

## 1. Motivate

What are some things that bring great joy to you?

A video introduction is available. View it at [https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1\\_r23tqayn](https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_r23tqayn)

## 2. Transition

The coronavirus has caused hardship or at least inconvenience for most of us.

- How can a person experience joy in the midst of hardship?
- Today we study how suffering for Christ can deepen our walk with Him.

## 3. Bible Study

### 3.1 Think Like Christ

Listen for Peter's view on suffering.

1 Peter 4:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. 2 As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

What did Peter say about the person who has suffered?

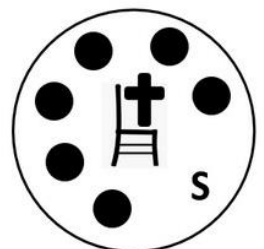
What kind of resolve did Jesus Christ have when he suffered?

How can we arm ourselves with the same attitude as Christ in the face of suffering?

What are some symptoms of living with a focus on human desires rather than on God's will?

In what sense do you think "he who suffered in his body is done with sin"? In what different ways could we interpret this verse? Who is the "he"? Why or how "done"?

- could mean Christ didn't sin (although if He was *done*, it implies He had done it before)
- could mean Christ was done *taking care of* the sin problem
- could mean the believer – done with sinning ... did it before, doesn't do it any more ... *because* of Christ solving the sin problem
- New Living Bible interprets it this way 1 Peter 4:1 (NLT) *So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you are willing to suffer for Christ, you have decided to stop sinning.*



- Christ on the throne
- Self submits to Christ
- Issues of life in harmony with Christ's purposes

What steps would you recommend to a believer who admits he or she is not “done with sin”? The world’s attraction is just too strong.

- study Romans 6 ...
  - o *Know* that your old sin nature is put to death with Christ – it is *dead, unresponsive* to temptation
  - o *Reckon* yourself dead to sin, alive to Christ – believe it is so
  - o *Yield* your members (intellect, emotions, will) to Christ – put Jesus back on the throne of your life

### 3.2 Rejoice in Christ

Listen for how to respond to suffering;

1 Peter 4:12-14 (NIV) Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

What purpose can trials or suffering serve?

What painful trials can believers go through in our society?

What even more painful trials do believers go through in some foreign countries?

We tend to do considerable hand wringing ... shocked that such things could happen. How would Peter respond?

What hinders us from rejoicing when times are difficult?

What gives us cause to rejoice when facing suffering for righteousness sake? What is the nature of the blessing God gives to them?

3.3 Give Glory to God

Listen for how to do good and trust God.

1 Peter 4:15-19 (NIV) If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And, "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" 19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

If believers do suffer, *for what* should they suffer and *not* suffer?

Speaking negatively and positively, what does Peter say about the Christian's attitude toward suffering?

Negatively	Positively

What should those who suffer according to God's will do?

Why might it be God's will for someone to suffer?

Suppose you don't know the "why" ... what difference does it make if you know "Who" is holding your hand?

### Application

Rejoice.

- Choose gratitude instead of complaint.
- Voice a prayer of thanks to the Lord no matter what you are currently facing.
- Make a list of ten things that have brought you joy today, and allow that practice to set the tone for a lifestyle of rejoicing in Christ.

Memorize.

- To remind yourself to think with the mind of Christ, memorize 1 Peter 4:1-2:
- "Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God."

Listen.

- Talk with other believers about their trials and suffering.
- Listen for the ways God has deepened their walk with Him because of what they have experienced.
- Offer prayer and encouragement as needed.



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Our agent in Quabrisey had this brick land on his head with a special message. It was meant to be delivered to your Bible Study leader. A scrap of paper was also found on the path which seems to be the key using two digit codes for the letters. Find the letter corresponding to the row and column. I **hope** you don't **suffer** and can figure out what it says and who sent it. If you need help, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y8lbwju6> where there are other Family Activities to pique your interest.

