

Bible Discussion: Finding Home 9

Text: 1 Peter 4:12-14

Purpose: To develop a game plan for successfully navigating difficulties in our life that leads to a stronger faith.

Opening Question: *What's one thing you are rejoicing about this week?*

It's not that God enjoys it when we suffer or likes to bring suffering to us. But because of our broken world, trouble is something every person will go through. Peter reminds Christians that the keys to living through seasons of difficulty is to not be surprised when challenges come our way, to continue to rejoice in God and to not be ashamed because of trials.

Read and Discuss: 1 Peter 4:12

- 1. Why should we not be surprised when Christians experience difficulties? What are the dangers when we don't have a realistic view of suffering as Christians?*
- 2. How can we be real about life's challenges without living in fear? In what ways can you grow through suffering?*

Read and Discuss: 1 Peter 4: 13

- 3. What's the difference between enjoying something and rejoicing in something? What does it look like to rejoice in suffering?*
- 4. How does having a future view of heaven (our permanent home) help you to rejoice during current trials?*
- 5. How does suffering validate God's presence and work in our life?*

Read and Discuss: 1 Peter 4:14

- 6. When was a time that you suffered and your faith was tested? How did that challenge make your faith stronger?*
- 7. What is your game plan for the next time you face a difficult season? How would you like to respond and come out on the other side of challenges?*