

<b>Theme &amp; Passages</b>	Living as a Christian in a hostile environment <b>1 Peter 3:13-22</b>	Notes prepared by Caroline Oliveira and Gill Hawkins
<b>Welcome (10 mins)</b>	Share a brief story of an occasion when you felt like you stood out like a sore thumb!	
<b>Worship (20 mins)</b>	<p><b>Read Philippians 3:7-12</b> to lead you into worship. Use this time to invite your group members to offer themselves again to Christ, remembering how much he has done for us and how worthy he is of our devotion through the ups and downs of life. Decide how best to do this in your group – it could be praying, singing, holding a time of silence, or something a bit different eg. Each writing a letter to Jesus to express their personal response.</p> <p>If you want to use music, here are a couple of suggestions:  <a href="#">Blessed be your name</a> / <a href="#">Open the eyes of my heart</a> / <a href="#">All I once held dear</a></p>	
<b>Working with God (20 mins):</b> Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care	<p>On Sunday morning our Frontline story was from Constantin, a man from Romania who has been coming to church for the last 10 weeks. His story was quite resonant with what Caroline went on to speak about afterwards (and Gill in the evening) – recognising that being a follower of Jesus involves suffering and how God works within it. If you would like to listen to the testimony, you can do so by clicking on the link below:</p> <p><a href="#">Constantin's story</a></p> <p>You might like to share how Constantin's story impacted you and get into some prayer together.</p>	
<b>Word (20-25 mins)</b>	<p><b>Read</b> 1 Peter 3:13-22</p> <p><b>Discuss:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What grabbed your attention from the passage or stayed with you from Sunday's sermon?</li> <li>• What are some of the strategies Peter suggests for living well in the face of the hostility? (v. 13-17)</li> <li>• What most strikes you when you think on how Jesus approached and lived through His suffering?</li> <li>• Aside from the universal suffering of a broken world how do you react to Peter's prompt to 'choose your suffering'; suffer for doing good or suffer for doing evil?</li> <li>• Take some time to tell your stories of what strengthening God has brought about in your life through suffering?</li> </ul> <p>Take time to <b>pray</b> for one another, particularly those who are experiencing trials or difficult circumstances.</p>	