Even in this last chapter of his letter, Peter three times mentions the theme of suffering. But in spite of the possibility of suffering, Peter instructs his readers in v12 to 'stand fast' in the grace of God. How could Peter's teachings about relationships in this chapter help you to 'stand fast' in your own faith?

What things in your life or circumstances are currently a threat to you 'standing firm'?

Think back over our studies in 1Peter. What things have you learned? What has really stuck with you?

Study 8: Put into practice

Reading: 1Peter 5:1 - 14

<u>Read 1Peter 5:1 - 14:</u>

How does Peter describe himself? How is this an encouragement to the elders in their situation?

What does it mean for the elders to continue to 'do good' in the face of suffering and persecution (look at 1Peter 4:19)?

How is the 'leadership style' of the elders an imitation of Christ, the "chief Shepherd"? What aspects of Jesus' ministry and teaching does this make you think of?

What will be the outcome for the faithful elders?

This attitude of humility and trust in God doesn't mean that we sit back and do nothing. What vigorous action should we be undertaking (vv8 - 12)?

Look at the instructions for young men and for "all of you" in v5. How is this similar to the behavior that the elders should display?

What do verses 8 - 10 teach us about the devil's power and God's sovereign control?

Why should we be humble towards one another (v. 5)?

Look back over verses 5 - 12. What do they teach us about what God is like? What God will do for his people?

Look carefully at verses 6 - 7. What does it mean to "humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand"?

Find as many phrases as you can that describe Peter's own relationships and his instructions for relationships among his readers. (vv. 12 - 14)