

# Discussion Guide

1 Peter 3:18-22

---

## Opening Prayer

- **Guided Prayer:** Pray asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance in understanding and applying the truths discussed.

## Recap

### **Summary of 1 Peter 3:18-22**

1 Peter 3:18-22 provides a profound exploration of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, connecting these events to the believer's experience of baptism and the assurance of salvation. Peter emphasizes that Christ died "once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous," highlighting His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. This passage then links Noah's ark and the saving of his family through water to baptism, which now saves believers—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The text concludes by affirming Christ's ascension into heaven and His dominion over angels, authorities, and powers. This passage underscores the comprehensive victory of Christ over spiritual forces and the significance of baptism as both a symbol and a declaration of faith.

## Understanding the Text

1. **The Purpose of Christ's Suffering:** What does Peter mean by saying Christ suffered "once for all, the just for the unjust"?
2. **Christ's Proclamation to the Spirits:** Who are the "spirits now in prison" that Christ went and proclaimed to, and what significance does this have?
3. **The Connection with Noah:** How does Peter connect Christ's proclamation to the spirits with the time of Noah and the ark?
4. **Victory in Suffering:** How does Christ being "made alive in the spirit" demonstrate His victory over death and sin?
5. **Theological Implications:** What are the theological implications of Christ's proclamation to the spirits now in prison for our understanding of His lordship and salvation?
6. **Christ's Ascension and Authority:** What do Christ's ascension and His position at God's right hand signify for believers?
7. **Christ's Victory:** Where in the Bible is the first reference to Christ's victory over evil power and how does that relate to Peter's point here in 1 Peter 3:18-22?

## Practical Application

1. **Responding to Unjust Suffering:** How can understanding Christ's suffering for us shape our response to suffering or persecution we may face?
2. **Witness in Suffering:** Considering Christ's ultimate victory, how can we witness, attesting to our faith in Christ during times of personal trials or societal challenges?
3. **Reflection on Salvation:** Reflecting on the phrase "once for all the just for the unjust," how does this deepen your appreciation for the gift of salvation?

4. **The Role of Patience:** How does God's patience during the time of Noah challenge us to be patient with others, especially those who are not yet believers?
5. **Living as Redeemed:** Knowing that Christ has triumphed over sin and death, how does this knowledge influence your daily living and priorities?
6. **Community and Support:** How can we support each other in our Christian walk, especially when facing doubts or when our faith is challenged?
7. **Engaging with the Spiritual Realm:** How does the reality of Christ's authority over all spirits encourage us to pray and engage in spiritual warfare?
8. **Responding to Authority:** Knowing that Christ has all authority, how should this influence our response to spiritual and earthly authorities?

### **God Has More to Say**

1 Peter 3:18-22 is a complex and often debated passage that discusses Christ's suffering, His death "for sins once for all," and His proclamation to the spirits in prison. The passage touches on themes of salvation, Christ's victory over evil, and possibly the state of the dead before Christ's resurrection. Here are related biblical passages that provide context, elucidate similar themes, or are traditionally connected with the interpretation of these verses:

- **Genesis 6:1-8:** This passage describes the wickedness of humanity that led to God's decision to bring the flood.
- **2 Peter 2:4-5:** Peter speaks of God not sparing angels when they sinned but sending them to Tartarus (hell), and saving Noah, a preacher of righteousness, during the flood. This provides context for understanding the reference to spirits and God's judgment.
- **Ephesians 4:8-10:** This passage talks about Christ descending to the "lower, earthly regions" and ascending higher than all the heavens. While not directly related, it is often brought into discussions about what Christ did between His death and resurrection.
- **Colossians 2:15:** Paul writes about Christ disarming the powers and authorities, making a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. This passage is related to Christ's victory over spiritual beings, a theme that corresponds with 1 Peter 3:18-20.
- **Romans 1:4:** This verse mentions Jesus being declared the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, providing theological context for Christ's victory and resurrection, which is central to 1 Peter 3:18-20.
- **Hebrews 1:3:** Describes Christ's purification for sins and sitting down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven, emphasizing His completed work of salvation and His authority, relevant to His role as the one who proclaims to spirits.

### **Prayer**

- End with a time of prayer, focusing on specific requests related to the sermon's themes, personal struggles, and applications.