

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **March 5, 2023** Family Theme | **Called to Holiness**
Study Text | **1 Peter 1:3-25**

Objective: Parents help their children set their hope on blessings to come and live a holy and loving life out of reverence for God.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this first letter to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor around AD 62-63.

Bible Basics: Work with family members to go over the following question and answer this week. **Why did Jesus die on the cross? Answer:** Jesus died on the cross that people may have their sins forgiven and be cleansed (1 Peter 1:18-19). In His death, Jesus took our place under the wrath of God. He was punished for our sins (Isaiah 53:5-6).

Read the Word: 1 Peter 1:3-25

Disciple Your Kids:

Help your children or grandchildren understand that Christ is coming back and that we should live with holiness, reverence, and love while we wait for Him to come.



Key Truth: Believers Are Joyful in Every Circumstance Because of God's Promises (1 Peter 1:3-12)

- Peter began with reasons for believers to praise God. This included God giving believers the opportunity and privilege of being *born again*. This includes hope, an eternal inheritance, and being kept through faith for what awaits (verses 3-5).
- Believers rejoice, even in trials, which prove the genuineness of our faith and glorify God. Our belief in Him gives us great joy in our salvation (verses 6-9).
- This salvation was so amazing that the Old Testament prophets searched seeking to understand it. They understood they were writing for those who would live later and would come to know the full experience of God's salvation (verses 10-12)



Key Truth: Believers Display Holiness, Reverence, and Love While Awaiting Christ's Return (1 Peter 1:13-25)

- Peter gave his readers four commands in these verses: (1) set your hope fully on the grace to come (verse 13), (2) be holy (verse 15), (3) conduct yourselves with reverence for God (verse 17), and (4) love one another (verse 22). It is because of God's truth and what He has done that believers can live hopeful, holy, reverent, and loving lives before God, even when being persecuted. This takes right thinking and self-control (verse 13).
- We are to have reverence for God and be holy like God is holy, not conforming to sinful desires (verses 14-17). We do this because we have been ransomed from sinful ways by the blood of Christ. Through Him we are believers in God who raised Christ from the dead (verses 18-21).
- The gospel calls believers to demonstrate a sincere, sacrificial, and selfless love for others because Christ commanded and demonstrated such a love. Because they had been born again through the Word of God that remains forever, they were to demonstrate their new birth through new attitudes and actions (new life) (verses 22-25).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What attitude should we have when suffering trials or persecution? Explain.
- Why do Christians always have reason for hope and joy?
- How does Christ's resurrection give us confidence that we, too, will rise again?
- **What does it mean that God is holy and why should that make us want to be holy?**
- Why should we have reverence or respect for God?
- How can we show love to the people around us?
- **What is holiness? (Thinking and living the right way according to God's standards)**
- **What are some things the world uses to try to get us to turn away from God's holiness?**

Everyday Extras

In the backyard or on the computer, spend some time listening to birdcalls. You might be able to distinguish some of the sounds different species of birds make and imitate them. (You can at least do an owl and a rooster!) Talk with your family about the reasons birds sing or call or hoot or screech. They are often identifying themselves to other birds as a contact call or sounding an alarm to protect the flock. They might be attempting to attract a mate or designating their territory. Birds recognize when others in their species are calling them and respond. Like birds, we are listening for a call that designates us as different from others. God calls us to holiness — to be different from those who are not believers, to identify that we belong to Him. Responding to this call gives us community with other believers and protection from sin. Let's be listening for God's call to His children!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Jesus told His disciples to share about Him and His love for others. Peter did and many people began to follow Jesus and they loved and shared like Jesus did. The people shared the things they had — food, land, homes, and money. We can follow Jesus and be good sharers too. **I Can Share With Others.**

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **March 12, 2023** Family Theme | **Pursuing Holiness**
Study Text | **1 Peter 2:1-17**

Objective: Family members learn God's Word, worship and serve God, and live honorably among unbelievers.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this letter to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor around AD 62-63.

Bible Basics: Memorize 1 Peter 1:16 this week along with family members.

Read the Word: 1 Peter 2:1-17

Disciple Your Kids:

Talk with your children about how believers are God's special people who grow through learning God's Word, worship and serve God, and do what is right among unbelievers.



Key Truth: Believers Grow Spiritually Through a Healthy Diet of God's Word (1 Peter 2:1-3)

- Believers are to put sinful behaviors aside (verse 1) and cultivate a strong desire for God's Word like a newborn baby longs for nourishment at feeding time. Believers should want to do this if they have experienced the goodness of God (verses 2-3).



Key Truth: Believers Are God's Holy People Who Worship and Serve Him (1 Peter 2:4-10)

- Peter portrayed Christ as a stone that was rejected by the builders, but chosen by God to be the cornerstone on which the church would be built. Believers, then, are living stones used to build the spiritual house of the Lord. These believers now serve as priests by offering spiritual sacrifices (verses 4-5).
- Believers trust in Christ and rely on Him much like a building relies on the cornerstone for stability and correct alignment. They find honor in Christ while unbelievers stumble over Him and reject Him in disbelief (verses 6-8).
- Believers are God's chosen people and priests who reign with Christ. They are a holy nation and God's special people who proclaim the praises of God. They were sinners, but are now God's people through His mercy (verse 9-10).



Key Truth: Believers Conduct Themselves Honorably Among Unbelievers (1 Peter 2:11-17)

- Believers are to live in a way that reflects they are not at home in this world. They are to abstain from sinful desires and display honorable conduct among unbelievers who could come to Christ because of believers' right conduct (verses 11-12).
- One way to do this is to submit to governing authorities who are sent by God to provide order. This is God's will. We are to live as servants of God, honoring everyone, loving one another, fearing God, and honoring those in authority (verses 13-17).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **Why is reading God's Word so important for every believer?**
- What practical steps can believers take to set aside sin?
- What does it mean that we are God's holy people?
- Give examples of ways we can worship and serve God?
- Why does God want us to submit to governing authorities?
- When should believers not obey governing authorities?
- **What does it mean to pursue holiness? (Actively seeking a life that is different from the world's standards)**
- **Who is our example for how to live a holy life?**

Everyday Extras

Host a family color fight. Wearing old white t-shirts, assign everyone a color of powdered paint. (You can crush sidewalk chalk or make your own with food coloring and corn starch.) Compete to see whose color is most predominant after the battle. Be sure to make before-and-after pictures.

We are all in a battle for holiness. Holiness means that we are different from people who don't believe in God. We act and talk in a different way. We spend our money and use our time in a way that makes us more like God, not like our culture. Our actions are different because our hearts and minds are different. When we had the color fight, we all got dirty and had paint all over us. Everyone had a strategy to pour or throw paint on others without getting as much on himself or herself. In our fight to be holy, our strategy is to stay as close to Jesus as we can! He will help us to be holy.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned a man who couldn't walk asked Peter and John for money. They told him they did not have money to give him, but then Peter told the man to stand. The man was healed and able to walk. Peter shared about God's power and Jesus' life with the man and others around him. **I Can Share With Others** the truths I have learned about Jesus.

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Date | **March 19, 2023** Family Theme | **Tested in Suffering**
Study Text | **1 Peter 4:1-19**

Objective: Family members choose to rejoice and entrust themselves to God's will when suffering because of living for Christ.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Peter likely wrote this letter to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor around AD 62-63.

Bible Basics: Review Colossians 1:16b-17 this week with family members.

Read the Word: 1 Peter 4:1-19

Disciple Your Kids:

Help your children and grandchildren understand that we may be made fun of or treated badly because we love and serve Jesus. We rejoice when this happens and trust God to take care of it as He sees fit.



Key Truth: Believers View Suffering as Christ Did (1 Peter 4:1-6)

- Believers should have Christ's attitude toward suffering, a willingness to do God's will no matter the cost. They should no longer live for the sinful things that used to dominate them. Rather, they should live to do God's will (verses 1-2).
- When a believer's lifestyle is marked by holiness, the world is surprised or astonished by their different conduct. As a result, the Christ-follower is maligned or slandered. Even so, those who slander us will give account to God (verses 3-5).
- Believers who die after hearing the gospel and being saved will not face judgment for their sins. They have a wonderful future ahead (verse 6).



Key Truth: Believers Love and Serve One Another in the Midst of Suffering (1 Peter 4:7-11)

- The return of Christ could come at any time. For that reason, Peter appealed to his readers to be self-controlled and serious minded for the purpose of prayer. They also should love each other in a deep, self-sacrificing way. This kind of love would also offer hospitality without grumbling (verses 7-9).
- Believers are to use the gifts of grace God gives them to serve or minister to others. This is all for God's glory (verses 10-11).



Key Truth: Believers Glorify God in the Way They Handle Suffering (1 Peter 4:12-19)

- Believers are not to be surprised by the trials they experience, but to see trials as a test to reveal the strength of their faith. They should respond to trials with joy because it gives them an opportunity to identify with their Savior and rejoice when He returns. They can expect to face ostracism, discrimination, and ridicule because of their association with Christ (verses 12-14).
- Suffering because of our own wrongdoing does not glorify God, but suffering for Christ's sake is nothing to be ashamed of. It glorifies God (verses 15-16).
- God will purify His people. And if those who are saved have such purifying judgment to bear, the wicked will not be able to stand before God at all. Believers are to continue doing good, regardless of suffering, knowing that their faithful Creator has them in His hands (verses 17-19).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- Jesus was willing to suffer to make salvation possible for us. Why would He do this?
- Why do unbelievers sometimes treat believers badly?
- What does it look like for believers to love and serve one another?
- Why is it important for every believer to use the gifts and abilities God has given him or her to serve God and others?
- How do trials test a believer's faith?
- **How can knowing Jesus experienced suffering while on earth help you when you go through hard times?**
- **How can suffering grow our faith?**

Everyday Extras

Make homemade pretzels to talk about suffering as a Christian. Pretzels are not easy to make. They required waiting, boiling, and baking — a lot of suffering! Find a recipe and work on the stages together, making comparisons to suffering as you go. We often must wait (as the dough rises), not certain of what is ahead. We are shaped by circumstances and sometimes we have to “roll” with them. We fold our arms in prayer (think of your arms crossed with hands on your shoulders and your head bowed as you fold the pretzel shapes) and are molded to be like Jesus. We face “hot water” situations, where our faith is put on trial by difficulty. Sometimes there are salty tears, and we suffer the heat as others oppose us when we stand for Christ. But all of this suffering makes a good (and delicious) result! We can thank God for working even through the difficulties we face.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Peter and John were put in jail for sharing about Jesus, but they continued to tell others about Jesus. Later, Peter was put in jail again for sharing about Jesus, but God sent an angel to help him escape. Peter went to where the Christians were praying for him and shared with them what had happened. **I Can Share About Jesus** wherever I am.

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Date | **March 26, 2023** Family Theme | **Return of Christ**
Study Text | **Mark 13:1-27**

Objective: All in your household will be prepared to stand for Christ in difficult times, waiting confidently for His return.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: Mark wrote his account of the life of Christ in the mid- to late-AD 50s based on the eyewitness testimony of Peter. The events of this chapter took place in AD 33.

Bible Basics: Review Psalm 51:10 this week with family members.

Read the Word: Mark 13:1-27

Disciple Your Kids: Discuss the signs we will see that will lead up to the time of Christ's return. Help children understand that we may face difficult times, but that God will be with us.



Key Truth: Christ's Return Will Follow a Time of False Teaching, Wars, Natural Disasters, and Persecution of Believers (Mark 13:1-13)

- When asked about the impressive Temple buildings in Jerusalem, Jesus surprisingly foretold the total destruction of the Temple. This was fulfilled 40 years later when the Romans ransacked Jerusalem and demolished the Temple. The disciples asked when this would happen and what signs would lead up to it (verses 1-4).
- Jesus warned His followers to be ready for false teachers and false messiahs. They were not to be alarmed by news of wars and natural disasters. These were only the beginning, like the beginning of birth pains. They would increase. Ridicule and persecution of Christ-followers would increase. The end will not come, however, until the gospel is proclaimed to all nations. When they were brought to trial, the Holy Spirit would give His followers the words to say. They would be hated, but those who endure to the end will be saved (verses 5-13).



Key Truth: Christ's Return Will Follow a Time of Terrible Tribulation (Mark 13:14-27)

- Many scholars believe the events of this section refer to both "near" events (the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70) and a great time of tribulation to take place in the last days. The near events would foreshadow the end time events. According to verse 14, the sign that this was about to happen would be a terrible, idolatrous desecration of the Temple referred to as *the abomination of desolation* (verse 14).
- When this abomination comes, believers should flee, not even taking time to retrieve belongings. This would be a time of distress like none before. The best news in this scenario is that God will cut short the days and set limits on the Tribulation period. And this He will do for the elect, the people of God. Believers should not be fooled by false christs and false prophets who will try to lead them astray (verses 15-23).
- After that time of great tribulation, there will be great disorder in the heavens. The sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers or planets in the heavens will be shaken. These catastrophic events will soon be followed by the return of Christ. This is Jesus' personal, visible, bodily return to earth in His glorified state. When He comes this time, all will see Him coming with the clouds and with great glory. The angels will gather God's people from all over the world (verses 24-27).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **What are some events that will lead up to Christ's return?**
- How can believers recognize and resist false teaching?
- Why should believers expect to be persecuted?
- What does persecution look like for Christians around the world?
- How can we prepare ourselves to stand for Christ when difficult times come?
- What are we to do until Jesus returns?

Everyday Extras

Have a keep-your-room challenge. Tell everyone in the family that there will be a prize (a special treat, cash, or an adventure) if their room is clean when a surprise guest arrives sometime this week. Be very specific about the chores that must be done to qualify for the prize. However, no one will know when the guest will come — including Mom and Dad! Now this is the part where you really need a good friend. Ask a friend or neighbor to surprise you this week — any time, without prior notice! That surprise guest is invited to come in and inspect whenever he or she chooses to determine if your family wins the prize!

Just like your family had to be ready for the special guest, we have to be ready for Jesus to come back. He has given us an assignment, and He wants us to be prepared and ready for His return. If we are doing what is right, we will watch for Him joyfully!

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned the people first praised Jesus when He entered Jerusalem. By several days later, the people wanted to hurt Him. One of Jesus' disciples told the leaders where Jesus was, and the men arrested Jesus. They took Jesus to a man who was like a judge who then sent Him to another judge. Jesus loved the people in His time, and I know **Jesus Loves Me** too.