



## THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | **SERIES: STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND**  
**TITLE: A PERSISTENT HOPE**  
**SCRIPTURE: 1 PETER 3.13-17**

### One Thing Follow-up:

**The Church is a gift-you need the church and the church needs you.**

Q. What goes through your mind when you hear this statement?

### Opening

As Christians, our values and priorities often run different than the culture. We may feel like strangers in a strange land. Ultimately, we know our citizenship is in heaven. How do we live as people “in the world, but not of the world”?

### Series Review

We are continuing our "Strangers in a Strange Land" series. We are examining the book of 1 Peter. This book was written by the Apostle Peter while he was living in Rome, near the end of his life. He wrote to Christians, "living in exile," struggling with the clash of their culture and their faith. . In this text, Peter will challenge us to not give up or give in; Jesus is our goal and our example.

### Review the Message

**Peter is writing to Christians who are suffering for their faith, and it was going to get worse.**

How can we suffer for our faith today?

**Read 1 Peter 3.13-14**

Q. When have you faced trouble for being a Christian?

The Christian life is unique. It requires:

**Kindness** when being mean is easier.

**Forgiveness** when being bitter is easier.

**Honesty** when misdirection and half-truths would be easier.

**Involvement** when being distant is easier.

**Risk** when safety is easier.

**Love** when hate is easier.

Q. Which of these do you struggle with the most?

Q. Have you ever felt intimidated by others because of your faith?

**Ultimately, no can truly harm those who do good out of devotion to God.**

**Read 1 Peter 3:15-16**

Q. Do you find it difficult to regard Jesus more than the things in the world?

Q. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus actually gets joy out of redeeming you and never tires of it?

Q. During issues or struggles has anyone ever asked you what makes you different?

**The reality is, in times of difficulty, the gospel advances faster. Your testimony in difficulty packs an incredible punch.**

Q. Have you had the opportunity to share the gospel in the midst of difficulty?

**Don't give up or give in; Christ is our goal and our example.**

Q. What does it mean to give a defense with gentleness and reverence?

**Read 1 Peter 3:17**

Q. Have you ever felt that God had abandoned you or was punishing you? Why?

**Don't give up or give in; Christ is our goal and our example.**

## **Living It Out Application**

Q What is God saying to you through this lesson?

Q. What will you do about it this coming week?

Q. How can we help you?

## **Prayer:**

Q. Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?