



**Conversation starters:**

- 1) Can you remember a time when you did the right thing but still faced criticism or consequences? What happened?
- 2) Why do you think it can be difficult to respond kindly to someone who has treated us unfairly?
- 3) When you hear the word blessing, what comes to mind? Do you tend to associate God's blessing with comfort and success?
- 4) What helps you remain hopeful when life does not go the way you expected?

- 2) What does it look like to repay evil with a blessing instead of retaliating? Can you give a practical example?
- 3) Why is it so difficult to show kindness to someone who has insulted, offended, or mistreated us?
- 4) How can our words either promote peace or create conflict in our families, workplaces, and church?
- 5) What is one relationship in your life where you could make a conscious effort to respond with greater compassion and humility?

**Statement:**

*Followers of Jesus are called to treat people differently from the world by responding with love, humility, compassion, and peace—even when others treat them unfairly.*

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 3:8-22; John 15:18-21

**Opening Statement:**

*In 1 Peter 3:8–22, Peter explains how followers of Jesus should treat others, how they should respond when they suffer for doing good, and why they can remain hopeful even in difficult circumstances. As we discuss this passage, we will discover that God's blessing is not necessarily an easy life. His blessing is His presence with us. We can trust Jesus in our trials, share the hope we have in Him, and remain confident that Christ has already won the ultimate victory.*

**Observation 2: Remember You Are Blessed, Even in Suffering. | 1 Peter 3:13-17**

**Questions:**

- 1) Have you ever assumed that if you were doing God's will, things should work out more easily? How does this passage challenge that assumption?
- 2) The sermon teaches that God's blessing is His presence with us. How does that change the way you think about difficult seasons?
- 3) What fears can keep Christians from standing firm in their faith or doing what they know is right?
- 4) How can we distinguish between suffering because we are doing what is right and experiencing consequences because of our own poor decisions?
- 5) What would it look like to trust God's presence in a difficult situation you are facing today?

**Observation 1: Treat Others Differently | Scripture: 1 Peter 3:8-12**

**Questions:**

- 1) Peter lists five qualities in verse 8: unity, sympathy, love, compassion, and humility. Which of these comes most naturally to you, and which is most difficult?

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**Statement:**

*God's blessing does not mean we will never suffer; it means we can face suffering knowing that God is with us, hears our prayers, and sustains us.*

**Observation 3: Place Your Trust In Jesus and Be Ready To Share the Reason For Your Hope. | 1 Peter 3:15-18**

**Questions:**

- 1) Verse 15 says to revere Christ as Lord in our hearts. What is the difference between believing in Jesus as Savior and surrendering control of our lives to Him as Lord?
- 2) Why might other people notice our faith most clearly when we are going through difficult circumstances?
- 3) How would you explain to someone the reason for the hope you have in Jesus?
- 4) Why does Peter emphasize gentleness and respect when sharing our faith, especially with people who disagree with us?
- 5) How can remembering what Jesus suffered for us help us remain faithful when following Him becomes costly?

**Statement:**

*When we trust Jesus as Lord, live with hope, and respond to opposition with gentleness and respect, our lives can point others toward the One who suffered to bring us to God.*

**Observation 4: Be Confidant That Jesus Has Won the Ultimate Victory | 1 Peter 3:18-22**

**Questions:**

- 1) Why is the resurrection of Jesus essential to our confidence as Christians?
- 2) Noah remained faithful even when others did not listen. What can his example teach us about obeying God when we feel alone or misunderstood?
- 3) How does knowing that Jesus has ultimate authority change the way we view the opposition or difficulties we face?

- 4) What is the difference between believing that Jesus will remove every difficulty and trusting that He will ultimately bring us through to victory?
- 5) Where do you need to remember today that your circumstances do not have the final word—Jesus does?

**Statement:**

*Because Jesus suffered, died, and rose again, we can remain faithful through every trial, knowing that His authority is supreme and our ultimate victory rests in Him.*

**Final thoughts:** Peter's message challenges us to examine what our faith looks like when life becomes difficult. It is relatively easy to talk about trusting God when things are going well. The real test comes when we are mistreated, misunderstood, rejected, or asked to stand for biblical truth when it is unpopular. We do not follow Jesus because He promises us an easy life. We follow Him because He is Lord, He is with us through our struggles, and He has already secured the ultimate victory.

**Prayer:**

- Thank God for His Word and for reminding us that following Jesus does not mean we will never experience difficulties. Ask God to help us remain faithful when doing what is right becomes costly.
- Ask God to teach us to treat others with love, compassion, humility, and kindness.
- Ask God that when people hurt us or treat us unfairly, to give us the strength to respond with grace instead of retaliation.
- Take requests and pray for each other.

