



Faithful in Hard Times

1 Peter 1-2

Dogwood Kids

December 27, 2020

Home Edition

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.

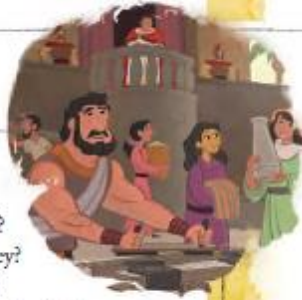
Peter believed that Jesus is the Messiah (Matt. 16:16), and he was understandably upset when Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him (Matt. 26:34-35). Peter fell asleep as Jesus prayed in the garden, and he drew his sword to defend Jesus when He was arrested. (Matt. 26:40; John 18:10) Peter denied 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.

Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Have you ever been mistreated because of your faith?
- How do you think hard times can bring us closer to God?
- Describe a time you were encouraged by someone else.

Faithful in Hard Times

1 Peter 1-2

STORY POINT: PETER ENCOURAGED BELIEVERS WHO FACED PERSECUTION.

In the early church, Jesus' followers faced persecution. People mistreated the believers because of their faith, and many believers were forced to leave their homes and go to different cities.

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote a letter to encourage them. He wanted to help these believers be faithful in hard times.

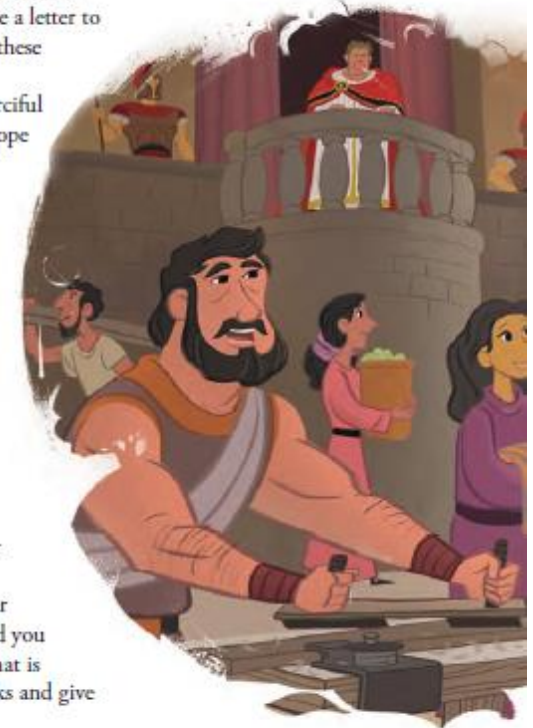
Peter said, "Praise God! He is merciful and has given us new life. We have hope because of Jesus, whom God raised from the dead." Peter reminded believers that because we are children of God, we have blessings in heaven that cannot be taken away or destroyed. When hard times happen, God is honored as we trust Him by faith.

Peter also wrote, "Hope in Jesus and be holy." Peter reminded the believers that before they trusted in Jesus, they lived however they wanted. Jesus gave His life to save them so they could have a better life—true life through His Word.

Peter said, "This world is not your home. Do not live like people around you who do wrong things. Instead, do what is good. Others will see your good works and give glory to God."

Jesus gave us an example to follow. He suffered for us, dying for our sins so that we could live for what is right.

Christ Connection: The Bible says Christians will suffer for following Jesus. Peter encouraged believers who faced persecution for their faith. Through suffering, God can make us more like His Son. Jesus gives us hope and true life so we can live joyfully for Him, even in hard times.



FOLD



Profile of Peter

Find the references in the Bible. Fill in the facts about Peter.

Also known as (John 1:42):

Family (John 1:40):

Work History (Matthew 4:18):

Major Life Events

Matthew 14:28-31: _____

Mark 9:2-3: _____

Luke 22:54-62: _____

Acts 2:14,38: _____

Acts 3:6-8: _____

B Z I P R T C F N D L
 R A N B W H Q Z D B H
 C O O W G E S W C L R
 J Q F H L E F M P E Q
 E N C O U R A G E D N
 S Z D M R P C B T O I
 U R B E L I E V E R S
 S L H I M N D Q R U E
 P E R S E C U T I O N
 I F O L L O W I N G Z
 T C I N L Z P B W C A

Circle Around

Fill in the words missing from the story point. Then find and circle all the story point words in the word search.

_____ encouraged _____

who faced _____ for

following _____.

Hidden in Plain Sight

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the key to help you find and circle the objects hidden in the picture.



Younger Kids Activity Pages

Unit 28 • Session 3

Faithful in Hard Times

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Peter wrote a letter to followers of Jesus during hard times.
- Peter reminded them that God had given them spiritual blessings that could not be lost or destroyed.
- Peter encouraged believers who faced persecution.
- Jesus died for us so we can live for His glory.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Peter 1:3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What is the hardest situation you have ever faced?
- How has God helped you in hard or sad circumstances?
- Who could we encourage with the truth of Jesus' love?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Help your kids write encouraging letters to people you know who are facing difficult or sad situations. Suggest that your kids add Bible verses and pictures to the letters.



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Do Good Things

INSTRUCTIONS: Circle the people in the picture doing what is good.



Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 28 • Session 3

Faithful in Hard Times

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Some people were mean or unfair to Jesus' followers.
- Peter encouraged believers going through hard times.
- Believers can have joy and hope for the future because of Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Peter 1:3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Name a time that following Jesus was hard for you.
- How is life with Jesus better than life without Jesus?
- How can going through hard times make us more like Jesus?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Choose a kid-friendly biography of a Christian who went through hard times to read together as a family.
- Invite each family member to draw a picture of what he or she thinks life will look like in the new heaven and earth.



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**His divine power has given us
everything required for life
and godliness through the
knowledge of him who called us
by his own glory and goodness.**

2 Peter 1:3



ELEMENTARY



**His divine power has given
us everything required
for life and godliness.**

2 Peter 1:3



PRESCHOOL