



## Living Like Jesus

May 23, 2021- 1 year olds and 2 year olds

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Peter 1

**KEY PASSAGE:** 2 Corinthians 5:17

**BOTTOM LINE:** The Holy Spirit helps me to live like Jesus.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus lived a perfect life and died the death we deserve for our sin. When we put our faith in Jesus, God forgives our sins and changes our hearts. Jesus calls and empowers His followers to live like Him.

### Context

Like Peter's first letter, Peter's second letter was written to believers in the early church who had experienced persecution and suffering. At this time, Peter was in a Roman prison. He was aware that his death was imminent. (See 2 Peter 1:13-15) Besides the outside threats to their faith, these believers were also confronted with false teachers within the church who tried to lead them away from the true gospel.

Peter warned against false teachers. In the opening chapter of this letter, Peter's exhortation to live like Jesus gives believers a measure for making sure they are following the truth. The best defense against false teachers is a dedication to a knowledge of the truth. As you prepare to teach from 2 Peter 1, consider these 2 questions: How do we live like Jesus? Why do we live like Jesus?

First, God's people live like Jesus through the power of Jesus. (2 Peter 1:3-4) and through personal application (2 Peter 1:5-7) Not only is the Christian life marked by faith in Christ, it is characterized by goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love. These come from knowing Jesus, who calls us to Himself.

Second, God's people live like Jesus to confirm their calling. (2 Peter 1:8-11) If we claim to have faith but do not live like Jesus, we have forgotten what Jesus had done for us. Because God has credited to us Jesus' righteousness, we strive to live in loving obedience to Him to show those around us that Jesus has truly changed our lives.

Soon after writing this letter, Peter was killed in Rome as Jesus had predicted. (John 21:18-19) Help kids grasp that Jesus lived a perfect life and died the death we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and changes our hearts. Jesus calls and empowers His followers to live like Him.

### TAKEAWAYS

- If we are going to love Jesus and live for Him, we need to never forget what Jesus has done for us.
- We live like Jesus because He died for us and the Holy Spirit lives in us.
- To live like Jesus, we keep growing in our faith and obedience to Him.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** The Holy Spirit helps me to live like Jesus.

### **Social Activity: What's Missing**

**What You Need:** 6 items, tray, towel

**What You Do:**

Lay all 6 items on the tray. Show kids the items. Then cover the items and remove one of them. Tell children to close their eyes while you remove an item. The children open their eyes when you say "Open", then tell you as a group what's missing. Do this same thing with another item, until they are all missing. When you are finished, place all the items in a ziploc bag. **Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

**Small Group Prayer:** "Dear God, thank you for making me, thank you for loving me and thank you for sending your son, Jesus to be my savior. We love you, Amen."

### **Introduce the Story**

"Peter wrote another letter. Peter said, "God's power gives us everything we need to live a life that pleases God. People who love Jesus should try to have these things: goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, friendship, and love." Peter wanted the believers to remember that Jesus died on the cross to take away their sins. Because of Jesus, God invites us into His kingdom and gives us life with Him forever. Peter wrote, "I want to remind you about what Jesus did for you so that you will remember after I am gone. We told you what we saw and heard. The prophets also told about Jesus because they spoke God's words through the Holy Spirit."

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

Check diapers and listen to a worship song

### **Application Activity Create a Paper Cross**

**What You Need:** Cross Outline (1 per kid), 1" brown squares (several per kid), gluesticks

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a cross outline and brown squares.
- Encourage them to put glue on the brown squares to fill the cross outline.
- Retell the Bible Story.

**What You Say** " Peter was Jesus' friend. Peter wrote a letter to people who loved Jesus. Peter said we live like Jesus because He died for us. The Holy Spirit helps us."

### **Discussion Questions:**

**What does Peter tell Christians to seek?** Help kids recognize that it is important to demonstrate faith with other God-honoring qualities such as goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, brotherly affection, and love. These qualities help others see that we are living for Jesus and point others to Him. They also show that the Holy Spirit is at work in a person's life. (Galatians 5:22-23)

**Why is it important to live for God? Help** kids think through God's purpose for us. We were created to glorify and love Him. We cannot be truly happy apart from His plans for us. After faith in Jesus, our mission is to lead others to Jesus. If we say we love Jesus, and live as though we do not, our witness is ineffective.

**How can you live like Jesus now?** Help kids recognize when we trust Jesus, He empowers us to live for Him. We can live for Him in any situation we face. Challenge kids to think of one situation where they can show faith and trust in God as He develops the characteristics Peter mentioned (goodness, knowledge, self-control, patience, brotherly affection, and love) (Colossians 3:12-14)

**What are ways we can grow in godliness?** Guide kids to think about practical steps they can take to help them grow in their walk with Christ- such as reading their Bibles daily, gathering with other believers to learn about God, praying, and worshipping God, serving others and sharing the gospel with everyone. Remind kids that doing these things can't save them, but will help them grow in godliness if they are saved by grace through faith.