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**Week 1**

**Different Faith Produced by Trials**

**INTRODUCTION**

In this world you will have struggles. You will face opposition. You will be challenged. This is because this world is not your home, as followers of Christ we are citizens of the Kingdom of God. So, answer hate with love, find joy in the midst of trials, and rely on strength beyond your own – you are meant to be different. Talk about what it is that makes you different.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read 1 Peter 1:1. Can you identify as a foreigner or stranger? How?
2. Does being a foreigner cause you to have trials? Why do you think God doesn’t miraculously keep trials from you?
3. Trials often prove whether you have a genuine faith or a false faith. Examples of a false faith include an inherited faith, a shallow faith, or a conditional faith. Think about a time a trial revealed your faith, what kind of faith did it reveal – inherited, shallow, conditional, or genuine?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:7. Trials often strengthen your faith. Have you ever faced a trial that brought you closer to God? What caused you to move closer to God instead of away from Him?
5. Faith that has been tested often produces great rewards. Talk about a reward that you received after you went through a trial.

**STEPPING FORWARD**

Sometimes we make the mistake of basing our faith on ourselves. Our faith is in who God is, not in anything we can do. This week ask yourself if you have been trying to deal with a struggle or trial on your own rather than relying on God. If so, put your faith in God by giving control of your trial to Him.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

**James 1:2-4**