



Faithful in Hard Times

May 16, 2021- 3rd Grade - 5th Grade

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Peter 1-2

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

BOTTOM LINE: The Holy Spirit helps me in hard times.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus gives us hope and true life so we can live joyfully for Him, even in hard times. Through suffering, God can make us more like His Son.

Context

Peter's story of faith began when Jesus said, "Follow Me." Matthew 4:18 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 (Matthew 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 of 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 2,000 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 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.

TAKEAWAYS

- The Bible teaches that people who love Jesus will face troubles.
- But when we face troubles, we can have hope because we have a relationship with Jesus.
- Because Jesus went through tough times to rescue us, He knows what we are going through and He is with us through everything.
- We can live for Jesus even in hard times.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** The Holy Spirit helps me in hard times.

Small Group Prayer: “Father God, thank you for each of the kids in our circle today. God as we learn about you guide our conversations and help each kid to see you in a better way today. Thank you for Jesus and the promise to rescue us. We love you and want to worship you with our whole lives. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Social Activity: I Spy Activity Page or What Can You Build

What You Need: Week 1 I Spy Activity page (1 per kid), clothes pins, popsicles sticks, other miscellaneous building supplies, pencils, crayons

What You Do:

Give each kid an I spy activity page to complete as others arrive. They can circle or color in the pictures as they find the objects. See who can complete the page fastest.

OR

Using clothes pins, popsicle sticks and other building supplies kids will work together to build the tallest structure, the widest structure, the structure with the most peaks, etc. Encourage kids to use their creativity and work together with everyone to build a unique structure.

What You Say: As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game.

Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

**Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Large Group teaching DVD/Roku**

Application Activity: Make an Essential Bag

What You Need: Supplies will be given to each group to stuff essential bags for OCC Shoeboxes, Lola's Lion Video on Roku, Jesus loves you card (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Kids will take turns getting items to fill the essentials bag (soap, washcloth, toothbrush, comb/hairbrush, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, crayons is available)
- After you have stuffed the bags, show the video Lola's Lion from Operation Christmas Child. Take a few minutes to tell kids about Shoeboxes and how they can help collect things now to put in a shoebox that we will start collecting in September. Hairties, matchbox cars, small toys with no liquid are needed to fill 1000 shoeboxes across all campuses.
- The essential bags will go in each box that Parkway packs for kids in another country. Many of these kids who receive a shoebox have never received a gift ever. This shoebox is given to them to help them see how God could love them enough to send Jesus. By helping us pack this today you are sharing the gospel with another kid like Peter talks about in our Bible story today. (All bags should be left in the classroom for us to use in packing boxes in November.)
- Have kids color the card and sign it to put in the essential bag.
- Send home information about how to pack a shoebox.

What You Say “The items in this bag might really encourage someone. Whoever receives one of these bags may notice good things believers do and praise God because of it. He may learn that Jesus gave His life to take the punishment for his sins so the Holy Spirit can help him live for God's glory. 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.

Key Passage Activity:

As you read the key passage together, encourage kids to help put the correct words in the blank together as you say each of the highlighted words while reading...

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Why are these words important? These words show us the focus of this passage in the Bible. Therefore = transition, pay attention now , anyone= everyone has the chance to believe , in= joined to Him by faith in

Him as Savior , *creation*= reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit , *old*= the previous moral and spiritual condition , *here*=because spiritual awakening brings a new life

Discussion Questions:

- **Peter urged the early church to be holy in all their conduct. (1 Peter 1:5) How can a sinner be holy?** Help kids recognize that holy means to be set apart for a special purpose. It does not mean that we are sinless, because we could never be sinless. We are set apart for the special purpose of serving and glorifying God. We cannot be holy in our own power. We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's conviction in our lives and respond to His leading and allow God to use us for His glory. (Romans 12:1)
- **What did Peter mean when he said, "this world is not your home"?** Help kids recognize that while God has placed them on the earth for a time, this world as we know it is passing away. We have to consider our eternal home. Will we spend eternity with Jesus or will we spend eternity separated from Him? Peter challenged believers to live differently than those who don't know Jesus; to live thinking about eternity. (1 John 2:17)
- **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.
- **How can we choose to face hard times in our life knowing that our hope is in Jesus?** Help kids recognize Peter said that the things of the earth will fade, but God's Word stands forever. For Christians, this means that suffering we experience on earth is temporary. (Rev 21:4)