



## You Asked For It!

Week 1: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?  
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### RECAP

In this first sermon tackling perhaps the biggest question driving people away from Christianity, Josh addresses the problem of pain and suffering and gives four next steps when encountering suffering.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are some people you know that have walked away from the faith? Why did they walk away? Did you ever walk away from faith for a time? What was it that caused you to walk away?
2. Have you ever struggled with the problem of pain and suffering in the world? What's a specific example of something that caused you to wrestle with by bad things happen to good people?
3. Assuming you are familiar with the story of the crucifixion of Jesus, when did you first hear it? How sanitized was the story when you heard it? How did it change your perspective when Josh went into some of the gruesome details of crucifixion?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9. Put yourself in the place of Peter and imagine the amount of pain and suffering that he saw firsthand and experienced firsthand in his life. How was Peter able to have such a positive view of God in spite of the evil he had seen? How can his perspective help shape and form your perspective?
5. Josh shared four next steps when walking through trials. Discuss these four next steps and talk about how each step can help during difficult seasons.
  - Know that God grieves with you
  - Seek the purpose behind the pain
  - Cling to the cross
  - Look ahead to the day when pain will cease

### NEXT STEP

Who is someone that you know that is going through a difficult season currently? What's something specific your group can do to minister to them? That's your homework this week!

For more information (training and support) on how to start a small group, contact [steve.lizzio@cbcva.org](mailto:steve.lizzio@cbcva.org)



CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019

**WEEK 1: WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?**  
1 PETER 1:3-9

BIG Idea: We know God is for us because \_\_\_\_\_ for us, not because things always \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

### 4 NEXT STEPS WHEN WALKING THROUGH TRIALS

1. Know that God \_\_\_\_\_ with you
2. Seek the \_\_\_\_\_ behind the \_\_\_\_\_
3. Cling to the \_\_\_\_\_
4. Look ahead to the day when the \_\_\_\_\_

### **Bonus Content**

Sunday (This Handout) - 7 Questions on Philippians 3:13-14 and Discussion Questions for this message  
Monday (Blog) - Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?  
Tuesday (Blog) - How the Apostle Peter Reconciled a Good God with Pain and Suffering  
Wednesday (Blog) - 4 Next Steps When Walking Through Trials in Life

For bonus content and much more, visit: [joshdaffern.com](http://joshdaffern.com)

## 1 Peter 1:3-4

joshdaffern.com

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.

1 Peter 1:3-4

### 1. WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THE ORIGINAL READERS?

*If you start with today you're twenty centuries too late.*

Peter started his letter to first century Christians with a praise to God, which would have been expected, something Paul did regularly in his letters. These beginning remarks are not meaningless, throwaway words like "How are you? I hope you are well," that you'd see at a beginning of an email today. Peter's opening words set the foundation for everything else he will write about in this epistle (letter).

Peter immediately lays the foundation of his faith as the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, more so than tradition, the Old Testament Law or even the New Testament teachings of Jesus. Peter was forever a changed man because he saw his close friend Jesus tortured and executed, and then had breakfast with him the next week. More than that, Peter fully understood the significance of what Jesus accomplished and how it forever changed the landscape of how God interacted with humankind.

Finally in these verses Peter was drawing the eyes of the readers upward and outward, beyond their momentary trials and tribulations that they were enduring. Peter reminded them that Jesus' resurrection accomplished more than just forgiveness before God. His resurrection secured an eternal inheritance that awaits all those who believe, even us today!

### GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

**κληρονομία** (*klēronomia*) is the Greek word for "inheritance" in 1 Peter 1:4. Paul uses the word often in his letters and it's a compound word, combining the Greek words for "a lot" and "to distribute among themselves." Hence an inheritance is originally a portion which one receives by lot in a general distribution, but in the New Testament, the idea of chance (like hitting the lottery) is eliminated. It is an overabundance and embarrassment of riches. That's awaiting us in Christ Jesus!

### 2. WHAT'S THE CONTEXT? *Scripture without context makes no sense.*

Context amplifies the meaning of Peter's praise and rejoicing to astounding heights. A few verses later Peter would acknowledge that these believers were walking through challenging trials (1 Peter 1:6). We know from history that these trials were not ridicule in social media or the loss of civil liberties. The Roman Empire had begun to systematically persecute Christians, tearing apart families, putting Christians in prison, and executing believers in horrific ways in the Colosseum in Rome. Christians were made to be fodder in gladiator games, thrown to the lions, tied together and lit aflame while still alive to serve as human torches to light Rome at night. It was in the midst of these trials that Peter still called believers to rejoice in the goodness of God because of the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus.

### 3. WHAT TIMELESS TRUTHS ARE THERE?

*Since the Word doesn't change it still matters today.*

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead has been and always will be the foundation of our faith.
- Christ's resurrection has secured for us an inheritance in heaven that will never perish, spoil or fade.
- Christians are to keep our eyes on heaven and the inheritance that awaits us there. This perspective should strengthen us through trials we endure in this life.

### 5. HOW DOES IT APPLY TODAY? *Information without application becomes stagnation.*

- One of the greatest tools Christians have to find strength in the midst of adversity is to firmly fix our eyes on Jesus and the inheritance awaiting us in heaven. The promise of eternal life will give us the strength to walk through whatever valley we must in this life.
- Even in the midst of pervasive evil and acute pain and suffering, we can and must find ways to praise God through Jesus Christ. If Peter could praise God even with all the suffering he endured, so can we!

### 4. WHERE ELSE IN SCRIPTURE DOES IT SAY

**THIS?** *The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture.*

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. *Romans 8:17*

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. *2 Corinthians 4:17*

The promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. *Ephesians 1:13-14*

### 6. HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE THE WAY I LIVE IN COMMUNITY? *The Bible comes alive in me when I live it in community.*

- What have been some of the most difficult circumstances or trials that you have had to walk through? How did you maintain your faith in God through those trials?
- Look ahead to your eternal inheritance waiting for you in heaven. What do you think that inheritance will look like? How does that hope give you strength to endure today?

### 7. HOW CAN MY LIFE GET BETTER BECAUSE OF THESE VERSES? *If I trust God and step in faith, what kind of life will God create?*

When we live out the power of these verses, it doesn't mean that all of our problems will magically go away. Instead, we will discover and appropriate a deeper strength (given by the Holy Spirit) to rise above our trials with joy and thanksgiving. Your trials don't have to define you. Your pain does not have to defeat you. By firmly fixing your eyes on Jesus and his sacrifice for you and by intentionally choosing every day to thank God for His salvation and your eternal reward waiting for you in heaven, you will begin to soar above the valley of your suffering and like Peter, find a way to praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, despite whatever trial you may be walking through.