

ONE CONVERSATION

Parents: Read 1 Peter 4:12-19, as well as the surrounding verses to help you better understand the context. We've all experienced the disappointment of life not going according to our expectations. Maybe students have studied many hours for a test only to find that they did poorly, or maybe they trained for months for a competition only to get sick and fail to perform well. When we do certain things, we expect certain results, but unfortunately we live in a world where circumstances sometimes throw a wrench in our plans. We'd like to think that following Jesus fixes all of this. We'd like to think that trusting in Jesus results in a life that meets our greatest expectations. What we find in 1 Peter, however, is more complicated than that. Rather than meeting our every expectation, Jesus is in the business of subverting them. None of us would expect to suffer for doing what is right, but Peter says that is exactly what we should expect, in fact he commands us to rejoice when suffering comes our way as it provides us unique opportunities to glorify Christ.

Discuss what it means to embrace suffering with your son and daughter. Explain that this looks differently for those serving the Lord overseas than it does in the U.S. Help them to understand how they can daily embrace suffering as a means for personal growth, joy, and in order to bring glory to God. Encourage them to reflect on this Central Truth throughout their week.

CENTRAL TRUTH

Jesus calls us to embrace suffering as a means for personal growth, joy, and in order to bring glory to God.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Consider the trials and difficulties you and those close to you have faced in recent years. How have these experiences shaped you? How have they changed your perspective? How have they shaped your hope? Your joy? Your purpose in life?
- › **Memorize:** John 16:33
- › **Pray:** Thank God for the suffering He has graciously and sovereignly placed in your life to help deepen your hope and joy in Christ. Pray that He will prepare your heart for future suffering so that when it comes, you would not panic or despair, but entrust your soul to God while doing good.