

April 28 – May 4

Chosen and Exiled | Joy Despite Trials

Icebreaker: What thing in the future are you most looking forward to right now? (life event, vacation, etc.) How does the anticipation of that affect your mindset and actions now?

Read 1 Peter 1:6–9

SOAP Discussion

- We will start each study in this series by having each person share an observation or application from the verse they studied this past week.
- We can choose to go in order of verses in the passage (i.e., anyone who studied verse 6, then verse 7, and so on), or we can have people volunteer to share.
- If you do not have something to share, you can listen in and participate next week.

See the end of this study for a simplified explanation of SOAP. You can also find details at www.cfdowningtown.com/soap.

Further Discussion

You may choose to ask these questions alongside the discussion with group member sharing, or you can have everyone share and then supplement that discussion with these questions.

Verse 6

- How is joy possible in the middle of trials?
- What do we learn about the nature of trials in this verse?

Verse 7

- What is the purpose of trials?
- What is the ultimate purpose of our faith?
- What does this verse teach us about the temporal versus the eternal?

Verse 8

- What do we learn here about how believers through the ages relate to Jesus?
- Why would someone love or believe in someone they have never seen? How would you explain this to a non-believer?
- What is inexpressible joy? How can it be filled with glory

Verse 9

- Consider how this verse follows verse 8. What is the connection between belief and joy (verse 8) and faith and salvation (verse 9)?

[Over]

Application

- How do you tend to express yourself when rejoicing? What action can you take today to express an attitude of joy and gratitude for what God has done for you?
- What is your current default response to trials and testing? How can you move toward an expectation of “praise and glory and honor”?
- What are two things you could do today to increase Christ’s ‘visibility’ in your daily experience?
- Consider the phrase “obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” List three things that give you great hope and anticipation when redeemed at Christ’s return. Take time in prayer to thank Him for them.

For Next Week

Use SOAP with one verse in 1 Peter 1:10–12.

The SOAP Method

Scripture

- Read through the passage.
- Choose one verse.
- Write out the verse in a journal.

Observation

- Write simple observations.
- Look for keywords, commands, promises, cause/effect, comparisons/contrasts, questions/answers, and purpose statements.
- Answer: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How

Application

- Apply the verse to your life.
- Make it personal and specific.
- What do you want to change?

Prayer

- Write a brief prayer.
- Thank God and ask for wisdom.
- Confess sin and ask for strength.