

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER: What was an act of kindness you offered or received?

OVERVIEW: Trials will either make you better or they will make you bitter. They will either destroy you or make you stronger. And that all depends on how you look at trials. In life you can't determine what happens to you, but what happens to you is not what determines your ultimate happiness and success. Instead, it's your response to what happens to you. And your response to the trials of life is determined by your view of trials. In this study we are studying four truths about trials so that we can see trials through God's eyes.

1. **Read 1 Peter 1:6-9.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. **Truth #1: Trials should not steal a Christian's joy.** Why does God want us to have joy in the midst of our trials?
3. How can we rejoice in trials?
4. Evaluate yourself. Do trials tend to steal your joy? Explain. How can you grow in this area?
5. **Truth #2: Trials are intended to reveal the quality of your faith.** How do trials reveal the quality of our faith? Why does God want to reveal the quality of our faith?

6. Think back to some of your past trials. What did they reveal about the quality of your faith?
7. **Truth #3: Trials are intended to grow us.** When trials reveal the weaknesses in your life, God wants you to get SERIOUS about spiritual growth. What are the different elements in the acronym SERIOUS? Which of these do you need to add to your life in order to grow? Is there anything else you need to do to get serious about your spiritual growth? Explain.
8. There are usually three reasons that we fail the test of trials. 1) We doubt that God is in control. 2) We doubt that God will use the trial for our good. 3) We settle for instant gratification rather than waiting to see the good that God has planned. Do you struggle with any of these? Explain.
9. **Truth #4: Trials are intended to increase our eternal rewards.** How can God use trials to increase our treasure in heaven? How do you need to grow to increase your heavenly treasure?

The Last Word: Who you are when you face trials is who you really are.