



## Questions for Further Study

4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

1 Peter 3:8-22

Suffering for God

1. Have you ever suffered persecution or difficulties because of your faith? If yes, how did you deal with it?
2. Did you know that Christians are the most persecuted group of people in the world both in geographical spread and severity? How does this make you feel? What steps can we take to support the part of our family that is suffering the most? (You may like to visit <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/> for ideas.)
3. Peter first urges Christians to live a good life. (v8-13) Why is this important? One of the main areas Peter looks at is our tongue. Read James 3:5-10. Give examples of how words have either hurt you or lifted you up. How can we ensure that our words (*in speech, email, text, social media posts etc*) bless others?
4. (v8) Peter tells the church to get it right within their fellowship first. Why? Many people view the church and Christians with suspicion and even hate. The media loves to report on abuse, bigotry, and intolerance in the church. How can we counter these views? How would you react to someone who has been hurt by people calling themselves Christians?
5. (v15) How confident are you in defending your faith or answering tough questions? There are many internet sites that argue that God and the Bible are evil. (God advocates genocide, is homophobic etc) How can we become more knowledgeable so we can counter these claims?
6. After hours of torture, mocking and pain, Jesus prayed "Forgive them..." We are called to emulate him. There may be people in the group who still feel the hurt from words or actions. Read Matt 18:21-22. Why does Jesus answer this way?