

# I Peter 1:6-9

## *Joyful Living!*

### Life Group Study Guide

Sugar Grove Church of Christ  
11600 West Airport Blvd. Meadows Place, TX 77477  
For use by Sugar Grove Church of Christ Life Groups  
2007

#### **How to Use The Sugar Grove Life Group Curriculum:**

- **Use only in small groups-** This material is designed to be used in a discussion involving a small group of 5-12 people. If there are more than 12 people present it would work best to break up into smaller groups of 5-12 people.
- **Don't teach this material-** There is a difference between a class and a discussion group. The primary purpose of a class is for someone to impart knowledge or information to a group of people suggesting possible applications. The best way to teach is for one person to talk taking occasional comments and questions from the class. The primary purpose of a discussion group is to help a group of people make application into their life and heart. The best way to lead a discussion group is to put a question out on the table and then allow the group to process.
- **Just read the next question-** This material is designed to spark discussion and honest sharing. The person leading this discussion (the discussion facilitator) should read the question and then be quiet to allow others to talk. The discussion facilitator should talk less than 25% of the time.
- **Share-** The discussion is best when everyone present has an opportunity to be a part of the discussion. If someone does not talk it is appropriate to encourage that person to participate. If someone is not allowing others the chance to talk then it is appropriate to encourage that person to give others an opportunity to talk.
- **Keep a Balance:** A healthy small group is characterized by keeping a balance of activities. Spend focused amounts of time breaking the ice through the Connect section, getting into the word and applying it into your heart and life through the Grow section, considering how to put these scriptures into action through the Serve and Share section, entering into the throne room of God through the Prayer section, and then spending time in fellowship with the group before or after your discussion time. Don't do one of these items to the exclusion of others! Keep a balance.

**Connect:**

- If your group has guests or new members take some time to make sure everyone knows each other.
- In the last year what has been the most difficult thing you have experienced in your life? Why was it so difficult?

**Scripture:**

<sup>6</sup>"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup>These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."  
I Peter 1: 6-9 (NIV)

**Grow:**

- As a group read together I Peter 1:6-9.
- In this passage of scripture what is faith?
- Peter here says that for a little while we may have trials but when you are in the middle of a trial it seems to last forever. What could change our perspective so that a trial did not seem permanent? Why? How?
- Why is your faith 'of greater worth than gold'?
- Refining a metal such as gold removes the impurities producing a pure metal. How do trials refine our faith? How do trials remove 'impurities' in our life?
- In the last year what has caused your faith to grow or hurt your faith?
- How does a faith that is proved genuine result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed?
- How can we be filled with 'an inexpressible and glorious joy' even though we are going through trials?
- If our faith is so important then it should be a priority in our lives and in our church to nurture and grow this faith. What needs to happen in your life to nurture the development of your faith? How can this group help you grow in your faith?

**Serve and Share:**

- Why is it that when people are suffering they are more open to God and to help from others? Is there anyone in your life who is in a situation that has caused them to suffer? How can you and/or this group help them?

**Prayer:**

- Spend a few moments gathering prayer requests from your group.
- Confidently go into the throne room of God with prayer. Be sure to pray by name for each member of your group asking God to bless your Life Group this year.

**Preparation for Next Time:**

- Make sure everyone knows where and when the next group meeting will occur.
- Fill out your group roster and return to the office- this will be compared against the ACS database.

Reasons to Rejoice in Trials		
Reason	Verses	Application
1. Trials strengthen our faith.	“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance” ( <a href="#">Romans 5:3</a> NIV) (See also <a href="#">1 Peter 4:19</a> .)	Trials and suffering burn away self-reliance and promote reliance on God.
2. Trials help us look forward to the glory we will experience when Christ comes to restore us.	“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you” ( <a href="#">1 Peter 5:10</a> NRSV).	Trials and suffering teach us not to be so comfortable or dependent upon this life.
3. Trials expose a deep vein of patience in us.	“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness” ( <a href="#">Galatians 5:22</a> NIV).	Trials and suffering are the only way for us to develop patience.
4. Trials help us resist worldly desires.	“Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same intention (for whoever has suffered in the flesh has finished with sin)” ( <a href="#">1 Peter 4:1</a> NRSV).	Trials and suffering help us see the futility of worldly desires so we can devote ourselves to God.
5. Trials can bring rewards from Jesus.	“Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him” ( <a href="#">James 1:12</a> NRSV). (See also <a href="#">Romans 8:18</a> ; <a href="#">2 Corinthians 4:17</a> ; <a href="#">1 Peter 5:4</a> .)	Trials and suffering are slight compared to the eternity of joy that we have been promised.

