

Discussion Guide  
*Sincerely: wk2 New Birth Defines You*  
January 7, 2024



Big Idea

Suffering does not define you. New birth into a living hope and secure inheritance does.



Icebreaker

Share about a physical gift you once received that seemed strange, or rather useless, at the time of receiving it which over time proved otherwise.



Discussion Questions

1. The letter of 1 Peter addresses the topic of suffering, a state of being that takes on many forms, shapes, and sizes. What are some specific forms of suffering that you can think of? What are forms of it with which you have personal experience? Recap some of the forms of suffering the original readers (Christians around 60AD) of this letter were (*and would come to*) experience.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. From this passage pick out the phrases of *Godly Perspective* and *Godly Encouragement* that you see. Is there one that is most impactful to you and if so, why?
3. Re-read 1 Peter 1:3. Focusing upon Christ for a minute, what sufferings (and not just the obvious ones) did He go through by coming to earth to give us the opportunity for new birth into a living hope? As you consider all of this, are there manners in which you are motivated to respond to such sacrifice and endurance on His part for you? Share them.
4. Re-read 1 Peter 1:3b-5 (3b starts with “In his great mercy...”). Do you tend to live your Christian life more in the way of *understanding that your eternal inheritance will never perish, spoil, or fade because it is kept for you through faith* or in the way that *you must maintain it and/or keep earning it by works*? How can gratitude for what God has done, and is doing, lead to holy living in a healthy manner and what does this look like; what are examples of how that may look?
5. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7 and James 1:2-4 (MSG). What makes our current or temporary sufferings a strange gift? In what ways have you experienced this being true in the past? What would it take for the current suffering(s) you may be facing (or the ones you will in the future) to most fully participate with what God is trying to accomplish in you and in those who may be observing you?



Concluding Question

-Do you plan to complete the daily Bible-reading plan for this series? What will ensure your success?

-Now declare this together as a group, or on your own, to God: “*Though we have not seen him, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls.*”

1 Peter 1:8-9 (adapted for group declaration)



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer Pray that this very practical Biblical series & season will accomplish the Lord’s will in all those who engage with it.