

**Series: HOPE BEYOND**

**Title: Hope Beyond Injustice**

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**Date: May 25-26, 2019**

Again, a great way to begin group is to recite 1 Peter 1:3, our memory verse for our Hope Beyond Series. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Who is someone who inspires you to stay hopeful when life goes wrong?

Read 1 Peter 2:19-25.

Describe the Christian persecution under Nero.

How did Romans misunderstand and slander what went on at these Christian gatherings?

Charles Sheldon wrote the book, In His Steps from the command Peter gives in this chapter. What missteps does Peter call out for us to avoid when we're misrepresented or treated unfairly?

Would the public say that when Christians suffer an injustice, we do a better job imitating Jesus or we do a better job imitating everyone else?

Do you think contemporary American Christians really believe that suffering is an essential part of following Jesus?

What good comes from suffering?

When you read this passage how would you describe what suffering well looks like? Give some examples of the differences between responding to someone who hurts you and reacting?

1 Peter 2:19 tells us, "For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God." In Psalm 31:14-15, how is David conscious of God?

We know something about God being the Shepherd of our lives. What do you think Peter means by describing him as the overseer of our lives as well? How could that give us hope?

If you had to summarize this passage in a single phrase, what would it be?

From what you know what's the status of Christian persecution around the world?

If you want to learn more and pray for the Persecuted Church, check this link out to see the 50 countries where it's most dangerous to follow Jesus. [https://www.opendoorsusa.org/2019-world-watch-list-report/?mwm\\_id=79508519214761&msclkid=be6d36663b3d15932b476a8c9d304d64&utm\\_source=bing&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=.MW%20Campaign&utm\\_term=open%20doors%20usa&utm\\_content=.Bing%20-%20Brand](https://www.opendoorsusa.org/2019-world-watch-list-report/?mwm_id=79508519214761&msclkid=be6d36663b3d15932b476a8c9d304d64&utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=.MW%20Campaign&utm_term=open%20doors%20usa&utm_content=.Bing%20-%20Brand)



## WORLD WATCH LIST 2019

The 50 countries where it's most dangerous to follow Jesus



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One way to close would be to use Romans 15:13 as way to pray for friends and especially persecuted saints around the world, enduring hardships. Something like this:

“Now may the God of hope fill \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with all joy and peace in believing so that they will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit...”

“God takes full responsibility for anyone who completely turns their life over to him.” Charles Stanley