

Questions:

- 1) Do you have a story or embarrassing tale from your 'Part 1' where you felt certain it "...couldn't get any worse?"

- 2) When you think about the word *suffering* or *trial*, what's the first thing that comes to mind?
 - Something small and everyday? Or something more serious?

- 3) Read First Peter 1:6–7 together. What stands out to you about how Peter describes trials?
 - What does it mean that we can "rejoice" *while* being grieved?
 - What do you think Peter is trying to shift in our perspective?

- 4) The sermon emphasized that *Christians should expect suffering*.
 - Why do you think many people assume following Jesus should make life easier?
 - How does having the *right expectation* about suffering change the way we respond to it?

- 5) Peter says trials are "for a little while" and "if necessary."
 - In what ways is it hard to believe that your current struggles are temporary?
 - Can you think of a time when something difficult in your life turned out to be necessary for growth?

- 6) The sermon compared trials to a refining fire that removes "dross."
 - What are some "impurities" (fear, control, doubt, etc.) that trials tend to expose in us?

- 7) The Big Idea was: "*In Christ, we have hope in our suffering.*"
 - Practically speaking, what does it look like to place your hope in Christ instead of your circumstances?
 - Where do you personally struggle to trust God right now?