

“How to Be Strong”

1 Peter 4:12-19

Life Group Discussion Guide

1. Act like He's been there before—Jesus. Don't act surprised. Painful labor and tough times are to be expected (1 Peter 4:12).
2. Trust and rejoice in God's choreographed outcomes. Focus on the end game: God's purposes. God's testing is always for your good (1 Peter 4:19, 3:17; Genesis 50:20).

God causes all good and controls all evil.
3. Keep looking at the big picture. God's way with us, as was His way with Jesus, is *pain then pleasure*. The divine pattern is suffering then joy and glory. Tough things are God's will for testing so that we will trust God and rejoice (1 Peter 1:11, 13; 4:12, 19).
4. Know true astounding glory: as you endure, you are the dwelling place of God. Enjoy the fellowship of suffering. There is a distinct blessing to the Spirit's glory resting on us (1 Peter 4:14; Philippians 3:10; Romans 5:3-5; 8:17-18).
5. Know the differences in pain: think about the alternative (1 Peter 4:17-18).
6. Trust your Creator and keep on doing good (1 Peter 4:19).

1. Do you think the phrase “Boston Strong” helped in getting over the bombing? Why or why not.
2. What kinds of bombs go off in our lives today?
3. Talk about evil, trouble, pain and the phrases we use to understand them: God causes all good and controls all evil. Does that mean that God never causes evil? Does He always use secondary sources to do evil? Isaiah 10, Job 1-42.
4. How is the Cross the final answer to trouble?
5. How do we feel the glory of God, or the dwelling place of God in our lives?
6. How is it that “with difficulty” believers are saved?
7. What does being strong look like for the believer? Are you strong? What can you do so that you are stronger?

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