

# 1<sup>st</sup> Peter—Group Study Questions #14

## Connecting With One Another

Gardens and parks in Victoria are certainly showing signs of new life after a dormant winter.

- What spring plants or flowers especially delight or encourage you?
- For you, what 'scents of spring' are especially delightful? Disgusting? Bring childhood memories to mind?
- Are you content to simply observe or are you eager to get your hands dirty?
- Do you prefer to enjoy spring alone or alongside others?

HOW can we practically come alongside one another during these ever-fluid stretching times?

## Entering 1 Peter

Since Peter continues his letter in chapter 4, verse 12 with "do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come," are you tempted to put his letter aside or to bravely dive in?

- What have we read thus far in his letter that hints at this "ordeal"? (Feel free to scan back through the preceding material and/or perhaps some notes you've already made)

## Encountering the text together

READ 1 Peter 4:12-19 together out loud—SLOWLY—in one or two different translations (perhaps even in non-English languages if this is helpful for you or others in your group).

- Take a moment to share any initial observations, words that puzzle you or catch your attention, ideas that resonate or feel unsettling.
- In your personal experience, what are some real-life 'sufferings' through which you've travelled? Be specific.
- What is the difference between 'sufferings' and 'sudden attack'? Time duration? A defined situation or open-ended 'grind'?
- What are some physical, emotional and relational effects you experience when YOU experience suffering (not only a general human response)? Do you sense that your world is larger or more restrictive?
- What does Peter tell his readers about the Godward attitude, posture and response to suffering?
- Since scripture affirms in various places that we are God's beloved children, what do we do with the phrase "those who suffer according to God's will"? (verse 19) Be honest about how this phrase strikes you.
- What are some practical ways that you (and us together) can exercise Peter's instruction, challenge and encouragement in verse 19?

## Praying Alongside One Another

- Take time to pray out of what you've discussed and shared – praying for one another and others who might also come to mind. Perhaps begin with a time of quiet reflection and allow God to speak to you.
- Pray for each other as individuals, as a group, as Lambrick's congregation, as God's expression through us, and others of his people all over the world. In these days perhaps remember especially our spiritual kinfolk in Ukraine, Russia and their surrounding countries, while NOT forgetting the prayer needs of Canada's own First Nations and other folks, local and international.