# Family Discussion Questions

**What do you think “the good life” means?**
How do our choices with time, money, relationships, and priorities show what we really believe the good life is?
**Why is it hard to believe that we can still have a good life in the middle of suffering or difficulty?**
Can you think of a time when God was near to you during something hard?
**Peter talks about responding to hurt or mistreatment by blessing instead of getting even.**
What does that look like in everyday life—at school, work, home, or with friends?
**The sermon said Christians are not meant to suffer alone.**
How can our family be better at sharing burdens, showing sympathy, and helping others who are hurting?
**Where do you tend to place your confidence when life gets hard—in avoiding conflict, avoiding pain, or trusting God’s promises?**
What would it look like this week to hold on to hope in God?

# 5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

### Based on 1 Peter 3 and the Theme of the Good Life in Suffering

---

Day 1: Redefining the Good Life

Reading: 1 Peter 3:10-11; Psalm 34:12-14

Devotional: It is easy to measure the good life by harmony in relationships, health, and wealth. These are not wrong desires, but they are incomplete foundations. Peter, writing to believers facing real persecution, does not promise the removal of hardship. He reframes the good life entirely. To love life and see good days is not the absence of suffering but the presence of right orientation -- tongue guarded, lips honest, heart turned toward peace. Ask yourself honestly this week: what does the way you spend your time, money, and thoughts reveal about where you have placed your hope?

Reflection Question: Where does your daily life reveal that you have anchored your definition of the good life in something other than Christ?

Practical Application: Set aside fifteen minutes today to journal your honest answer to the question: what do I believe the good life actually looks like? Bring that answer before God in prayer and ask him to begin reshaping it through his Word.

---

Day 2: Suffering and the Blessing Hidden Within It

Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-17; Romans 8:18

Romans 8:18 reminds us that present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed. Devotional: Peter asks a striking question in verse 13 -- who will harm you if you are zealous for what is good? And then, without flinching, he acknowledges that suffering may come anyway. This is not a contradiction. It is an invitation to a deeper confidence. Suffering for righteousness is described not as a tragedy to be avoided but as a better path than the alternative. God does not promise the removal of pain. He promises his presence within it and his purpose through it. The believer who suffers for doing good is walking in the footsteps of Christ himself.

Reflection Question: Have you ever experienced suffering because of your faith or your commitment to doing what is right? How did you respond, and what did that response reveal about your trust in God?

Practical Application: Identify one area of your life where obedience to God has cost you something. Spend time in prayer thanking God for that cost, asking him to deepen your confidence in his goodness and his purpose.

---

Day 3: The Community That Carries One Another

Reading: 1 Peter 3:8; Galatians 6:2

Galatians 6:2 calls believers to bear one another's burdens as a fulfillment of the law of Christ. Devotional: Peter calls the church to unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. These are not passive qualities. They are active commitments forged in the heat of real relationships. Sympathy here means shared suffering -- not observation from a distance but genuine participation in another person's pain. The church was never meant to be a collection of individuals who sit in the same room on Sundays. It was meant to be a body that knows, loves, and suffers together. Loneliness in suffering is a wound the church has the power to heal, but only when its members choose to move toward one another rather than away.

Reflection Question: Is there someone in your church community who is suffering alone right now? What has kept you from moving toward them?

Practical Application: Reach out this week to one person in your church community who may be carrying a heavy burden. Do not wait for the right moment. Send a message, make a call, or show up. Let them know they are not alone.

---

Day 4: The Hope That Others Can See

Reading: 1 Peter 3:14-16; Matthew 5:16

Matthew 5:16 calls believers to let their light shine so that others see their good works and glorify the Father. Devotional: Peter instructs believers to always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that is in them. The context is not a debate stage or an evangelism training class. The context is suffering. When a believer walks through persecution, loss, and hardship with a peace and a gentleness that the world cannot explain, people notice. They ask questions. The life lived in genuine confidence in God becomes its own testimony. The hope Peter speaks of is not merely future-oriented. It is a present reality -- the Spirit of God residing in the believer, producing something unmistakably different in how they face pain.

Reflection Question: Would the people around you -- at work, at home, in your neighborhood -- describe you as someone who carries an unexplainable hope? What would they point to as evidence?

Practical Application: Think of one relationship in your life where you have an opportunity to demonstrate hope through your response to difficulty. Commit to handling that situation this week with gentleness and respect, trusting God to use it.

---

Day 5: The Eyes and Ears of God

Reading: 1 Peter 3:12; Psalm 34:15-22

Devotional: Everything Peter calls believers to -- blessing those who revile them, pursuing peace, guarding their tongues, walking through suffering without fear -- rests on a single foundation: the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are open to their prayers. This is not a small comfort. It is the entire ground on which the Christian life stands. God sees. God hears. God is not distant or indifferent. He is near to the brokenhearted. He saves the crushed in spirit. The afflictions of the righteous are many, but the Lord delivers. This is not a promise that suffering ends quickly. It is a promise that no suffering is faced alone, and that the God who sees and hears is also the God who redeems.

Reflection Question: In your current season of life, do you genuinely believe that God sees your suffering and hears your prayers? What has shaped your answer to that question?

Practical Application: Read Psalm 34 in its entirety today. Pray through it slowly, allowing each promise to speak directly to whatever burden you are currently carrying. Let the confidence that God sees and hears become the foundation from which you face the week ahead.