

Christmas: Joy Unspeakable - Week 4

1 Peter 1:3-9

BELONG

Ask this Ice Breaker Question: What is your favorite Christmas movie and why?

BELIEVE

Have someone in your group read aloud the key passage listed above

- 1. In verse 6 the passage says “in this your greatly rejoice”. What is the “in this” Peter is referring to here? List everything you find in verses 1-5 to “rejoice in”.**
- 2. What is the real purpose of trials according to this passage?**
- 3. Have you experienced a miracle in your life during a great trial? Would you be willing to share your story with the group?**

Leader Context (can be shared with the group)

“Peter cemented his point with the illustration of a goldsmith. To form a useful object, raw gold must be cast into a mold. For that to occur, the solid ore must be melted, requiring a temperature of 1,900 degrees Fahrenheit. When the gold is melted, the impurities rise to the surface, where they are skimmed off or burned off. A goldsmith knows the gold is ready to cast when the liquid gold becomes mirror-like and he can see his face reflected in the surface.

The parallel in a believer’s life is obvious. Through the refining heat of trials, we as followers of Jesus Christ grow spiritually and thus reflect more of Christ’s character in our lives” - David Walls and Max Anders,

Have someone read Matthew 1:18-25

- 1. What trials did Mary face in agreeing to be the servant of God? Do you think she was faithful? What leads you to believe this?**
- 2. Joseph had a unique role as the husband to Mary and the earthly father to Jesus. What does it tell you about him that he did as the angel commanded?**
- 3. Have you faced trials because you have said yes to Jesus? What has that looked like in your life?**

“The story of Mary and Joseph offers hope in times like these. Their path was marked by rejection, uncertainty, and sacrifice. They had no wealth, little stability, and faced isolation and hardship. Yet they entrusted everything to God, who carried them through their darkest moments and seasons. Their journey reminds us that even when life feels lonely or overwhelming, God meets us where we are. He will not abandon us. He is sure and steady when the world is not.” - Pastor Scott Sauls

BECOME:

- 1. Have someone ready 1 Peter 1:3-9 one more time.**
- 2. How has looking at this verse through the lens of Christmas encouraged you? What is one takeaway you want to “treasure” and “ponder”?**
- 3. How can we pray for you as we go into the week of Christmas?**

Close by praying together.