



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 & 21, 2025 | DON'T BE SURPRISED

WARM-UP QUESTION

Take a moment to check in: How did your “I will” statements go this past week?

DISCUSS

Read 1 Peter 4:12-16

- Why does Peter say, “Don’t be surprised” by fiery trials? How does expecting suffering change the way we handle it?
- Peter calls us to partner with Christ in suffering. Do you tend to run to God when you’re suffering or away from Him?
- Can you think of a time when you sensed God’s presence more deeply during a hard season? How did that change your response to the circumstances in your life?
- Peter says there’s “no shame to suffer for being a Christian.” How can we stand firm in our faith when the culture around us pushes back? What should change for us knowing that we are called by God’s name?

Read 1 Peter 4:17-19

- Peter says that God’s judgment begins with us as Christ-followers, not those who are far from Him. What does it look like for us as Christians to lead by God’s example, knowing that we will go before Him first? (Read 2 Corinthians 5:10 for more on God’s judgment)
- If you are in a season of suffering, are you suffering in a way that honors God, or are you suffering in a way that draws attention to you? Where in your life might you need to rejoice in suffering, and where might you need to repent?
- How can we reconcile Peter’s words in vs. 18 with the truth that salvation is a gift by grace through faith?
- Take some time as a group to discuss other examples in Scripture where suffering is presented. What common themes do you see?

TAKE ACTION

Even when we face suffering, Peter says that we can trust our lives to God, knowing that He will never fail us. Are you trusting God with your suffering? What might it look like for you to allow Him to use your suffering for His good?

Craft a personal and practical “I will” statement (ex: *I will invite God into my struggles daily, intentionally laying them at His feet*):

- Keep it specific, realistic, and doable this week.
- Share your “I will” statement with the group for encouragement and accountability.