



## Living Like Jesus

### May 23, 2021- 3rd Grade - 5th Grade

**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.

**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: Characteristics of Jesus Cube**

**What You Need:** Numbered cubes (1-6) Dry erase board, marker, Bibles

**What You Do:**

- List the following numbers and words on a dry erase board or large sheet of paper.
  - 1. Goodness
  - 2. Knowledge
  - 3. Self-control
  - 4. Endurance
  - 5. Godliness
  - 6. Brotherly affection or love

Form groups of three or four kids.

Give each group a numbered cube and instruct kids to take turns rolling the cube.

For each number rolled, kids will discuss how they can demonstrate the characteristic in their own lives.

For example, if a player rolls a 3 for self-control, one way he can demonstrate this in his life is when he feels angry, he can talk about it instead of yelling or hitting.

**What You Say** "Peter instructed believers to live like Jesus. He wrote that believers should demonstrate their faith through these characteristics. When we choose to live like Jesus, others will begin to notice the difference in our lives. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives us everything we need to live for Him and live like Him. We need His help to display these characteristics in our lives. WE can pray and ask God to help us live like Jesus.

**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:**

**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.