21:15-19, Acts 2:38-14, Acts 11:1-18, Galatians 2:7-9.)

2. Peter addresses his letter to 'God's elect,' which simply means 'the ones God has chosen.' Who were God's elect in the Old Testament and who are God's elect now?

3. Why do you think he calls them 'strangers in the world'? What is it like being a foreigner or a stranger? How is that like being a Christian?

4. In v. 2, Peter reminds them of the things God has done for them and their response. Can you explain what it means:

- (a) to be chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father
- (b) through the sanctifying work of the Spirit
- (c) for obedience to Jesus Christ
- (d) and sprinkling by Christ's blood.

5. Is this letter for people like you? Explain why and/or why not.

6. After the greeting, Peter begins his letter with praise to God. What things does he praise God for in vv. 3-5? What do Christians have now and what are they still looking forward to?

7. Why might it be hard for the readers of the letter to praise God (vv6-9)?

8. What does Peter say is the purpose of the present sufferings and trials of Christians (v. 7)?

9. In your experience, what effect does suffering have on your faith? Can you think of examples where suffering has had a positive effect on someone's faith?

10. Is it wrong for Christians to admit to sorrow and doubts in difficult times? How can you help each other bear your struggles and still praise God?

11. Look at vv. 10-12. What was the role of the prophets in the Old Testament? Who were they ministering to? Is that what you would have expected?

12. What did the prophets predict would happen to Christ? How is Christ an encouragement to Christians who are suffering?

PRAISE GOD for the hope you have as Christians.

PRAY for anyone you know who is suffering that they will persevere in their faith and have a strong hope of heaven.

1 Peter 1:12-2:3

1. Can you summarise the way Peter has characterised the Christian life in 1:3-12? Why, therefore, should you be prepared for action (v. 13)?
2. What instructions does he give them in vv. 13-16? Why must Christians be like this?
3. What does it mean for God to be holy? What does it mean for you to be holy?
4. Why is God's judgment of our lives more important than anyone else's? What will it mean for you to live in 'reverent fear' of God?
5. In vv.18-21, Peter explains how Christians come to be strangers in the world, with a different status. What were they redeemed from and how was it achieved?
6. What is the role of God's word, or God's truth, in salvation (vv.22-25)?
7. What should be the result of accepting this truth (v.22, 2:1-2)?
8. What kinds of behaviour must be got rid of? Are any of these sins that you know you are particularly tempted to? Ask God to show you and help you to get rid of them.
9. What should you crave instead? Should Christians be satisfied to be spiritual babies? How can you get more of that 'pure spiritual milk' in our lives to help you grow?

PRAISE GOD that he has redeemed you through the precious blood of Christ.

PRAY that he will help you to be holy, to love deeply, and to grow up in your salvation.

1 Peter 2:4-10

1. Who is Peter talking about in 2:4? When was he 'rejected by men but chosen by God'?
2. Peter uses the stone imagery in several ways in this section. In v. 5, he tells his readers that they are like living stones. In what ways are Christians like living stones? What is being built from them? What sort of spiritual sacrifices can you make?
3. What more does vv. 6-7 tell you about the living stone from v. 4? What is the significance of a cornerstone and a capstone? What do these verses teach about how Christians relate to Christ?
4. Why does the stone cause some men to stumble? How can Christ be a stumbling block for some people?
5. List all the ways Peter describes Christians in vv. 9-10. Compare this with God's description of the Israelites in Exodus 19-5-6.
6. What had God rescued the Israelites from in Exodus? And what was he rescuing them for?
7. What has God rescued Christians from? And what is he rescuing them for? How should they respond?
8. Why does Peter say that his readers were not 'a people'? Remember who the letter is for (1:1)? What is the significance of them now being 'a people'?
9. Think about your church family. Peter says that we are a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. How does that affect all the things you do as a church?

PRAISE GOD that he has called you out of darkness into his wonderful light, and set Christ as your cornerstone.

PRAY that you will be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.

1 Peter 2:11-25

1. Once again, Peter calls his readers 'aliens and strangers' (2:11). They belong to the people of God now, not to the world around them. How should that affect the way that they live? What sort of responses should you expect when Christians live like that?
2. In 2:13-17, Peter addresses the question of authority. Why should Christians submit to secular authorities?
3. For Peter's readers, the secular authorities were the king and governors. What equivalent authorities should Christians submit to today? Does it make any difference that we live in a democracy and if so, how?
4. Why is it so hard to submit to authority? What attitudes do you need to repent of?
5. Peter also says that Christians should 'show proper respect to everyone'. What does that mean in practice? Is it different with different people or in different situations?
6. In 2:18-25, Peter addresses Christian slaves. What status did slaves have in the first century? In what ways is the relationship between an employer and employees like that between a master and slaves, and in what ways is it different?
7. In what circumstances should slaves submit to their masters? Why? Why doesn't it matter whether the master is fair or harsh? Look back at 1:17. Whose judgment matters?
8. How is Christ's suffering an example for Christians being treated unfairly (vv.21-25)?
9. What else did Christ's suffering achieve? How is that an encouragement to Christians who are suffering?
10. Think about the ways in which people respond to injustice and suffering. How can Christians be distinctive in their response to difficult situations? When and how ought Christians to speak out against injustice? When should we accept the unjust suffering, as Christ did?

PRAISE GOD for his justice which sees all things and will judge all men justly.

PRAY that you will live a good life, obey the authorities, respect everyone, and that when you face injustice, you will be able to follow Christ's example of suffering.

**In the Roman Empire, slaves could hold highly skilled positions, have families and even sometimes own property. At various times, they had certain legal protections from their owners, and under Roman law, it was possible for a freed slave to become a citizen. Slaves did not have the same freedoms and rights as free men, and doubtless some slaves were treated harshly, but they were not normally subject to the kinds of abuse that were commonplace in the more recent slave trade in America and the Caribbean.*

1 Peter 3:1-7

1. Look back at 1 Peter 2:21-25. Who did Jesus submit to and what was his attitude as he submitted? What did his submission achieve?
2. Peter says that *in the same way*, wives should submit to their husbands, even if their husbands are not believers. What attitude should Christian women have in this situation? What is the goal of being a Christian wife?
3. Based on these verses, what advice would you give to a woman in your church whose husband is not a Christian about the best way for her to show Christ to him?
4. Why do you think Peter specifically talks about women's appearance here? What is he warning women against? In what ways is it appropriate for Christian women to care about their appearance, if at all?
5. How should a Christian woman seek to become beautiful? Can you imagine what a woman with a gentle and quiet spirit would be like? What is beautiful about such a person?
6. Think about the young girls and teenagers in your church family. How can we encourage them to seek this sort of beauty, rather than focus on their outward appearance?
7. How was Sarah obedient to Abraham? You may like to read Genesis 12:10-20 to help you think about this.
8. What particular temptations might make women 'give way to fear'? How can you stand firm against these?
9. What instructions does Peter have for husbands? In what ways is it right to think of wives as 'weaker partners' and in what ways is that not true?
10. What is the goal of being a Christian husband?
11. How can Christian couples work together to achieve the goals Peter sets out for them?

PRAISE GOD for the example of Jesus, patiently submitting even when his suffering was unjust. Praise him for the many faithful Christian husbands and wives in our congregation.

PRAY for the Christians in your church who are married to unbelievers. Pray for purity and gentleness as they seek to show Christ in their lives.

PRAY for the married couples in your church, that they will encourage each other in godliness and prayer.

1 Peter 3:8-22

1. In 1 Peter 2:13, Peter urged his readers to submit themselves to every human authority for the Lord's sake. Think back over the last two studies. What attitudes and actions has that submission involved?
2. How should those attitudes be seen in every area of life (3:8-9)?
3. Can you think of circumstances where you would be tempted to repay evil with evil, or insult with insult? How could you respond with blessing instead?
4. Why does our behaviour matter, as Christians (3:10-12)?
5. If you are careful not to sin, will that mean you can avoid suffering?
6. How do Christians in our world sometimes suffer for doing what is right? What should our response be when that happens?
7. What are the two ways that unbelievers might respond to Christians (3:15-16)?
8. How can you be prepared to answer those who ask you to give a reason for your hope? Are there practical steps you need to take to be better prepared?
9. Why is it essential for Christians to be seen to live good lives (3:16-17)?
10. Again, Peter reminds his readers about Christ's suffering. How is his suffering an example for Christians?
11. Christ's suffering is more than an example. What else did Christ's suffering accomplish?
12. What did God achieve through Noah's ark (3:20-22)? How is this like baptism? On what basis does baptism bring about salvation (v. 21)?

PRAISE GOD that Christ died for us, to bring us into relationship with him.

PRAY that we would be able and ready to explain that when people ask us about our faith. Pray that we will live such good lives that others will see Christ in us.

1 Peter 4:1-11

1. What are the differences between a group of Christians (the church) and a group of non-Christians? How could you tell which is which?

2. In 4:1-6, Peter points out several differences between Christians and non-Christians.

What's different about their motivation?

What's different about their behaviour?

What's different about the end result?

2. What will happen when non-Christians see how differently Christians live? Have you had experiences that illustrate this?

3. What attitude should Christians adopt which would help you respond to this (v.1)?

4. What's the problem with going on living the way that the pagans (non-Christians) do (v.5)?

5. We know that one day Christ will return and everyone will be judged. What impact should that have on you (vv. 7-11)?

6. What does it mean for love to cover over sins? How can you show that kind of love to each other in your church family?

7. What is the purpose for which God gives gifts to Christians? What gifts does Peter mention here and how can they be used for this purpose?

8. Think about the gifts God has given you. How can you use them to serve others? If you're not sure what gifts God has given you, try talking to a friend at church – they might be able to see them more clearly than you can!

PRAISE GOD that the injustice we see in our world will one day be judged and justice done.

PRAY that we would live distinctively Christian lives in the world and that we will love and serve each other wholeheartedly.

1 Peter 4:12-19

1. Why shouldn't Christians be surprised when we face struggles and suffering?
2. What does suffering test (v. 12)? Look back at 1 Peter 1:6-7 to help you answer this.
3. In what respect can Christians rejoice in their suffering (v. 13)? Do you think Peter is saying that Christians ought not to feel any pain, anger or distress at things which happen to them? How can you rejoice even while we are in pain, anger or distress?
4. What encouragement do these verses have for Christians who are suffering because of their faith?
5. Why and how must Christians take care not to bring suffering on themselves (v. 15)?
6. Sometimes it feels as though people who oppose Christ get everything they want while Christians suffer. Can you think of examples of this in your own experience or elsewhere in the world? What does Peter have to say about the outcome for those people (v.17-18)?
7. What must Christians do when they suffer (v. 19)? Why do we particularly need reminding to do good when we're suffering?
8. Think about everything that Peter has said so far in the letter about the Christian life. What warnings and advice would you give to a young person just starting out as a Christian? What would you tell them to hope for and expect?
9. Are there struggles and difficulties in your own life at the moment? How do they make you feel? Can you see how to apply what Peter says to those situations?

PRAISE GOD that he is your faithful creator who cares for his household.

PRAY, committing yourself to him and asking that he will help you continue to do good even when you face suffering.

1 Peter 5:1-14

In this section, Peter returns to his theme of submitting to authorities, but this time in the context of the church.

1. Who are the 'elders' Peter is addressing in this part of the letter? How else does he describe them in vv. 1-4? What was their responsibility?
2. What are the particular temptations that church leaders face (vv. 2-4)? What would be the effect on their congregations if leaders behaved like this?
3. What attitudes ought church leaders to have instead? How should those be put into practice?
4. Who is ultimately responsible for the church? How is that an encouragement and a warning to the elders who are his under-shepherds?
5. What ought to be your attitude to our church leaders? What will that mean in practice?
6. Why do we all need to clothe ourselves in humility towards each other? Ask God to show you where you are proud and need to be more humble.
7. What things make you anxious? What should we do when we feel anxious?
8. What must Christians be alert for? How can you resist him?
9. What is the hope that you have to sustain you through a hard life (v10-11)?
10. Can you try to summarise the message of Peter's letter in a few sentences. You could complete the following to help you:

Christians are:

Christian life is:

When you suffer:

Our hope is:

11. Think of one or two things which have been important or challenging to you as you have studied 1 Peter. Make those into prayers for yourself, the church, or the world.

PRAISE GOD who called us to eternal glory and who will restore us after our suffering.

PRAY for strength to stand fast against sinful people, the suffering of the world, and the temptations of the devil.

Leaders' notes

1 Peter 1:1-12

1. You should look at the optional passages in advance of the study and be prepared to remind the group of some of the most significant moments in Peter's life. Decide whether you want the group to look up any of the passages – you could assign passages to pairs to look up and report back, perhaps. Don't let this take up too much time, though.
2. God's elect = his chosen people. The Jews were accustomed to thinking of themselves as the elect, but the NT makes it clear that the elect includes both Jews and Gentiles (see Romans 9:6-16).
3. Think about where 'home' is for Christians. Christians are living in a 'foreign' culture with different expectations, goals and ethical views.
4. God knows in advance who he will choose to save; God makes his chosen people holy through the Spirit; so that we can be obedient; so that we can be forgiven (see Exodus 24 and Hebrews 9:13-14). Try to explain all of these in your own words.
5. Get the group to discuss their similarities to the original readers (their status as Christians) and differences (culture).
6. List all the things Peter mentions. Ask the group to explain what they mean – what is our new birth? What is a living hope? etc.
7. Because they are suffering all kinds of trials
8. Think about how suffering proves that faith is genuine. What would happen to false faith in a time of suffering?
9. You might like to think of some famous examples – Corrie ten Boon, Joni etc. as well as examples from your own experience.
10. Peter isn't saying that Christians should pretend never to be afraid or never to have doubts. Think about how we should deal with these.
11. Even the OT is written for our benefit!
12. Suffering leads to glory. This is the pattern of Christ and it will be the pattern for Christians.

1 Peter 1:12-2:3

1. Suffering leading to glory. We need to be prepared to face the trials which will inevitably come.
2. Be alert, hopeful, and obedient. God's holiness is the motivation for our holiness.
3. Think about images of God's holiness – the consuming fire, the holy of holies in the temple. All-consuming goodness that can't have sin in its presence. Our holiness needs to be ruthless rejection of sin in all areas of our lives.
4. Think about the consequences of God's judgment. Does it really matter what other people think of you? Get the group to consider their own attitude to God and his judgment.
5. Redeemed from 'the empty way of life' by 'the precious blood of Christ'. You might want the group to expand more on what this entailed.
6. It brings new birth, it brings purity through obedience, and love for each other.
7. Love, changed lives, maturity. You might want to get the group to talk about how the word of God achieves these things.
8. Note that the things Peter mentions are all verbal sins.
9. Ask the group to think about their attitude to the word. Do they crave it? How do they feel about sermons/bible study/personal bible reading? Ask for suggestions of ways they could recapture their love for the word.

1 Peter 2:4-10

1. Christ, of course. Think about the ways in which he was rejected by men – by the Jewish leaders, by his own disciples, by the Roman authorities. How was he chosen by God *in these same events*?
2. We're being built into a spiritual house – a place where God dwells among his people. Like stones, we can't do it individually, it is a corporate act.
3. That he's chosen and precious to God, that he's trustworthy, that he's become the most important stone, that he causes some to fall. We can rely on him, we're part of the same building he established.
4. Because they don't believe. Christ is the stone by which we stumble or are saved.
5. Holy nation, royal priesthood, chosen possession; treasured possession, kingdom of priests, holy nation. God's people in the NT are given the same status as his people in the OT.
6. Rescued from slavery, rescued for worship and obedience to God.
7. Rescued from darkness; rescued for mercy and to become a people. Same response of worship and obedience.
8. Scattered exiles from, presumably, multiple races and ethnicities. Becoming a people = God uniting people across all kinds of divisions, and specifically uniting Gentile Christians with Jewish ones.
9. You could think about all kinds of things here – is God at the heart of everything you do as a church? Is your church a holy people, distinctive from the world? Are you a priesthood of all believers or is there a wrong sort of hierarchy in the leadership of your church? Think about what's most relevant for your church and your small group.

1 Peter 2:11-25

1. Christians shouldn't expect to be like everyone else. Should expect that to provoke a response, which might well be negative, scornful, derogatory or worse.
2. Because they are in authority – it doesn't do any good for the gospel if Christians are law-breakers.
3. This is a complicated question! Think about different levels of government and the legal system – judges, policemen, traffic wardens... But you might also want to think about other kinds of authority – teachers, employers, parents.
4. Sin! Because we want independence and control.
5. Think of some specific situations to illustrate what respect looks like. How can you respect someone you disagree with? Someone of another religion?
6. Look carefully at the footnote. People's idea of slavery may be quite different from the situation Peter's talking about. Try to correct any wrong ideas before discussing the question. There are parallels with employment but it's not quite the same – employees are free to leave and look for other work, they can ask for pay rises, they have recourse against harassment and bullying etc.
7. This is quite hard for some people to accept but Pete thinks slaves should submit even when they are treated unjustly. This is because they can trust God to exercise justice. Peter isn't suggesting that it's okay for masters to treat slaves badly. The application to today needs to be carefully nuanced since we do have greater rights and freedoms than slaves. Nevertheless, we don't always have to insist on our rights. And in all cases we should make sure that we haven't done anything to deserve harsh treatment.
8. No retaliation, no protest. Trusted himself to God who judges justly.
9. He achieved our healing and salvation and set the pattern of suffering leading to glory. So as Christians we always have a great future to look forward to (remember chapter 1) and we know that justice will eventually be done.
10. Try to think of specific examples which would help discuss how we can put this into practice.

1 Peter 3:1-7

1. He submitted to those who killed him. Patiently, without retaliation or threats. He trusted himself to God. It achieved our salvation and his glory.

2. Submit patiently, not seeking retaliation for injustice, not making threats, trusting God to see justice done. Don't stand on your rights. Do whatever will help to win him for Christ.

3. By living according to the pattern Christ set – showing love, bearing with his faults, being above reproach with respect to sexual purity. Not by preaching at him.

4. Because women's appearance could be used to win a man over! A wife should want to be attractive to her husband in the way that she lives her life, but not by dressing seductively. Outward appearance should reflect inner beauty.

5. Focus on the interior, not the exterior. Gentle – kind, patient, careful of others. Quiet – peaceful, content, not anxious. Maybe the group could think of some women in your church who exemplify this kind of beauty.

6. This is hard! Think about the kind of messages that women constantly get from the media, from their friends etc. How can the church try to counter this? What examples are the younger women and girls in your church seeing from the older women?

7. Hah! At several points in Genesis, Sarah was not exactly obedient. But she did leave her home to go with Abraham and in Egypt she did as Abraham said in pretending to be his sister.

8. Fear of what others think. This is tied up with all kinds of body image issues for women as they think about their appearance.

9. Be considerate, respect them, and count them as an equal heir of eternal life. Wives may be weaker physically and more vulnerable emotionally. They are not weaker in their faith, or in other ways.

10. To put your relationship with God first – for you and your wife.

11. Talk about practical ways – helping each other find time to pray, encouraging each other to go to bible studies, or to be at church. Maybe taking it in turns to look after the baby during the sermon etc.

1 Peter 3:8-22

1. Enduring suffering, even when it's unjust. Not standing on our rights. Trusting God to do justice eventually.
2. Love, compassion, not seeking retaliation.
3. Think of specific examples – perhaps some quite little and others more serious.
4. Because God sees and the consequences are serious..
5. No. Even if you suffer for what is right you are blessed...
6. Think of examples especially from countries where Christians are currently being persecuted. We need to pray that they won't be frightened, that they will stand firm, that God would act justly.
7. Asking about your faith; speaking malicious slander against you.
8. Know and understand the gospel; think about common kinds of questions. Suggest simple gospel outlines or useful books. Also encourage people to memorise key bible verses that would help.
9. So that those who speak against us can be proved wrong.
10. Christ is an example of suffering for doing good.
11. Reconciliation with God.
12. He saved Noah and his family through water. Baptism likewise brings salvation through water, on the basis of Christ's resurrection from the dead. Although baptism is a symbol of washing, it's also a symbol of rising from death to life (full immersion baptism shows this more plainly). Because of Christ's resurrection, we too are saved from death to life.

1 Peter 4:1-11

1. Think about what kinds of people might be in both groups, what they're doing, how they behave.
2. What's different about their motivation?
 - Christ's attitude, done with sin, want to do God's willWhat's different about their behaviour?
 - not living in debauchery etc.What's different about the end result?
 - judgment between life and death
2. Surprise and abuse. Get the group to think about times they've experienced these reactions for things that they do (e.g. go to church) or don't do (e.g. get drunk, sleep around)
3. Christ's attitude – being more concerned with God's justice than other people's opinions.
4. We'll have to give account to God.
5. Think about this both positively and negatively. What should it stop us doing? What should it encourage us to do? Christians don't need to be afraid of judgment but nevertheless we should be longing for God's approval.
6. Not keeping scores, not holding grudges, being quick to forgive, quick to put mistakes right. You might want to get the group to think of specific situations in the church where this doesn't always happen and to see how they can show love in those situations.
7. Gifts are to serve others.
8. Maybe do this exercise within the group – get people to think about their own gifts, and then to list each other's gifts.

1 Peter 4:12-19

1. Because Christ suffered, setting an example for us.
2. The genuineness of our faith.
3. Rejoice because – it shows our faith is real, that God has included us in the same experiences Christ had, it makes us look forward to heaven even more. We can rejoice that suffering helps us to know these things even when we're in pain, anger or distress.
4. His glory will be revealed; we're blessed with the Spirit; we bear the name of Christ.
5. There's no glory for God if we suffer because we've done wrong.
6. Think of some examples of opponents of Christ succeeding – perhaps in getting changes to the law in this country, or persecuting Christians in other countries. But remember that they will be judged and salvation is not universal.
7. Commit ourselves to God and doing good. Suffering can make us selfish – need to be reminded that it's not an excuse for sin.
8. Don't expect living as a Christian to protect you from the hard things in life. Do keep trusting God, and keep looking forward to the reward in heaven. Do expect to follow Christ's model of suffering leading to glory.
9. Get the group to spend some time thinking about how this applies to their lives at the moment.

1 Peter 5:1-14

In this section, Peter returns to his theme of submitting to authorities, but this time in the context of the church.

1. Church leaders – probably the older men in the church. Shepherds over the flock. Responsible for caring for and serving the church.
2. To serve unwillingly, for their own gain, for personal glory. Churches would become resentful, places where people are seeking their own power and gain.
3. Working willingly, eager to serve, being an example. Not above doing the dirty jobs, the things no one sees, taking time for the least important members of the church, etc.
4. Christ, the chief shepherd. Can trust him for the task. But also know that he will judge those who harm his flock.
5. Submit to them. Don't gossip, undermine or badmouth them. Offer to serve in the ways they ask and don't insist on your rights to do other things.
6. Because God favours the humble. Because we're all tempted to be proud. You may need to think of some examples to help people understand pride and humility.
7. Lack of control is the root of anxiety. Pray and trust.
8. The devil. Resist him – don't move from your faith in the gospel, remember the example of all those who are also standing firm against opposition.
9. That God will restore us, strong, firm and steadfast. Suffering is only 'for a little while'.
10. There are lots of ways to complete this. You should fill in your own. Here are some suggestions:

Christians are: *chosen by God, saved by Christ, redeemed by Christ's blood, reconciled to God*

Christian life is: *one of suffering and trials, characterised by submission, holiness, love and humility*

When you suffer: *endure it patiently like Christ; trust God to do justice; remember it's only for a little while*

Our hope is: *certain because of Christ's resurrection; glorious restoration.*

11. Get the group to write these down. Maybe pick one verse that you all want to remember. Turn your thoughts into prayers and praise to God.