

## **Bible Study for May 18 – 24**

*You are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the scripture and the questions provided either individually, or with members of your household.*

**Read:** 1 Peter 4:12-16, 5:6-11

### **Notes:**

You are reminded today of the background to 1 Peter. It is believed that the book was written for believers in what is now modern day Turkey at a time when the persecution of Christians was on the rise. In July of A.D. 64 the city of Rome caught fire, burning out of control for 3 days and 3 nights, demolishing much of the city. Because it was initially believed by many that Emperor Nero was somehow responsible (he did have a passion for building and rebuilding), he turned the blame to a new struggling group of people, the Christians, and outlawed the practice of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. Believers therefore needed words of encouragement and hope in difficult times, so Peter often reaches back to the past in order to confront the realities of the present with words of hope and promise.

### **Questions:**

In times when you feel like giving up, what keeps you going? Why or how?

If you were asked to tell a group of new believers what to expect in the Christian life, what are some things you would tell them? Why?

What forms has your suffering for Christ taken?

Has such suffering purified, changed, molded, or matured you? How?

What suggestions does Peter give us on how to handle our suffering?