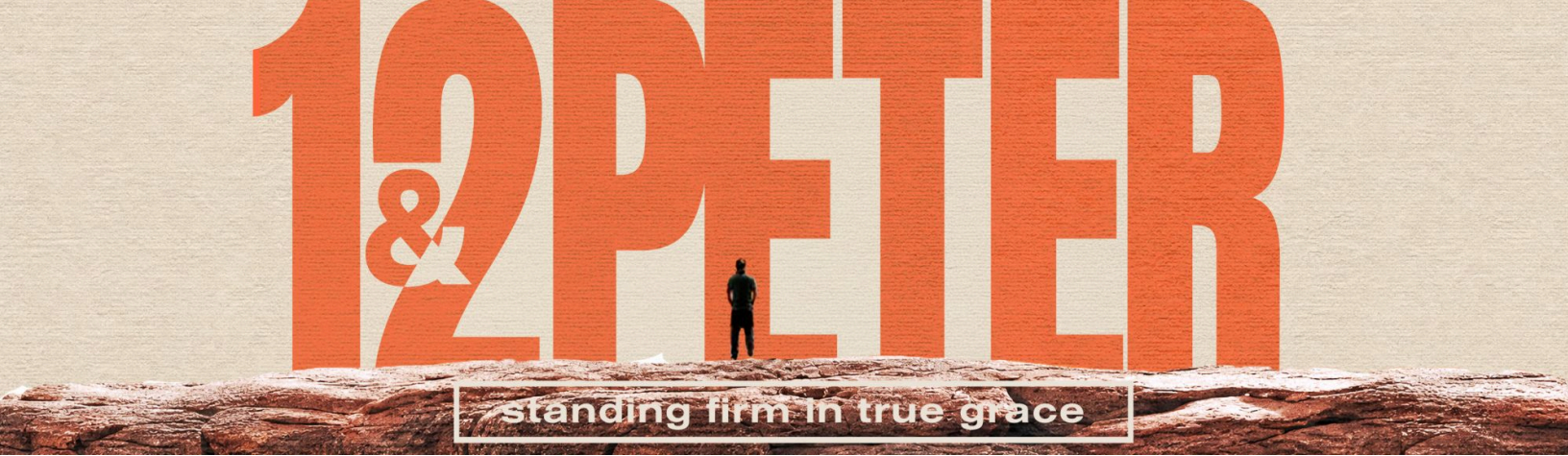


12 & PETER



standing firm in true grace

The Hope We Have in Christ

1 Peter 3:8-17 | Michael Grabski

Read 1 Peter 3:8-17

GROW IN FAITH

1. In this passage, Peter continues to address the purpose of suffering. Remember, these believers had been outcast and scattered for their faith. If someone asked you how and why Christians suffer, what would you tell them?
2. What does Peter tell these believers to do? Is he telling them to “buck up”? How does he explain the purpose of suffering?

CONNECT IN COMMUNITY

3. We are in a very different situation as believers in America. Do Peter’s words apply to us?
4. Read these passages as a group: Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 6:9-15, and Mark 11:25. Then discuss how they offer help when people unjustly attack us or our beliefs.
5. Peter says in verse 14 that we will be “blessed” if we suffer for righteousness sake. How can we be blessed through suffering? How can we minister to those undergoing suffering? Do we have any resources we know of to educate us on Christians around the world?

LIVE ON MISSION

6. When you read 1 Peter 3:15, how can a believer be prepared to give an account for the hope we have in Christ. Take a few minutes and write out why you believe in Christ. Share what your life was like before Jesus, and how has He changed your life.
7. Have any of us been asked about how we live our lives or seem different in difficult situations? What did they notice about you? Did you take the opportunity to share Jesus?
8. Peter’s letter brings us to an important question we need to ask ourselves: What if we are not suffering for the sake of the gospel? What would Peter say to us? What would you say to a believer in this situation?