

June 23 – 29

Chosen and Exiled | Suffering for Jesus

Icebreaker: How do you handle surprises? What was a good kind of surprise for you? What was an uncomfortable kind of surprise?

Read 1 Peter 4:12–19

SOAP Discussion (Details on the SOAP Method at www.cfdowningtown.com/soap)

Further Discussion

4:12

- Why are we surprised by trials and suffering?
- How might we react when trials surprise us? How might we respond if we were not surprised by the trial?
- Considering what life was supposed to be like for human beings when God created us, how does this help us understand why trials seem strange or wrong?

4:13–14

- Why does sharing in Christ's sufferings give us cause to rejoice?
- Have you ever encountered someone with the same kind of suffering during your time of suffering? How did your connection with that person help you during that time?
- Consider a time when you have found relief from pain and suffering. How did it feel to find relief? What does this tell us about how suffering now in this lifetime would strengthen our joy when Jesus returns in glory?

4:15–18

- When people insult you, what is your natural response?
- Explain the difference in suffering as a Christian rather than as an evildoer.
- What kind of judgment comes upon people in the church? (See 1 Peter 1:6–7 and 1 Corinthians 3:11–15) What kind of judgment awaits people who do not obey the gospel of God? (See Revelation 20:12–15)

Application

4:19 – *Suffering is inevitable. It is much better to suffer for doing God's will than for our wrongdoing.*

- What does it look like to entrust your soul to a Faithful Creator?
- How can you prepare your mind to be ready for trials and suffering?
- If you are not suffering because of Jesus, it is worth considering whether you allow him to make a big enough difference in your life. What could you change that would allow you to make a more significant impact for him, even if it means suffering for him?

For Next Week: Use SOAP with one verse in 1 Peter 5:1–5