

**Beacon Church — from Sunday 12 February 2017**  
**LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS**

**A few notes from Sunday to help with discussion**

Reading 1 Peter 1 1-7

Trials and suffering are never easy (by definition!) but they can be useful. Can you remember or think of some of the good results that can be imagined?

Peter (and James) said that we should rejoice despite, and even because of, our suffering. Is this just foolish talk?

Look back at the first few verses and see the context - does this, and what we are told later about the result of our suffering, help us to make sense of this strange saying?

Meditate on the fact that you are chosen and loved by God - even from before the foundation of the world - and nothing can ever separate you from His love.

See also Eph 1:3-5 & Romans 8:33-39 - read and absorb these wonderful truths!

Remember that we must keep in mind the bigger picture if we are to stay strong through our trials - so remind yourselves of what the bigger picture is that the Bible describes.

What is the hope that we have and what is significant that this hope is living?

One problem that Adriaan mentioned is that we lack capacity and perspective and that is why we can struggle to see any justifiable reason for our sufferings. (Recall illustration of the dog with the lead going round the gate post.) How can we learn to deal with this?

What purpose do our sufferings have according to Peter (and James in James 1)? Read what they say and discuss what they mean.

What does sanctification mean? Can you see how it used in this passage?

Does the fact that trials and sufferings are used for our good mean that we should not pray for deliverance from them?

What are some of the things that you are going through at the moment? Share with each other, pray with and encourage each other.

Adriaan van den Broek