

# SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

## SCRIPTURE

Read 1 Peter 1:6–9

## KEY TRUTH

Because of our living hope in Jesus, we can rejoice even while we grieve, knowing that God is using our trials to refine our faith and draw us closer to Him.

## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

*(What does the passage say?)*

According to verse 6, what two seemingly opposite emotions does Peter describe believers experiencing?

How does Peter describe the trials believers face?

What does Peter say is the purpose of these trials in verse 7?

What comparison does Peter make between faith and gold?

What does Peter say believers do even though they have not seen Jesus?

According to verse 9, what is the outcome or goal of our faith?

What words or phrases stand out to you as you read this passage?

## INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

*(What does the passage mean?)*

Why do you think Peter says believers can rejoice even while they are grieving?

The message emphasized that "hope is the lens through which we view our trials." What does that mean?

Peter says our faith is "more precious than gold." Why is genuine faith so valuable to God?

How can trials reveal or refine our faith rather than simply discourage us?

Romans 8:28–29 teaches that God works all things together for our good by making us more like Christ. How does that shape the way we understand suffering?

Verse 8 describes believers loving and trusting Jesus even though they have never seen Him. What does that teach us about genuine faith?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*(What does this mean for us?)*

## **1. View Your Trials Through the Lens of Hope**

What trial or hardship are you currently facing?

When you think about that situation, are you viewing it primarily through fear, frustration, or through the hope you have in Christ?

How might your perspective change if you truly believed God was working through this trial for your good?

## **2. Allow God to Refine Your Faith**

What qualities might God be developing in you through your current circumstances?

Have you ever looked back on a difficult season and seen how God used it to strengthen your faith? Share your experience.

What would it look like to cooperate with God's refining work instead of resisting it?

## **3. Choose Joy While You Grieve**

Is it difficult for you to believe that grief and joy can exist at the same time? Why or why not?

What practical habits help you keep your eyes on Jesus when life becomes difficult?

How can our small group encourage one another to keep trusting Christ through seasons of suffering?

# **PERSONAL REFLECTION**

Take a few moments and ask yourself:

What trial am I struggling to view through the lens of hope?

Am I allowing my circumstances to shape my view of God, or allowing God's promises to shape my view of my circumstances?

Is there an area where God may be refining my faith?

What would it look like for me to say, "Jesus, I still love You. I still trust You," even in the middle of my hardship?

Where is God inviting me to experience joy, even while I grieve?

# **PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK**

Each day this week, spend a few moments asking God to help you view your circumstances through the lens of your living hope.

Read **1 Peter 1:6–9** each day.

Thank God for:

His presence in every trial.  
His purpose in your suffering.  
His work of refining your faith.  
The living hope you have in Christ.  
The promise that He wastes nothing.

When you face discouragement, disappointment, or hardship, remind yourself:

**"Hope is the lens through which I view my trials."**

Pay attention to moments when:

your circumstances begin to distort your view of God.  
fear or discouragement starts replacing hope.  
you recognize God growing your faith through hardship.  
you have an opportunity to encourage someone else who is walking through a trial.

## **PRAYER**

**Father,**

Thank You that You never waste our pain. Thank You that because of Jesus, we have a living hope that is greater than any trial we face. Help us to trust that You are working even when we cannot see it, refining our faith and making us more like Christ.

Teach us to grieve honestly without losing hope. Give us eyes to see our circumstances through the lens of Your promises rather than through fear or discouragement. As You continue Your work in us, may our lives reflect a faith that has been refined by fire and a joy that is found in You alone.

We love You. We trust You. And because we know You, we have joy.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE LIST (*from message*)**

1 Peter 1:6–9  
James 1:2–4  
Romans 8:28–29  
2 Corinthians 4:17  
Isaiah 53:3  
Job 2:11–13  
1 Thessalonians 4:13  
Romans 5:3–5