



# PETER

*THE DISCIPLE MAKER*

**Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Four**

## This Week's Memory Verse

..to keep in your pocket, memorize, and hide in your heart:

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh,  
arm yourselves with the same way of thinking,  
for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,  
so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh  
no longer for human passions but for the will of God.

- 1 Peter 4:1-2 (ESV)

## Week Four, Day Two

### Scripture Reading

1 Peter 4:1-2

### Devotional Reading

In a sermon on the topic of suffering, apologist Tim Keller points out that, as humans, we tend to have one of two responses to suffering.

The more religious among us can often view our suffering moralistically, asking, "Why is God punishing me?" and looking for ways to change our behavior to alleviate the pain God is using, "to teach us a lesson." The less spiritually inclined, on the other hand, tend towards cynicism, seeing suffering as part of the random harshness of a world in which God either doesn't exist or doesn't care. Can you relate to either of these responses?

The gospel of Jesus Christ presents an alternative truth, beyond both of these spiritual dead-ends.

God did not generate suffering; the world he created did not begin with death, disease, or destruction. Rather, Keller says, "they are forces of darkness that we unleashed when we rebelled against God." However, God uses suffering, even in all its tragic pain, to bring about our blessing and glorify his name!

Corrie ten Boom, who suffered enormously in the Nazi concentration camps as a friend of Jews, explained simply, "You may never know that Jesus is all you need, until Jesus is all you have."

God can use suffering as a way to strip us of the things that hinder our total dependence on him. But in the end, there is truly no greater blessing in life than living in the full, free confidence that Jesus alone is all we need.

### Faith In Action

Has there been a time in your walk with the Lord when you felt emptied before God, and knew that Jesus was all you needed? Would you consider that moment blessed? What, if anything, stands in the way of your total dependence on God now?

### Today's Prayer

Lord, free me of the things that I put between us. Allow me to understand that you desire to bless me by bringing me closer to you and into the fullness of life in your Spirit. Help me, even as I endure suffering, to see my inheritance as life in you. You are all that I need!