

Ice Breaker (in groups of 2 or 3 for larger groups)

Share what your favorite Fall Sport is (or was) and maybe what team you love, and why?

Talk About it!

Part 1

1 Peter 1:3-5 NLT

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.”

Discuss:

- A. Five reasons to rejoice are listed in the verse. Which one are you most glad about?
- B. How does considering these things affect the state of your soul?

Part 2

1 Peter 1:6-7 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. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

Discuss:

- A. Why do you think God views your faith as “far more precious,” as so valuable?
- B. When you consider the possibility that the trials you face may be part of a process of refining your faith, how does that affect you?
- C. How does Christ want to refine your character during your trials and temptations?

Part 3

1 Peter 1:7a NLT

“These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.

James 1:2-4 NLT

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”

Discuss:

- A. What is required if you are actually going to do what these verses call for?
- B. What struggle have you had in living out this call?
- C. What is helping you to live it out?

Part 4

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NLT

“That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.”

Discuss:

- A. What kind of adjustment does the scripture call you to make in light of trials, and how do you actually do it?

Part 5

1 Peter 1:8-9 NLT

“You love him 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.”

Discuss:

- A. What does the word *salvation* mean to you, from your understanding of scripture?
 - B. Why is it a reward?
 - C. How are you responding to the trials in your life, in light of this?