

# PERSEVERE WITH PETER

## LIFE GROUP MATERIAL

Meeting **THEME: Why we must get in trouble**

**Prepare** yourself. Pray for your Life Group's meeting. Read I Peter 4 : 12 - 19

**20.00 – 20.10 Start** Have you ever felt angry with God or confused about the way He led things in your life or in the lives of those around you? If so, can you tell a bit more about it?

**20.10 – 20.15 Pray.** Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and build you up when you listen to God's Word

**20.15 – 20.40 Bible passage:** Read I Peter 4 : 12 - 19

### Look again at 4:12-14

It is obvious that this passage makes sense for Christians suffering because of their faith. But what if you are not suffering for your faith? Then this passage is still meaningful! 1) Because it helps you prepare for such situations – you may face them in the future (II Tim. 3:12). And when you suffer in general, in your suffering, there can also be the questions like: why does your loving God allow this to happen – and in such questions we also feel some pain and suffering because of our faith.

- What, according to Peter, should our response on a fiery trial not be?
- And what should it be?
- What is the reason that our response should not be thus, but should be that?

### Look again at 4:15-16

We can suffer as a consequence of our own wrong choices. Peter's aim here is not only to say that you should avoid that, because then you have deserved it. His aim is also that the church should be known as a fellowship that, though it suffers, has done nothing wrong.

- When you are accused, you can feel ashamed. It can feel as if you have done something completely wrong. Have you ever experienced that?
- How, according to Peter, should we actively respond to suffering as Christians?

### Look again at 4:17-19

To say that you trust and love God might be easier in the sunny times of life, rather than when you suffer. 'Judgement begins at the household of God' – this means: God puts his household, his fellowship to the test, to see what they do when they are under pressure. So that he can see what is really in our hearts.

- Should we be worried about this?
- What – according to Peter – is a right response to suffering as a Christian?

### 20.40 – 20.50 Digging deeper

Take some moments to think of a situation that is hard for you. Does this passage help you to look at it and to respond to it in a different way than you were inclined to? Take some moments of silence and if something comes to your mind, share it.

**20.50 – 21.00 End** the Life Group meeting with praying together.