

## TALK IT OVER

### Not a Stranger...Hope in a World of Suffering

Week 1: *Not a Stranger*

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Icebreaker: When was the last time you felt suffering?

**Why is there suffering in the world?**

**Why am I suffering?**

*1 Peter 1:1-2 (NLT) I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.*

#### Basis for Hope

✓ **Jesus conquered death**

*1 Peter 1:3 (NLT) All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead.*

*1 Peter 1:1a (NLT) I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners*

✓ **Suffering is temporary**

*1 Peter 1:3b-4 (NLT) Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.*

*Revelation 21:4 (NLT) He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."*

✓ **God is protecting us**

*1 Peter 1:5 (NLT) And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.*

### Finding Hope in a World of Suffering

#### 1. Look for God

*1 Peter 1:6 (NLT) So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.*

Glad = Greek *agallíāō* - so glad that one jumps for joy

*James 1:2-4 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*

## **2. Let God Refine You**

*1 Peter 1:7-8 (NLT) These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*

**What is one truth about God we can focus on, even when we're suffering?**

**Pray about how you can help someone you know that is suffering today.**

### **Discussion Questions**

- ✓ On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 least, 10 most), how much suffering have you experienced so far in your life?
- ✓ Share about a time when you experienced suffering at a high level
- ✓ What helped you get through this difficult time?
- ✓ What were your feelings toward God (if any) during your suffering?
- ✓ What were some negative things that came out of this experience?
- ✓ What were some positive things that came out of this experience?
- ✓ Do you feel that suffering has made you a stronger person?
- ✓ Did suffering affect your faith journey? If so, how?