

# COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

## Joy This Christmas

### 1 Peter 1:6-9

"In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,<sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;<sup>8</sup> and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,<sup>9</sup> obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls."

To read Pastor Matt's weekly blog on his weekend message, click here:

<https://centralchristianblog.com>

### OPEN:

1. When is it officially Christmas season for you?
2. What is a Christmas present you hoped for as a kid and you got? Did it bring the joy you thought it would?

### DIG:

1. Who is Peter writing to and where are they located? What persecution were they facing?
2. In verse six, what's the "in this" that we rejoice in?
3. Instead of allowing trials to weigh us down or causing us to lose hope, what should we be doing? What does "a little while" mean in regards to our suffering?
4. If you have trusted in Jesus and if you are following him, what can we expect?  
(See John 15:20)
5. What purpose do the various trials serve? What is the purification process designed to do?

### REFLECT:

1. The picture that Jesus frequently uses for discipleship—for following Him—is taking up our cross. It's a clear picture of suffering. Why does suffering have to be a part of the deal?
2. The more we look like Jesus—the more we live as kingdom citizens—the more at odds we will be. The more at odds, the more suffering. The more suffering, the more rejoicing. Why can we rejoice?

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3. If you have trusted in Jesus, is it obvious to those around you? Does your life look any different than theirs? Your actions, attitudes, and language? Is there anything that would distinguish you from them?
4. Have there been times in your life when you have experienced persecution for your faith?

## 5 MARKS FOCUS: PRAYER

If you're currently going through a trial *This Christmas* season and it seems difficult to find joy, spend time in prayer this week, asking God for your ability to find true joy despite your circumstances. You probably know someone who is also going through a trial. Pray for them and their ability to find joy as well despite their circumstances.