



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for November 15, 2009**  
**Released on Wednesday, November 11, 2009**

**"A Suffering People"**

**Lesson Text:** 1 Peter 4:12-19

**Background Scripture:** 1 Peter 4:1-19

**Memory Verse:** "Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19).

**1 Peter 4:12-19**

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that living for God is best, even if others make fun of them or hurt them because they love Jesus.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Sometimes Christians are treated badly just because they believe in Jesus.
2. If we are treated badly, God will be with us and will help us.
3. We can trust God to keep our spirits safe in Him forever no matter what happens to us.

**PLANNING LESSON AIDS:**

For Helping to Remember, bring evangelistic tracts, half sheets of construction paper, and markers.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student to review the keywords from the lesson text.

**TEACHER'S NOTES:**

Time: A.D. 63

Place: from "Babylon" (most likely Rome)

The Apostle Peter reminded his dear friends that Jesus suffered for them so that they could be forgiven. Believers express their appreciation by living for God, which makes them different from others and brings on persecution. Unbelievers do not like being reminded that their way of living is ungodly and wrong; so they attack those whose lives provide such a reminder.

Believers should not be surprised at this. Persecution proves their faith. It makes them better Christians and better witnesses of God's grace. God will reward them in heaven and also in this life. He will make them rejoice that they are participating in Christ's suffering (cf. Matt. 5:11-12; Acts 5:41; 16:22-25).

On the other hand, no believer should be in the place of suffering because he has done wrong (cf. Rom. 6:1; 1 Peter 4:1-3). Though Jesus has rescued us from punishment in hell, God does not excuse willful sin.

If we suffer as Christians, we will bring praise and honor to God. Suffering makes us stronger in our faith. It is God's will, it has limits in both duration and intensity, and we are not alone. We can therefore turn over our souls for safekeeping to the one who created us and remains faithful to us through eternity.

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Jolene hung up her coat and went into the kitchen, where her mother was fixing supper.

"Hi, Jolene. How was school today?" her mother asked.

"It was OK, but I get awfully tired of Lenora calling me names like 'Miss Sunday School' or 'Jesus Freak.' Sometimes she hides my books or pencils just to see whether she can make me angry."

"I think Lenora is testing you to see whether you will stay true to Jesus or be a hypocrite."

"I think you are right, Mom, but sometimes she is just plain mean."

Jolene's mother sat down across the table from her. "Keep doing right and trusting God to take care of you in times like that. He is your Creator, and He cares deeply for you. He will stick with you and even show you how to be happy. Perhaps Lenora will see God at work in your life and trust in Jesus to save her from her sins."

"Then she would be my friend!" Jolene exclaimed. "I am going to show her God's love."

Today's lesson assures us that God takes care of people who are mistreated for being Christians.

**TELLING THE LESSON:**

In his first letter, the Apostle Peter told his readers that Jesus suffered for us on a cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins. Now we should show our love for God by living for Him. When we live for God, we become different from people who have not trusted in Him, and that often causes trouble. Unsaved people may excuse their sinful behavior, and they may wonder why saved people do not do the same things they do.

Peter wrote that we should not be surprised when people treat us the same way unbelievers treated Jesus. When believers are treated badly, their faith is being tested. If the believers continue living for God and do not sin, they will pass the test and their faith will grow stronger. They will show that God has changed them and made them like Himself. God will reward them in heaven.

If people insult or hurt believers because of their faith in Jesus, God's Spirit will help them. God will make them happy as they live for Him, and they will not mind suffering for Jesus.

On the other hand, no believer should ever be suffering because he or she did something wrong. We who trust in Jesus should never break the law or even do things that bother others. If we do those things, we deserve to suffer. Even though Jesus has rescued us from punishment in hell, God does not excuse our sin; He will not keep us from being sent to jail if that is what we deserve.

If we patiently suffer just because we are Christians, however, we will bring honor and praise to God. God sometimes allows unbelievers to treat us badly because that helps us become stronger in our faith. Trust God to keep you, and He will never fail you.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

If someone criticizes you for your faith in Jesus, it is because he or she criticizes Jesus. It is not your fault. Try to be like Jesus to that person. Be kind and forgiving, and tell him or her how to accept Jesus as Saviour. This will bring praise to God, and He will reward you now and in heaven. Keep serving Him.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Give each child a half sheet of construction paper, and have him fold it in half. On the front, the children can write "God Loves You" and draw borders or pictures. Give each child an evangelistic tract to carry inside his folder. With a parent's, or guardian's permission, tell them to give this paper to someone; it will show that person how to trust in Jesus.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:**

"Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19).

It is the will of God that believers suffer for Him. Suffering for God brings praise to Him and makes us love Him more deeply. We must continue to do good, and we must continue to trust God to take care of us. Because He is our "faithful Creator," He loves us and has the power to see us through all tests of our faith.

### **CONCLUSION:**

There is always a possibility of suffering for the Lord. Peter taught that if that happens, it should not be considered a strange thing. The thoughts we should take home from our lesson is that we all will face suffering for our faith at some time. We must rejoice and remember our commitment to Christ, who has promised to stand with us through those hard times.

Jesus knows what it is like to be hurt. After all, He went through a lot of suffering Himself! He experienced suffering firsthand and understands fully when we suffer. He loves us so much that He wants to help us when we are hurting and when we suffer.

**PRAYER:**

Father God, we know that living for You is best, even when others mistreat us. We thank You and trust You to keep us safe no matter what we may face. Help us to praise and honor You even when we are treated badly, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "A Faithful People." As believers, we should be kind, loving and helpful to others, just as Jesus was. Study 2 Peter 1:3-15.

**LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:**

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books

**WORD SEARCH**

**"A Suffering People" (1 Peter 4:12-19)**

**Find the following keywords from the lesson text.**

TRIAL

JUDGMENT

SCARCELY

CHRISTIAN

REJOICE

FAITHFUL

PEOPLE

SUFFERING

SOULS

COMMIT

OBEY

CREATOR

GLORIFIED

RIGHTEOUS

HAPPY

GOSPEL

J G O I R G T N E M G D U J C O M M I T O A I  
S B C R E A T O R M M Y F G L I R S R R A T E  
I T E L Y H I I I Y S M L I L I E S O O R P G  
F A P N C M E F P S I G O A S O E C R B P S P  
I N N N G I G F O P I H P R I E R E R E A G I  
A G G R I G H T E O U S Y O R R J I T Y G G G  
G H T A P G S S L L G E Y A A O T E F T R E J  
G S C M A H L A J E E N O P I R H Y F I G E H  
S D H U P U U U B R P I S C P I N L I R E N L  
C U S T A I O D H A E S E N I A A E O I M D J  
O T N U P N S G R E I R O T R E H C O R F E R  
I L O H N A I T S I R H C G N E L R T E T N I  
F L F P U S U F F E R I N G P R H A O E C I A  
T P E O P L E L U F H T I A F G I C O H S F C  
S C T N P I U G Y I R T R U P C S S U T R G S  
F Y F A R S G O N I P T I O O Y S E H E F I G

**SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH**  
**"A Suffering People" (1 Peter 4:12-19)**

T N E M G D U J C O M M I T  
C R E A T O R G  
L L O  
A O R B  
I R E E  
R I G H T E O U S R J I Y  
S L Y O T F  
L E P I Y I  
U P C P L E  
O S E A E D  
S O H C  
N A I T S I R H C G R  
S U F F E R I N G A  
P E O P L E L U F H T I A F C  
S