



GROUP STUDY GUIDE

WEEK OF JANUARY 19, 2025 | I WILL DEAL WITH CRITICISM IN HEALTHY WAYS

During this message series, our prayer is that your group will identify and take tangible steps to grow in your faith. Be sure to save at least 15-20 minutes of your group time to walk through the "Take Action" portion of the message guide to create your own "I will" statements.

WARM-UP

Can you think of a time when you received criticism and didn't handle it well? How did you react? What do you think you could have done differently in that situation?

DISCUSS

Start your discussion by sharing what stood out to you from Sunday's message. Were there any new insights or key takeaways for you?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-15

- What does this passage reveal about God's purpose for trials in the lives of believers?
- How does sharing in Christ's sufferings (verse 13) help us understand the relationship between Jesus and His followers?
- In verse 14, what does it mean to be "blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you?" What does this reveal about God's provision during suffering?
- Peter warns against suffering for wrongdoing (verse 15). Are there ways you might confuse suffering due to personal choices with suffering for Christ?

Read 1 Peter 4:16-19

- Verse 16 encourages believers not to be ashamed of suffering for Christ. Are there areas in your life where fear or shame holds you back from living boldly for Him?
- The English Standard Version (ESV) writes verse 19 as "Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good." How does the phrase "faithful Creator" reflect God's reliability and sovereignty in the midst of trials?
- What does this passage teach us about God's view of righteousness and His expectations for His people?
- How does the idea of suffering for righteousness align with examples from the lives of biblical figures like Job (Job 1:8-12), Paul (2 Corinthians 11: 23-27) or the prophets (Hebrews 11:36-38)? Are there other examples in the Bible you can think of?
- Read Proverbs 15:1-2. In what practical ways can we incorporate this wisdom into our daily interactions as we experience suffering or criticism?



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TAKE ACTION

Over and over in Scripture, we see the importance of knowing and doing. Take some time to make an individual commitment statement (I will...) based on what you've learned this week.

What is God calling you to do in order to experience real change in your faith? Think through the following lenses:

- **Consistent:** regular and daily
- **Actionable:** I can see it and measure it
- **Behavior:** more than a feeling or good intention
- **Overtime:** I am not going to give up

Spend a few minutes praying as a group, asking God to show you what He's saying and what you need to obey to help craft your "I will" statement. Then, after praying, share your "I will" statements, keeping them as simple and practical as possible.

**To dive deeper into this topic, we recommend you use the POST method to dive into 1 Peter 2:21-24.*