

TALK IT OVER

Answer these questions with others to reflect upon and apply what you've heard. Watching online? Discuss in person or online with others who watched. On site? Our service includes time to circle up and discuss.

1. Do you have a story of a trial that became a blessing in disguise?
2. From the message and today's Scripture passage, what defines "suffering in a manner that pleases God" (1 Peter 4:19)?
3. What is the most significant way today's message applies to your life?

IN YOUR GROUP

Some Cornerstone Community groups may use the weekend message as the basis for their discussion. In a one-hour group session, you might spend a 10-15 minutes catching up, 40 minutes talking through the discussion questions above, and 15-20 minutes praying for one another and planning ways the group can meet needs and serve others.

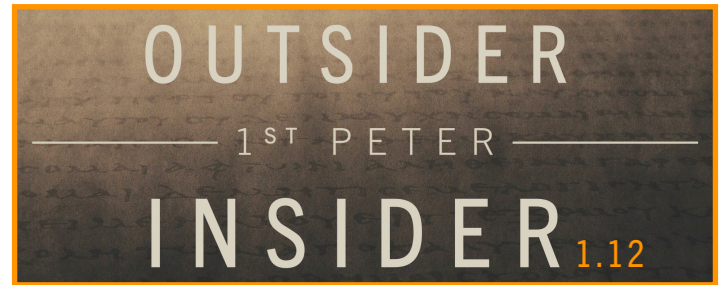
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CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mail: PO Box 1011, Concord, NH 03302-1011

Voice or Text: 603-225-2550

Email: CONTACTUS@CORNERSTONENH.ORG



YOUR NAME: _____ 10/30-31/2021

WATCH, LISTEN & MORE AT
[CORNERSTONENH.ORG](https://cornerstonenh.org)

Growth Guide

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021

CONNECT AT CORNERSTONE

We want to encourage, inform, and connect with you!
Go to [CORNERSTONENH.ORG/NEW](https://cornerstonenh.org/new).
You can also text NEW to 603-225-2550.

LIFE. BETTER.

FOLLOWING JESUS MAKES LIFE BETTER
AND MAKES YOU BETTER AT LIFE.

TODAY'S MESSAGE HOLD YOUR GROUND

TODAY: TRIALS • 1 PETER 4:12-19, 5:8-14

THE BOTTOM LINE

TRIALS CAN BE A _____
IN _____

Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner. – 1 Peter 4:12-13 MSG

1 PETER: WE ARE OUTSIDER INSIDERS

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces... – 1 Peter 1:1 NLT

ELECT – *We've been selected for service.*

_____ – *This world is not our home.*

SCATTERED – *We're dispersed for a purpose.*

My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you.

Stand firm in this grace. – 1 Peter 5:12b NLT

STAND FIRM IN THIS GRACE

TRIALS ARE EXPECTED

_____ ON THE RIGHT PATH

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.

– 1 Peter 4:12 NLT

Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

– 1 Peter 5:9b NLT

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, – 2 Timothy 3:12 NIV

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

– 1 Peter 5:8 NLT

but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that at the revelation of His glory you may also rejoice and be overjoyed. – 1 Peter 4:13 NASB

TRIALS DON'T (_____) MEAN
YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING _____

If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, – 1 Peter 4:14a NLT

"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

– Matthew 5:11-12 NLT

It's the Spirit of God and his glory in you that brought you to the notice of others. – 1 Peter 4:14b MSG

If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs.

– 1 Peter 4:15 NLT

TRIALS CAN _____ YOU TO
SET THINGS _____

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, – 1 Peter 4:12a NLT

For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. – 1 Peter 4:17 NLT

And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. – 1 Peter 2:5 NLT

Peter is pulling in several Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) themes in this passage including trials as a refining fire, judgement that begins with God's own people before spreading to others, and God's people as mediating priests to the world and a spiritual temple or house in whom God lives. In particular this passage mirrors themes in Ezekiel 9 and Malachi 3, where in prophetic visions God's judgement on the people's unfaithfulness is executed first in the temple and on the priests and elders.

And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? – 1 Peter 4:17 NLT

Saying "YES!" to Jesus? Text **YES** to **603-225-2550**

Let us celebrate your decision & resource you for your new life in Christ.

So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you. – 1 Peter 4:19 NLT

THE CHALLENGE

STAND _____

1. Use trials as a prompt to celebrate your faith rather than questioning it.
2. Use trials as a prompt to examine your walk. Am I suffering for Jesus or for being stupid?
3. Use trials as a prompt to anticipate God's blessings!