

ANCHORED

finding hope in life's deep waters



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A Study in First Peter
March 6 & 7, 2010
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"Finding Hope in Trials"

1 Peter 4:12-19

These questions will help you take home today's message and apply these truths throughout the week. Harvest small groups use similar questions for discussion. Small groups meet at various times and locations and are designed to fit your stage of life. If you're interested in joining one, please contact us at 630.281.4800 or visit our website at www.harvestnaperville.org.

Core Truth

I can find hope in trials when I place my dependence and faith in God and begin to open myself up to others.

Getting Started

1. Read the passage from I Peter 4:12-19 aloud and listen to hear the truths that provide hope contained in the verses. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you during this study.
2. Have you seen Christians who have gone through suffering become better and more passionate witnesses for Jesus? How so?
3. How do you feel when someone calls you a "dear friend" or lets you know that you are a "loved one?"

Going Deeper

4. Despite all the biblical passages which affirm that trials and suffering are inevitable in life, many believers are still shocked when, in reality, they experience trials and suffering in their own lives. Why is that?
5. According to Peter, there are three responses to suffering found in verses 12 & 13. As a Christian, what should be our response to suffering?
6. Look at the following Scriptures and note their significance in the life of the believer in relationship to trials and suffering. How have these truths impacted you personally?
 - James 1:2-4
 - Job 23:10
 - I Thessalonians 5:16-18
 - Romans 5:1-5
7. When we are suffering for the name of Christ, in spite of this we can rejoice and have peace. According to Philippians 4:4-7 and Hebrews 12:1-3, how is this possible?
8. The blessing for suffering because of the name of Christ is that "the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you" (verse 14). What do you think this phrase means? See Matthew 10:17-20, Acts 7:51-60, II Corinthians 3:5-18 for further clarification and understanding.

9. Peter encouraged believers to “entrust their souls” to a “faithful creator.” Explain what this means as though you were giving encouragement to a friend who was going through a significant trial and needed to experience a sense of hope.

Applying the Truth

10. What benefits have you received from going through a time of suffering? In what ways have you experienced God's power and love in difficult times? How have you been able to renew your hope during this time?
11. How have you been able to “show off God” as a result of the trials and suffering you have faced?
12. How can other followers of Jesus encourage and support you in the midst of your suffering and trials? How can you encourage and support other believers in the midst of their suffering and trials? Be intentional this week in giving and receiving.

Memorize

Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator. |
Peter 4:19 ESV

FAMILY QUESTIONS: ASK YOUR KIDS

Did you know that your kids are studying the same topics as you?

If you have a student in 4th/5th grade, junior high, or high school, we're providing you with additional questions to ask them this week. These questions are meant to let you in on what they're learning and provide you with a way to come alongside your student and help them apply what they're learning on the weekends.

Here some questions to ask your kids following the weekend services:

4th-5th Graders

- Name some trials that you have gone through recently?
- Did you expect these trials to come? Did you enjoy these trials when they came? Did you embrace these trials for the time you faced them? Why or why not?
- When you went through the tough times, did you get the opportunity to point God out?
- What will you do differently when you face the next tough time?

Jr. High:

- Who is the Holy Spirit? How does he help in tough times? (HS is God and he helps us by his presence, and by his prayers on our behalf, etc)
- What is God's plan for tough times in your life? (God isn't interested in how glorious he can make your life. God is interested in how glorious your life can make him. He uses trials in your life to shape you into the person of Jesus, which is the plan God has for each of his children).

High School:

- Can we trust God in the midst of trials and suffering? Why?
- What guarantees or promises does God give us that allow us to trust Him?
- How do we avoid living in fear?