

1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE

JAN 17 – Unit 28.3

FAITHFUL IN HARD TIMES

## MEMORY VERSE:

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.” 2 Peter 1:3

# PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Peter’s story of faith began when Jesus said, “Follow Me.” (Matt. 4:19) Peter and his brother Andrew—two fishermen from Galilee—left their nets and followed Jesus. As one of Jesus’ twelve disciples, Peter witnessed firsthand Jesus’ miracles and teachings. Peter believed that Jesus is the Messiah (Matt. 16:16), and he was understandably upset when Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him (Matt. 26:34–35). Peter fell asleep as Jesus prayed in the garden, and he drew his sword to defend Jesus when He was arrested. (Matt. 26:40; John 18:10) Peter denied Jesus three times, but after the resurrection Jesus appeared to Peter and the other disciples. Then Jesus restored Peter to ministry at the sea of Galilee. (John 21:15–19)

The first 12 chapters in the Book of Acts record the Holy Spirit’s work through Peter after Pentecost. God revealed to Peter that the gospel is for everyone—Jews and Gentiles. Peter was arrested and imprisoned for sharing the gospel, but an angel of the Lord rescued him. (Acts 12:1–8) Peter wrote his first letter sometime between AD 62 and 64 to believers who had experienced persecution and suffering. He encouraged them and reminded them how to live holy lives as followers of Christ, looking forward to an eternal reward in their true home—heaven.

Peter’s letter was written nearly two thousand years ago to believers who were not far removed from Jesus’ life on earth. We still wait eagerly for Jesus’ return, but God calls us to faithfulness in hard times—using our time on earth to better know and love Him, and to tell others about Him. As believers, we are all called to live a life of love and to glorify God by what we do and say, even in the midst of trials and troubles.



## ACTIVITY KEY PASSAGE GAME

### WHAT YOU DO:

1. Display the key passage poster on a piece of paper.
2. Read 2 Peter 1:3 aloud together.
3. Give each person a piece of paper and a pencil. Give one person a numbered cube. Everyone will begin writing the passage, while the person with the numbered cube begins rolling.
4. When she rolls a 4, she should shout “Pass!” and pass the cube to the right. Everyone will also pass the papers to the right. Everyone will continue writing and passing whenever a 4 is rolled. Play until you have written out the entire key passage.

### DISCUSSION:

Great job! Memorizing God’s Word is so important! I hope that you will continue to think about our key passage throughout the week!

## BIBLE VIDEO:

Play the Bible Story Video that goes with this lesson!



## DISTRIBUTE BIBLES AND HELP FAMILY MEMBERS FIND 1 PETER 2.

- Choose a volunteer to read 1 Peter 2:12.
- Explain that 1 Peter is part of the General Letters division of the New Testament.
- Peter wrote this letter around 30 years after Jesus' ascension-likely from Rome.

## DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TOGETHER:

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did Peter say we are born into when we have faith in Jesus? (*blessings in heaven, a perfect inheritance; 1 Peter 1:4*)
2. What reason did Peter give for us to be faithful in hard times? (*it honors God, 1 Peter 2:12*)
3. Why did Peter say Jesus bore our sins? (*So that we could live for righteousness; 1 Peter 2:24*)
4. What does it mean to live for righteousness? *Guide kids to discuss what righteousness is. Talk through what the Bible says about righteousness. Remind them that we only have righteousness through faith in Jesus' righteousness. Help them see that we are saved from sin, so we can choose obedience.*
5. What is our inheritance from God? *Explain to kids what an inheritance is, and talk about what we receive from God as a result of being adopted into His family. Remind them that we gain eternal life with God, joy, peace, wisdom, mercy and grace. Spend time explaining each of those concepts if kids do not understand them.*
6. Why does God allow us to face hard times? *Discuss the benefits of facing hard times, such as growing in patience, learning to trust God more, and showing His power and love to the world by responding graciously to those who are cruel to us. Remind kids that God can turn all things to good, and that even when we don't see the good He is working out.*

Peter encouraged believers who faced persecution. Jesus promised us that we would go through struggles as a result of our faith.

**PRAY** as a family before you close your time together!