



**A THEN + NOW PEOPLE**

THE BOOK OF 1 PETER

**GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
WEEK 4

# CONNECT

- What foreign culture fascinates you? Describe some aspects of it that you find intriguing.
- Describe an experience that drastically changed your perspective on some area of life.
- What's something you've been through that was so challenging that it surprised you?

## INTRODUCTION

*Read: 1 Peter 4:12-19*

In the passage we just read, Peter sums up the body of his letter. He tells the disciples not to be surprised when they go through trials that test their faith. In other words, we shouldn't be surprised when faith is a fight. Tests of faith can be surprisingly difficult, no

matter how long a person's been a Christian. Peter then explains why we can rejoice when we experience the fight for faith.

# DISCUSS

Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples Peter's writing to. They've been dispersed for their faith—lost jobs, disowned by family and friends, kicked out of their towns. Peter says that they shouldn't think of this as "strange." Why might their experience seem strange?

# DISCUSS

Verse 17 is pretty surprising. Fiery trials are a form of God's judgment for the household of God. Yet this judgment is different from the built-in consequences for sin. These trials strengthen faith. Or, to to put it in Peter's words from chapter one, trials can make faith more genuine. What's surprising to you about this idea?

# DISCUSS

The word “soul” is a way of describing the entirety of a person—all that they are. So when Peter says to entrust our souls to a faithful Creator, he’s saying that we should fight to trust God with every aspect of our lives. In what areas of your life is God calling you to fight to trust him more? How can Peter’s words help you do that?

# CHRIST-CONNECT

The greatest reason we know that God is faithful and worthy of our trust is what he's done for us in Jesus. Jesus fought to trust God with everything, and the fight was so intense that he sweat drops like blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, and then he went to the cross. Yet his resurrection shows us that those who share his sufferings will also share in his glory.

# PRAYER

- Spend time praising God's faithfulness and power as the Creator.
- Spend time thanking Jesus for fighting through his suffering.
- Ask God to highlight any pockets of faithlessness, and also for the power to entrust them to him.

# DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible and prayed consistently the past week?
- Who is one lost person you're praying would come to faith?





Copyright 2020 Aletheia Church