

TO GO

1. Share a hard experience from your past where you can look back with a new perspective and find purpose that you weren't originally aware of.
2. Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. How does Peter encourage his readers to keep their trials in perspective?
3. Read Matt 6:19-21. How does Jesus' exhortation challenge you to make sense of your temporary trials?
4. Why do you think Christians so often tend to minimize their trials? What harm can occur as a result? On the contrary, why should Christians not be dominated by their trials?
5. Read about Jesus' encounter with Thomas in John 20:24-29. What point was Jesus making through his interaction with Thomas? How might this story have influenced Peter's words in 1 Peter 1:8?
6. Take a few moments to consider God's salvific work in your life. How have you seen him operate on your behalf in the past? What salvific work do you, as a Christ-follower, have to look forward to in the future? In light of these things, bring your present trials to God in prayer. Ask him for His perspective, and let him remind you that what he's done in the past and what he's promised in the future is indicative of his care for you today. For that, give him thanks and entrust your trials to him once again.

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer.*

-“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” by Joseph M. Scriven