



PATHWAYS

STUDY GUIDE

Week 3: Sorrow to Joy

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Main Idea: Suffering is temporary and death does not have the final word. When we have faith in the resurrection of Jesus, we move from sorrow to joy.

Bible Verses to Read:

1 Peter 1:3-9: *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.*

6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- Why do you think it is so hard to have hope and have joy when we experience pain and suffering? What do you think causes us to lose hope?
- Read **1 Peter 1:3-9**. The Apostle Peter says that through Jesus' death and resurrection we have hope that will never perish, spoil or fade - which fills us with great joy. How would you feel if you had a never-ending source of hope? Do you believe that kind of hope is available?
- During the message we mentioned, "*Jesus never promised we would escape pain and sorrow, but He does promise to see us through it*". How do you respond to that statement? What might this tell you about the role God might play in your life?
- During the message we mentioned, "*Suffering is temporary and death does not have the final word*". Think about that phrase. How might Jesus give us hope and joy, even beyond death? How might this change the way you look at your current situation?

FINAL THOUGHT: This week, when you experience sorrow how will you remind yourself to keep your focus on the hope Jesus gives us through his death and resurrection? What sorrows will you give to God in exchange for joy?