

Current



✓ Prepare in Advance

Before the Session:

- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.
- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Review the articles about displaced people groups and tornado recovery (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Prepare to show some of the pictures from these articles.

✓ Introduce

Invite the group to think about the word suffering. What does suffering mean? What has it looked like for you or for people you care about?

Show the *Bible Background Video*.

✓ Discuss

Invite discussion with ideas like: There are many stories of persecution and loss in our world; a couple of these stories were in the news this week. One story points out that 33.3 million people were internally displaced by conflict and violence in their countries. This is a huge increase from last year.

These people have been called "the world's most vulnerable people." Because of armed conflict, violence, human rights violations, or natural or human-made disasters, these millions of people are living in places that are not home.

This week marks the anniversary of another tragedy. One year ago, a killer tornado devastated Moore, Oklahoma. The city is rebuilding after many of its homes, schools, and buildings were destroyed into rubble. This article shows images of "Two Oklahomas," before and after the storm. Part of rebuilding has been preparing for future storms. They have built more than 1,100 shelters, including underground bunkers and fortified safe rooms. The storm has changed the landscape of this town, and is forever in the town's memory.

Invite the group to think about the idea of vulnerability and preparing for future storms as they hear the scripture. Read 1 Peter 3:13-22 out loud.

✓ Ask

- The displaced people have been called a "vulnerable people." What images does vulnerable bring to mind? What does it feel like to be vulnerable?
- The *Bible Background Video* shared the idea about a "cultural memory" that may inform "habitual practice." What is a cultural memory? What practices can come out of a community's memory?
- Think about the cultural memory emerging in communities who have suffered loss or been displaced (such as Moore, Oklahoma or displaced people in Syria). What habits or ways of living might come from this kind of memory?
- Share how you would imagine your faith to be challenged or changed in a situation like the ones we discussed today. How would living in a land that's not your home, or having your home destroyed impact your faith journey?
- Interestingly, a major business in Moore, OK has been the building of storm shelters. There is a sense of urgency and "storm preparedness" in that city. What might it feel like to live in a space that is changed by the storm and yet mindful that more storms may come? Does this resonate with anything in the Bible Background Video or our scripture today?

✓ Closing

Close in prayer. Invite the group to imagine they are one of the "most vulnerable people," whatever that may look like in their minds. Pray together, asking God to shape us to be mindful of vulnerability, urgency and passion in our life of faith.

By Erin Hall

