

Metro Women's Bible Study 1 Peter 4:12-19

Lesson 14

The Christian should not consider *trials* as *strange* or unexpected. Rather, God calls us to *rejoice* and *be glad with exceeding joy*. 1 Peter 4:12-19 teaches us why we can rejoice in the midst of pain. May your suffering be *according to the will of God... as to a faithful Creator*.

Day One: Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase.
 - a. 1 Peter 4:12-19 is one section/paragraph. List below the **subject(s)** covered in this section.
2. How would you title this section?
3. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

From previous lessons: *God, Jesus (Christ), Spirit, glory/glorify/glorified, suffer/sufferings, and the phrase according to the will of, one another*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in 1 Peter 4:12-19. Remember, as you mark the words *God, Christ, and Spirit* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

4. Record on your worksheets, "**Truths about God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Truths about the Believer, & Instructions.**"
5. Note the term of conclusion **therefore** in verse 19. What is the conclusion made and what is it based upon?
6. Peter used the contrasting term **but** four times in this section (verses 13, 14, 15, and 16). What is the contrast in verses 13 & 14? We will look at the other two later in the study.

DAY TWO: Read 1 Peter 4:12,13

1. Peter introduced the subject of suffering with an extremely endearing term. Print it here from 1 Peter 4:12a.

a. What is revealed about God's love in Jeremiah 31:3?

b. Why is it important to know the Lord loves you, especially when you are in a trial?

2. Frequently our initial reaction to a trial is to question "why?" How would Peter's exhortation in 1 Peter 4:12 answer this?

a. Look up the word **fiery trial** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.
Fiery trial-

3. *Fiery trial* refers to the process of refining gold or silver. Although the *fiery trial which is to try you* deals primarily with the persecution from unbelievers, this instruction is valuable for **any** trial. How would knowing God uses trials to refine us affect our ability to remain steadfast and faithful in times of suffering? (See 1 Peter 1:7)

a. When experiencing a trial, what **attitude** does 1 Peter 4:13a tell us we should have?

b. According to James 1:2-4, why can we **rejoice**?

James 1:2-4

4. According to 1 Peter 4:13-19, why should a Christian rejoice over suffering for Jesus Christ?

5. Record the benefits of sharing in *Christ's sufferings* from the following verses:

Romans 8:16-18

2 Corinthians 4:17

Philippians 3:10

2 Timothy 2:12

6. What encouragement have you received from Day Two's Lesson that will help you *be glad with exceeding joy*?

DAY THREE: Read 1 Peter 4:14-16

1. 1 Peter 4:14 begins with, "If you are reproached for the name of Christ..." Look up the word **reproached** in your Concordance and write out the English Definition.

Reproached-

Oneidizo refers to especially strong verbal abuse which is interesting because the Jewish culture at that time considered verbal abuse to be extremely vicious. The Jewish rabbis even considered reviling to be as evil as idolatry, fornication, and bloodshed all combined! Why so serious? Because by the defamation of one's character the victim would lose his or her place in the community and, according to the circumstance of that day, almost the possibility of continuing their life. The insulting word itself was believed to have a power of its own.

2. In 1 Peter 4:14 we find an unexpected source of blessing for the Christian. Write 14a in your own words.

The translators added "**you are**" (there is no verb in the Greek) so it should read "*if you are reviled for the name of Christ, **Blessed!***" which sounds even better!

a. What does that word **Blessed** mean? Look it up in your Concordance and write out the definition. (You will find the word **Happy**.)

Blessed-

b. Why can a believer be **blessed** if reproached for the name of Christ?

Peter is saying that suffering Christians do not have to wait for heaven in order to experience His glory. Through the Holy Spirit, they can have the glory now! This explains how martyrs like Thomas Hauker could sing praises to God while bound in the midst of blazing flames (a literal "fiery ordeal"!). It also explains how persecuted Christians (and there are many in today's world can go to prison and to death without complaining or resisting their captors.

Corrie Ten Boom tells how she worried as a girl whether she would be able to stand against the Germans if she was threatened. She felt so weak when she thought about what might happen. Her father gave her a great illustration. He said, "When you are going to take a journey on the train, do I give you your ticket three weeks early or just as you get on the train?" She answered, "As I get on the train." "So God will give you the special strength you need to be strong in the face of death just when you need it, not before."

3. 1 Peter 4:15 gives believers a warning. Write it here.

4. Look up the word **busybody** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

Busybody-

a. **Busybody** means meddler; self-appointed overseer in other men's matters. Notice *busybody* is listed with *murderers*, *thieves*, and *evildoers*. Why is being a *busybody* such a terrible sin?

5. Look up 1 Timothy 5:11-13. What is the progression of sin in this verse?

Timothy 5:11-13

6. Peter used the contrasting term **but** in verses 15 and 16. Record the contrast that Peter makes.

7. Verse 16 says, "If anyone suffers as a Christian..." This might seem like a silly question to women studying the Bible, but, what is a Christian?

a. Look up the word **Christian** in your Concordance and write out the English definition.

Christian-

CHALLENGE: Find other New Testament passages that have the same Greek word for Christian.

Someone said, Faith makes a Christian. Life proves a Christian. Trials confirms a Christian. Death crowns a Christian.

8. What instruction does 1 Peter 4:16 give to those who *suffer as a Christian*?

This statement must have reminded Peter of his own denial of Christ (Luke 22:54-62). Jesus is not ashamed of us (Heb. 2:11)—though many times we have given Him reason to be! On the cross Jesus Christ despised shame for us (Heb. 12:2), so surely we can bear reproach for Him and not be ashamed. "Not be ashamed" is negative; "glorify God" is positive. It takes both for a balanced witness. If we seek to glorify God, then we will not be ashamed of the name of Jesus Christ!

a. A Christian should only be ashamed of that which is wrong, and glory in that which is right. What warning do we find in Mark 8:38 ?

Mark 8:38-

9. Peter uses a form of the word **glory** three times in 1 Peter 4:14-16. Why does glory go with suffering? Look at the following references and note after each one the relationship between suffering (persecution) and glory, and any other thoughts.

1 Peter 1:6-7 *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

James 1:2-4 & 12 *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

¹²Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

1 Peter 5:1 *“The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed.”*

1 Peter 5:10 *“¹⁰But may the God of all grace, who called ⁵us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.”*

Romans 8:16-18 *“¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”*

Matthew 5:10-12 *“¹⁰Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹²Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”*

2 Timothy 3:12 *“¹²Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Peter 4:17-18

1. Verse 17 says, *“¹⁷For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”* Look up the following words in your Concordance.

Time

Judgment-

2. The *judgment* in 1 Peter 4:17 refers to the purifying discipline of God's children. Contrast the *judgment* of the believer with the *judgment* of unbelievers through the following passages:
Believer's Judgment/Disciplined NowUnbeliever's Judgment Eternally

Hebrews 12:6

Hebrews 12:10-11

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

Revelation 3:19

Romans 2:8-9

3. The word **scarcely** in 1 Peter 4:18 means with difficulty. This refers to the drastic means, namely persecution and suffering, which were allowed by God to purify the lives of His children. How would 1 Peter 1:6-8 encourage a persecuted believer?

1 Peter 1:6-8

4. Consider the following quote: "If the righteous need disciplinary judgments, how much more will the unrighteous merit the wrath of God whose offer of righteousness they have rejected?" How does the reality of the unbeliever's judgment compel you to do everything you can to reach the lost?

a. Share ways you can do this.

DAY FIVE: Read 1 Peter 4:19

1 Peter 4:19 is a Scripture that every suffering Christian should know and apply. Print this verse phrase by phrase.

a. How might we bring suffering on ourselves that is not according to God's will?

2. God wants to strengthen us, help us, and carry us through when we *suffer according to the will of God*. What is our part? Answer from 1 Peter 4:19b.

a. Define the word **commit**. Use your Concordance and a dictionary.

Commit-

b. What are some antonyms for the word *commit*?

c. Consider for a moment the description of God in verse 19. How would knowing that He is your *faithful Creator* help you apply the instruction in this verse? See Isaiah 40:28-31.

3. 1 Peter 4:19 TLB says, *So, if you are suffering according to God's will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God Who made you, for He will never fail you*". Give an example of what it would mean to *keep on doing what is right*. See Psalm 138:8 & Hebrews 10:23

DAY SIX: Review 1 Peter 4:12-19

1. In response to your study of 1 Peter 4:12-19, complete the following sentences:

I have learned that *fiery trials*...

Persecution is allowed in the believer's life to...

I am enabled to rejoice in trials because...

2. How would you answer a Christian who was questioning God's love for them because of a *fiery trial*?

3. What did you learn from this week's lesson that will help you to prepare for, walk through, and remain steadfast in trials?

4. What are some benefits of suffering and trials that have caused you to *rejoice* and *be glad*?

5. In what way has your study this week: challenged you, comforted you, changed you?

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." -Revelation 4:11