



PETER

THE DISCIPLE MAKER

Daily Devotions and Small Group Discussion Questions | Week Five

This Week's Memory Verse

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

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins

- 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)

Week Five, Day Two

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 4:12-19

Devotional Reading

Though it may seem difficult, counter intuitive, or even absurd - as God's people, it is a privilege and joy to suffer in this world.

While hardships don't always feel like good things, the Bible affirms that they truly are. In today's passage, Peter encourages us to correctly view and endure suffering for the glory of God.

First, Peter establishes the normalcy of trials. "Do not be surprised at the fiery trial."

How often do we act shocked that something bad has happened in our lives? Do we find ourselves saying or thinking things like, "Why me?," or, "It's not fair?," Suffering happens. We shouldn't be surprised when it does.

The disciple-maker then refers to hardships not just as suffering, but as "[sharing] Christ's sufferings." Think about the suffering you've known: rejection, loneliness, physical pain, loss of a loved one. Jesus suffered in more ways than most of us can imagine! He also sympathizes with us and knows our pain today.

When trial comes into our lives, we are invited to stand and rejoice. "Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter." (v.16) Again, we are invited to bring God glory. This truth counters culture's assertions that suffering is undesirable.

May we see each trial as an opportunity to bring more glory to our worthy God.

Faith In Action

Reflect on the ways that Jesus suffered. What do you think were his most difficult moments? How did he respond? How did Christ's suffering reveal God's glory? Ask God to be glorified through the trials of your past, present and future.

Today's Prayer

God, though it's often hard to say, thank you for allowing us to suffer! You are able to make good come out of even the ugliest of circumstances. During the trials that I face, please help me to rejoice in the opportunity to know you more intimately by sharing in Jesus' sufferings. Knowing you more deeply is worth any hardship.