

D I F F E R E N T

1 Peter - Living a Life that's Different

Key Scripture

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first ... If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. John 15:18, 20

Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. 1 Peter 4:12-13 NLT

So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you. 1 Peter 4:19

... "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 1 Peter 5:5-7

Comfort Cycle: Pursue Comfort –
Avoid Opposition – Faith Weakens –
Life's Empty

Bold Cycle: Live Boldly - Face
Opposition - Faith Strengthens - Closer
to Christ

Whoever finds God, finds life.

Session 4

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's your worst plumbing story?
- What are some silly things you've called persecution?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- How does the following statement make you feel? 'Don't worry when you're persecuted for your faith, worry when you're not.'
- Read John 15:18-20. How are Jesus' words different from your perspective of life?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Have you experienced any level of persecution for your faith? Is there anything you wish you did differently?
- Looking at the two cycles opposite which looks more like your daily life? Seeking comfort or living boldly?
- What would change about your life if you began to expect persecution as a part of following Christ?
- Read 1 Peter 5:5-7. What are you worried about right now? How can you live out this Scripture and give your worries to God?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, forgive us for all the time we've spent seeking comfort instead of boldly seeking You. You are all we need. Thank You for Your constant grace. We give our worries and cares to You. Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Pick one of your biggest worries and ask God daily for His help. Then, trust Him to care for you in this way.
- Set a regular reminder for yourself to live out the bold cycle, not the comfort cycle.