

When following Jesus is hard

1 Peter 4:12-5:14

What are some troubles we may encounter in life?
What might people say when we encounter trouble?
What do we tell ourselves when we encounter trouble?
What does God say when we encounter trouble?



4:12-16: Following Jesus can be hard

4:17-19: God uses suffering and trouble

5:1-4: ...as church leaders

5:5a: ...as those under church leaders

5:5b-9: ...for everyone

5:10-11: What God will do

5:12-14: Final greetings

The Big Idea

God uses trouble
but it is never the end of our story in Christ

Application

Trust God in trouble like Jesus did

“Do not be surprised” when trouble comes
God has authority over all things
Trouble can only reach us through God
And God uses trouble

Don't grumble or complain

Don't give up

Accept the path God has put you on

Keep doing what is good and right

Christ's joy will be our joy!

Put ourselves in God's care

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up” 1 Peter 5:6

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

God's caring presence today

Look forward to eternal glory in Christ

“The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.” 1 Peter 5:10

Jesus’ description of the promise:

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” Matthew 25:23

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” Matthew 25:34

Grief in all kinds of trials... “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.” 1 Peter 1:7

Reflection Questions for later today or this week..

1. What troubles are you dealing with? How do you view these troubles? What do you tell yourself about them?
2. What do you tell others in the troubles they encounter?
3. What are good ways that God uses trouble in our lives? How have you seen that?
4. Since trouble “is never the end of our story in Christ,” what is the end of the story?
5. What does it look like to set our hope on the glory that is coming in Christ? (see 1 Peter 1:13)

Conversation starters

What do you tell people who are going through significant trouble and trials in life?

What hope do you have when you encounter significant trouble and trials?