

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

**Warming up**

1. What is your favorite place to travel to?

**Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

3. Look up the definition of "suffer". Please read the definition to the rest of the group. Can you recall a time when you went through a difficult time?
4. The letter, First Peter, is known as the "Job of the New Testament". It was written by Simon Peter to a group of Christians (Jew and Gentile) scattered throughout the northern areas of Asia Minor, where he may have previously preached the gospel. In this letter, Peter spoke much about persecution, which anticipated the persecution he and other Christians would endure in the final years of Nero's reign. First Peter focuses on the importance of believers bearing up under unjust suffering. Please read 1 Peter 1:1-9. According to this passage, who is our Living Hope? What is the purpose of trials?
5. One of the things Christians do, is they cherry-pick verses related to blessings, prosperity, health, favor, etc. We value comfort and blessings. But, if you were to take another look at the bible, could you make an argument that suffering is just as much a part of a godly life?
  - a. Are Christians called to suffer?
  - b. Should we strive for comfort? Talk about it. Compare with the words of Jesus in John 16:33.
6. Can you think of any biblical examples of suffering? Here are a few: Luke 15:16; and Genesis 40:23.
7. There are different types of suffering...There is physical, and suffering related to your spirit or soul. It's a lot easier for a broken bone to heal than a broken soul. Please read Job 17:1.
8. How you respond to suffering is critical. According to 1 Peter 2:21, who is our example?
9. When faced with suffering, we can run from it or walk through it. What have you seen in your life?

10. According to 1 Peter 5:10, what are the promises we have related to suffering? Unpack this verse! Compare with Isaiah 43:2 and 2 Corinthians 4:17.
11. What do the following verses tell us about suffering? Romans 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9; and Romans 8:18.
12. How will you respond to your season of suffering?

### **Application**

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- There are times when you are forced to live under circumstances that press into your faith.
- Suffering is part of life!
- There is a prodigal suffering that breaks down the prideful heart.
- God uses this suffering to bring you back into His arms.
- There is a suffering that leads to repentance.
  - God will allow you to reap the consequences of your own decisions.
  - He'll let you suffer.
  - God's hope is you will come to your senses....and RETURN TO GOD.
- HOW will you RESPOND to the suffering?
  - You can give in to it, or become stronger because of it.
  - You can give in or get strong.
  - The world needs to see people that will not run away because of suffering.
  - Here's the other side of the coin to suffering....
  - You can let that abuse linger over your head, or you can stand on it through Jesus Christ.