

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

1 Peter 4:12-19

Lesson 11

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. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. 1 Peter 4:12-19 is one section/paragraph. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling this section, record a title for Chapter 4.

2. 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*

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.
3. Note the term of conclusion *therefore* in verse 19. What is the conclusion made and what is it based upon?
4. Peter used the contrasting term *but* four times in this section (verses 13, 14, 15, and 16). Choose one of them and record the contrast that Peter made.
5. Choose one of the key words from question #2 and record what you learned.

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 surprise or shock and we question "why?" How would Peter's exhortation in 1 Peter 4:12 answer this?
 - a. *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?
 - b. When experiencing a trial, what attitude does 1 Peter 4:13a tell us we should have?
 - 1.) According to James 1:2-4, why can we *rejoice*?
3. Write the reason we are to *rejoice* from 1 Peter 4:13b.
 - a. Record the benefits of sharing in *Christ's sufferings* from the following verses:
1 Peter 4:13c

Romans 8:17

2 Corinthians 4:17

Philippians 3:10

2 Timothy 2:12
4. What encouragement have you received from today's study that will help you *be glad with exceeding joy*?

DAY THREE: Read 1 Peter 4:14-16

1. In 1 Peter 4:14 we find an unexpected source of blessing for the Christian. Write 14a in your own words.
 - a. Why can a believer be *blessed* if *reproached for the name of Christ*?
 - b. How does Matthew 5:10-12 support verse 14a?
 - c. Consider the contrast in the last phrase of verse 14. What do you see?
2. 1 Peter 4:15 gives believers a warning. Write it here.
 - 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?
3. What instruction does 1 Peter 4:16 give to those who *suffer as a Christian*?
 - a. Both the Bible and Christian history records many examples of believers who *glorified* God through persecution and suffering. Share a brief testimony of one that especially blesses you today.
4. Peter uses a form of the word *glory* three times in 1 Peter 4:14-16. Why do you think this is such an important goal to have when we are suffering?

DAY FOUR: Read 1 Peter 4:17,18

1. In 1 Peter 4:17,18 Peter contrasted believers with unbelievers. Write the statement or the question from each of these verses about:

believers

unbelievers

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 chart:

Believer's Judgment Now	Unbeliever's Judgment Eternally
Hebrews 12:6,10,11	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 1:6,7 encourage a persecuted believer?
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. 1 Peter 4:19 is a Scripture that every suffering Christian should know and apply. Print this verse phrase by phrase.
 - a. Focus on the phrase *suffer according to the will of God*. How does this refute the teaching that a Christian should never have to suffer?

 - b. 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 synonyms, if you desire)
 - 1.) What are some antonyms for the word *commit*?

 - b. 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?

3. *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.* 1 Peter 4:19 TLB Give an example of what it would mean to *keep on doing what is right*.

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