



## Resilient Faith: A Study of 1 Peter

### Group Guide | March 29

Open with prayer (5 minutes).

Reflect (10 minutes).

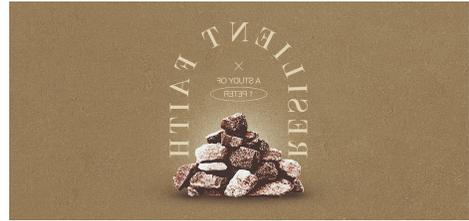
We've come to the end of the Resilient Faith sermon series on 1 Peter. Glance over the five chapters of 1 Peter. Invite the Holy Spirit to bring to mind things He's shown you over our time in this letter. How has your faith grown more resilient?

*Provide a few minutes for people to reflect, then ask them to share what they've noticed.*

As this study draws to a close, let's ask God for hearts and minds that desire to be formed by His Word. *Pray.*

**Read 1 Peter 5:6-14 and then discuss the sermon (30 minutes).**

- Emerson opened his sermon by sharing platitudes people tend to share during hard times such as "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Why is it so hard to know what to do or say when someone is suffering?
- Emerson shared how Peter reminds us that amidst all the suffering we have God's mighty hand. How does Peter's reminder that God is both mighty and caring (verses 6-7) help us "cast our anxiety" on God?
- Typically, how able are you to cast your anxiety on God? Can you talk about a specific time you have done so?
- What role does our humility play in our ability to cast our anxiety on God?
- Next Emerson explored Peter's description of the enemy who prowls like a roaring lion. Where have you noticed the enemy attacking God, the church, your community, your family, or you?



Emerson described the “collective vigilance” of herd animals such as wildebeests who form massive herds to keep an eye out for one another, putting their most vulnerable members in the middle.

- How can being alert and sober minded help us maintain the collective vigilance Peter commands? What would that look like in our life group?

Emerson’s third point was that above all the suffering is God’s grace and glory. He reflected on how Peter had heard from Jesus himself that Jesus must leave to prepare a place for us (John 14:3) where His full glory will be revealed. The promise for those who persevere and endure – for those who have *resilient faith* – is entrance into beholding the eternal glory of Christ. To be restored and made strong, firm, and steadfast.

- How do you respond to Peter calling the life of suffering on earth “a little while”? How can this perspective help build resilient faith?

Emerson shared the story of a couple who had experienced two miscarriages and the different responses they had to each. The anger, confusion, loneliness, and bitterness of the first one that they handled “on their own” contrasted with the very different experience they had when they placed themselves under and in God’s hands.

- What stood out to you from that story? What can you carry with you from it?
- What is one truth about walking faithfully through suffering that you want to cling to from this passage?

**If applicable, reflect on the 90-Day Bible Reading Plan (10 minutes)**

- What was your time reading the New Testament and Psalms like for you this week?
- What is something you learned?
- What stood out or challenged you from God’s Word?
- What do you notice about how your faith has grown as you reflect over the last few months of this Scripture journey?



### **Finish with prayer (10 minutes).**

Let's pray a prayer of reflection and thanks using words from the book of 1 Peter. Take a moment to look through our reading from tonight or the entire book and find a verse you'd like to pray. For example, you could choose 1 Peter 1:3 and pray, "God, thank you for giving us a new birth into a living hope."

Feel free to pray more than one verse. We can take our time as you look back over the passages and remember where God has encouraged you, challenged you, taught you, or strengthened you.

*When you sense that prayer time has drawn to a close, read 1 Peter 5:10-11 as a final benediction and blessing:*

"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen."