

THE POWER OF GENUINE

Community Group Discussion Guide

March 22, 2015

Week 5 | Embrace Suffering

1 Peter 4:12-19

Read 1 Peter 1:1-9 and 4:12-19 before answering the following questions.

Introduction

It's a challenge living in a nation that's increasingly cynical toward biblical truth and resistant to biblical standards of morality. Where once the Bible was respected, it's now often discredited and labeled as extreme and narrow minded. So, it's no surprise that those who believe the Bible to be God's Word are finding the same labels placed on them. The message of this short book shows us how to live in a sometimes hostile environment, and live in such a way that we not only persevere but also have a positive impact for good.

Key verse for series:
"These have come so that your faith...may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."
1 Peter 1:7

Questions for Study

1. If you're in a Community Group spend time reviewing the four ways to show the genuineness of our faith that we've already seen in this series.
 - Living a holy life.
 - Focus on eternity.
 - Loving people the way Jesus loves you.
 - Prepared to share Christ.
2. Reflect on a time of suffering in your life that was at the level of what you might describe as a 'fiery ordeal'. If you're in a Community Group, take time to share your experience with each other.
3. What did Peter say trials reveal? Answer is in 1 Peter 1:7.

Peter shows us two things about trials in 1 Peter 4:12-19. The nature of trials (what troubles and hardships in our life are) and how to respond to trials.

4. He shows us the nature of trials in verse 12. What would you say it is? How was it unpacked in Sunday's sermon through these two phrases: 'the fiery ordeal' and 'to test you'?
5. How would you say 'trials' have strengthened and deepened your own character? Another way to ask this... How are you a better person today because of trials you've experienced?
6. When you've gone through a hard time was there something you were trusting in that you realized is the wrong thing to trust?
7. In 1 Peter 4:12-19 Peter gives us four ways to respond to trials in our lives. What are they? Why are they the right and best way to respond to every trial?