



### **Part Three: Building Character**

Pain is a symptom that tells us that something is wrong. No one likes to be in pain but it does give us the opportunity for growth and progress. When we don't feel pain, it's easy to avoid dealing with things that need to be dealt with. But pain urges us to move one way or another. We want to use this opportunity to help to move us to depth, strength, character and hope!

### **Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-9, Romans 5:1-3**

**Bottom Line:** True character is proven through consistent commitment to Christ because true character is evident through Christ's consistent commitment to us.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Is there a part of your character that has developed through hard times? Share what that might be, and how you saw it develop in your life.
2. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were three men who were thrown into a fiery furnace for not bowing down to the King's statue. Read their response when they are accused of not obeying the king in Daniel 3:16-18. What do you learn about the character of these men by their response? What are they risking? Why would they take such a risk?
3. Read Daniel 3:19-25. Christians most commonly identify the fourth man as God himself. What does this section tell you about God and his character?
4. Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. Peter says, metaphorically, that in trials we find ourselves in the midst of fire. What does he say this does for our faith? Have you ever experienced this in your life and trials? What was the result? How does this help you to gain a perspective on trials that you might be facing now? How does it help you anticipate the trials you may face in the future?
5. In what ways do you think you can align your life and choices to allow the trials of life to purify you rather than destroy you?

### **Moving Forward**

Take a look at this week's Bottom Line. How have we seen Christ's commitment to us? Do you think it helps you to be committed to him? What encouragement does it give you that Christ is so committed to you? In what ways in your life do you need to commit or recommit to following Christ?