



## **1 Peter 4:12-16**

### **Suffering for Being a Christian**

12Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

16However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

**LIFE Community Leader's Guide**  
**Sunday, March 4**

**Big Idea:** You should stand in the face of persecution, no matter where you face it, for two reasons

**Key Verse:** 1 Peter 4:13 "...rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ..."

**Opening Question:**

What is the most significant thing that happened to you this week?

**Study/Discussion Questions:**

Read through the passage together

**Observation Questions**

1. What are some of the verbs suggesting a response to suffering in the passage?
2. How should we not suffer?
3. How should we suffer if our suffering is the result of our faith?
4. Where does the word Christian come from?

**Interpretation Questions**

1. What does "joy" mean in this passage?
2. Where does this joy come from?
3. What "glory" is being referred to in this passage?
4. What impact does displaying glory have on the world?

**Application Questions**

Bryan highlighted two reasons for persecution in the life of the Christian

1. Persecution allows us to know Christ more deeply. How has this been true in your life? What did you learn from the missionaries this week about how persecution helped them discover this?
2. Persecution allows us to show Christ more clearly. How has this been true in your life? What did you learn from the missionaries this week about how persecution helped them discover this?
3. What will you do differently in your life knowing that persecution and these results may come?

Pray together as a group for each other and then pray for those missionaries you encountered this week.