

Different – Week 1

Different kind of Faith

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. 1 Peter 1:1 NLT

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. ... 1 Peter 1:6-7 NLT

How does God use your trials?

1. Trials reveal your faith.

These trials will show that your faith is genuine. ... 1 Peter 1:7 NLT

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Luke 22:31-32 NIV

2. Trials deepen your faith

You love [God] even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9 NLT

3. Trials mature your faith

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 NIV

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's something "different" about you people might not know?
- What really stuck with you from the message?

Start **thinking**. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read 1 Peter 1:1. How can you identify as a foreigner, exile, stranger?
- Why do you think God doesn't miraculously keep you from experiencing any trials?

Start **sharing**. Choose a question to create openness.

- Think of a time when a trial revealed your faith. What kind of faith did it reveal: inherited faith, shallow faith, conditional faith, or genuine faith?
- Have you experienced a trial that drew you closer to God and took your faith deeper? What caused you to move closer to God instead of moving away from Him?
- What trial are you facing right now? How can you begin to trust God with it?

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

Heavenly Father, thank You for this group of friends. We ask You to grow in us a faith that can be trusted. Draw us closer to You, God. We give You our worries, and we commit to trust in You. Amen.

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Start the *Different* Bible Plan on YouVersion
- Start each day by committing your worries and disappointments to God in prayer. Tell Him and show Him you trust Him.
- Talk with your family or close friends about what makes you different.