



**WEST HIGHLAND**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# Facilitators' Guide for Community Groups

Strangers & Exiles:  
Entrusting Ourselves to Our Faithful Creator  
1 Peter 4:12-19

February 9

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## **1. Welcome (an ice-breaker discussion to get everyone comfortable with sharing):**

There are some people who were born, raised and still live in Hamilton. Others have lived in multiple locations across the province or nation, and even other nations. Share your 'place' or 'places' number and locations. How many homes have you lived in?

## **2. Worship (to draw our hearts to the Lord and invite Him into our discussion):**

We can trust God as our faithful Creator at all times – he is our firm foundation as we build our lives upon Him! Sing together "Build My Life" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4\\_8\\_zCBE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZW4_8_zCBE)

Dozens of other worship songs are also available at [www.westhighland.org/smallgroupsongs](http://www.westhighland.org/smallgroupsongs).

## **3. Word (to consider how the sermon applies to our lives, and to live out the "one anothers"):**

**Read together:** 1 Peter 4:12-19

### **Sermon Summary**

Suffering is not a surprise, but part of God's refining work. Peter calls us to rejoice in trials, knowing they unite us with Christ and point to future glory. While the world may reject us, we must trust our faithful Creator, who uses suffering for our good. So, even in hardship, we persevere in doing good, confident in His sovereign care.

### **Sermon Questions**

1. Why does Peter say we shouldn't be surprised by suffering?
2. What does it mean to rejoice in suffering?
3. How does understanding the difference in judgment for believers and unbelievers challenge us to share the gospel?
4. What does it mean to trust God as our "faithful Creator"?
5. How can we continue to do good even when we face suffering?

#### **4. Witness (joining Jesus in his mission):**

Prayer for the nations: The recent decision by the US Government to freeze all US AID contracts has put many people across the world out of work, immediately. Many of them do not live in places with social safety nets, so have no source of income and unemployment in their locations is extremely high, so little hope of a new job, at least quickly. Many others depend on the medical treatments and food supplies that were connected to these donor programs. This literally means a death sentence for some without access to this care. We, and others, of course are facing economic uncertainty with other policies instituted or pending, creating anxiety levels to increase. There is much to pray for in our world in this regard, along with those who remain in contexts of war and displacement and the fear of violence, as well as those dealing with nature disasters. Partner with God's purposes for our broken world through your prayers!